Crime Survey
for England & Wales

verian
Formerly Kantar Public

Office for
National Statistics

Crime Survey for England and Wales

Technical Report 2022/23

Volume One

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) is a well-established study and one of the largest social research surveys conducted in England and Wales. The survey was first conducted in 1982 and ran at roughly two-yearly intervals until 2001, when it became a continuous survey[1]. Prior to this change, respondents were asked about their crime-related experiences in the previous calendar year; but when the CSEW changed to a continuous survey, respondents were asked about crime in the 12 months prior to interview (more information on the time periods covered can be found in section 2.4 of the user guide[2]).

Prior to April 2012, the survey was known as the British Crime Survey (BCS) and conducted on behalf of the Home Office. From April 2012 responsibility for the survey transferred to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and it became known as the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). Since 2001, Verian (formerly Kantar Public) has been the sole contractor for the survey[3].

The CSEW is primarily a survey of **victimisation** in which respondents are asked about their experiences of both **household crimes** (e.g. burglary, vehicle crime) and **personal crimes** (e.g. robbery, snatch theft). Household crimes may have happened to anyone in the household, while personal crimes are only counted if they relate to the individual being interviewed. The reference period for all interviews relates to incidents that have happened in the last full 12 calendar months before the date of interview (see section 3.1.3 for more details). Although there have been changes to the design of the survey over time, the wording of the screener questions that are asked to elicit respondents' experiences of victimisation have been consistent over the lifetime of the survey. In 2015-16 an additional set of screener questions was added to measure fraud and cybercrime.

Respondents are asked about their experience of crime, irrespective of whether they reported these incidents to the police. As such, the CSEW provides a record of peoples' experiences of crime which is unaffected by variations in reporting behaviour of victims or variations in police practices of recording crime. The CSEW and police recorded figures are two complementary series, which together provide a better picture of crime than can be obtained from either series alone.

1.2 Background to the CSEW

Since the survey became continuous in 2001 there have been a few significant changes to the design of the survey. Where changes have been incorporated these have been described in detail in the relevant technical reports. The most significant changes include:

[1] Previous sweeps of the British Crime Surveys were carried out in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000.

[2] User guide to crime statistics for England and Wales: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/methodologies/userguidetocrimestatisticsforenglandandwales#crime-survey-for-england-and-wales-csew

[3] Until November 2023 (including the period covered by this report) Verian operated under the name Kantar Public. All survey documentation found in the appendices for this report therefore feature Kantar Public branding, as was the case for the duration of fieldwork.

- Between 2004-05 and 2011-12, the core sample size was increased from 37,000 to 46,000, with a target of at least 1,000 interviews in each Police Force Area (PFA).
- Long-standing boost samples of Black and Asian respondents (3,000 sample boost per year) and 16 to 24 year olds (2,000 sample boost per year) were dropped in 2006-07 and 2008-09 respectively.
- In 2009-10, after an extensive development period, the survey was extended to cover young people aged 10 to 15 with a target sample size of 4,000 per year (reduced to 3,000 from 2012-13 onwards)[4]. The first results for this age group were published in June 2010[5] as experimental statistics and estimates of victimisation among children are now presented alongside the 16+ crime statistics.
- In 2012-13 the core 16+ sample size was reduced from 46,000 to 35,000. In the same year a new sampling approach was adopted based around a three-year unclustered sample design.
- In 2015-16 the questionnaire was updated to include measures of fraud and cybercrime following an extensive development phase, including a large-scale field test. A methodological note about the development of the fraud measures and the field trial was published in 2015 and the questions were put on the survey from October 2015[6].
- In 2020-21, the Covid-19 pandemic necessitated the largest single change in the history of the CSEW when face-to-face interviewing was suspended on 17th March 2020, with no certainty about when it would resume. When it became clear that Covid-19 would necessitate the indefinite suspension of all face-to-face fieldwork across the UK, work began to move the survey to a telephone approach (TCSEW), with the first telephone interviews being conducted on the 20th May 2020. Although the TCSEW was initially designed to last for 9 months, the impact of the pandemic was more long-lasting, such that TCSEW fieldwork ran for the full duration of the 2021-22 financial year, with the final TCSEW interviews conducted on 31st March 2022.
- Face-to-face fieldwork resumed in October 2021, with fieldwork for the 2021-22 survey consisting of the 6-month period between 1st October 2021 and 31st March 2022.

In 2022-23, the CSEW was changed to incorporate a longitudinal approach. The approach for the first six months of the survey year largely reflected the traditional CSEW model, whereby face-to-face interviews were conducted at addresses randomly selected from the Postcode Address File (PAF). Face-to-face interviewing continued in this manner for the second half of the survey year (1st October 2022 to 31st March 2023). From October 2022, the sample was also supplemented by telephone interviews (wave 2) with respondents who had taken part in a face-to-face interview 12 months prior (wave 1). Wave 2 samples are issued on a monthly basis with composition determined by the wave 1 interview date. Sample for wave 2 is eligible for release in the anniversary month following the initial wave 1

[4] A feasibility study was carried out before the survey was extended to this age group. See Pickering, K., Smith, P., Bryson, C. and Farmer, C. (2008) British Crime Survey: options for extending the coverage to children and people living in communal establishments. Home Office Research Report 06. London: Home Office.
[5] Millard, B. and Flatley, J. (2010) Experimental statistics on victimisation of children aged 10 to 15: Findings from the British Crime Survey for the year ending December 2009. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/10.
[6] CSEW Fraud and Cyber-crime Development: Field trial

interview. Therefore, if the wave 1 interview was conducted in January 2022, it would become eligible for issue to wave 2 in January 2023.

Since 2012-13, the core 16+ sample size has been approximately 35,000 interviews, conducted across the year. Face-to-face fieldwork for the CSEW resumed in October 2021 with 6,238 interviews completed between 1st October 2021 and 31st March 2022.

The 2022-23 CSEW sample was designed to yield interviews with a nationally representative sample of 34,000 households in England and Wales. Following the fall in response rates on the return to face-to-face interviewing, interview targets were reduced to 30,000 for the year.. In October 2022, a boost sample was issued to achieve an additional 5,850 interviews with the intention of enhancing the ability to provide more granular estimates of neighbourhood crime. Following further challenges with fieldwork for the boost sample, 31,183 interviews in total were achieved for the 2022-23 CSEW. The boost was bolstered by the launch of the panel element for wave two interviews, generating an additional 2,552 telephone interviews. The telephone interviews are currently used for survey transformation research and development only. The sample composition and associated targets are described further in Chapter 2 of this report.

1.3 Outputs from the CSEW

Following the move of the processing and publication of crime statistics to ONS from the Home Office, the standard quarterly releases were extended to include more long-term trends and other data sources.

In addition to the regular quarterly publication, ONS publish additional thematic publications and articles on particular aspects of crime. Recent examples of thematic reports and articles based on CSEW data from the year ending March 2022 and the year ending March 2023 include:

- Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2023
- Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2022
- Drug misuse in England and Wales: year ending June 2022
- Homicide in England and Wales: year ending March 2022
- Sexual offences in England and Wales overview: year ending March 2022
- The nature of violent crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2022

The publications mentioned above are intended only to illustrate the types of reports and findings that are produced from the CSEW. Full details of all publications associated with the CSEW, and crime statistics more generally, can be found on the ONS website[7].

As well as published reports, anonymised CSEW data is made available through the UK Data Archive at the University of Essex[8] and through the ONS Secure Research Service[9]. The CSEW is a complex study with data organised at different levels (households, individuals, and incidents) and it includes numerous sub-samples who are asked specific

[7] https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/methodologies/userguidetocrimestatisticsforenglandandwales

[8] https://www.data-archive.ac.uk/

[9] https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/statistics/requestingstatistics/approvedresearcherscheme/

questions. Accordingly, considerable effort and expertise is required to analyse the data and to interpret it in a valid manner. Some of the analysis routines that play a key role in the published estimates are implemented after the data have been supplied to the ONS and so are not documented in this report. Further information on how to use the data is available from the UK Data Service[10].

ONS also produces a User Guide for those interested in understanding CSEW data and outputs which contains further detail on the content and structure of the data[11].

1.4 Structure of the Technical Report

This technical report covers *two* survey years: the six months of the 2021-22 survey year following resumption of face-to-face fieldwork (fieldwork starting in October 2021 and concluding in March 2022) and the full 2022-23 survey year (fieldwork starting in April 2022 and concluding in March 2023). The analysis in this report relates to the total sample that was *issued* in each survey year period, irrespective of when interviews actually took place. The distinction between issued sample and achieved sample is explained in more detail in Chapter 2 of this report.

The sample design is set out in Chapter 2. Data collection is the major task for the organisation commissioned to conduct the CSEW and forms the central part of this report. Chapter 3 covers the content and development of the questionnaire, while Chapter 4 outlines how the risk rating system for the 10–15-year-olds survey was developed. Chapter 5 details the fieldwork procedure (including response rates, documents and quality control). Chapter 6 discusses response rate and reasons for non-response in the core sample. Chapter 7 gives details of the offence coding and classification, and Chapter 8 covers the preparation and delivery of the CSEW data files. Chapter 9 outlines the weighting required for analysis of the data. Chapter 10 provides the results of some checks on the profile of the CSEW achieved sample against estimates for the population that the CSEW aims to represent.

[10] https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/

[11] https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/methodologies/userguidetocrimestatisticsforenglandandwales

2. Sample Design

2.1 Introduction

This technical report covers *two* survey years: the last six months of the 2021-22 survey year (fieldwork starting in October 2021) and the full 2022-23 survey year (fieldwork starting in April 2022).

For the 2021-22 survey year, the sample design was largely a continuation of the design used since April 2012. This was also true of the 2022-23 sample design initially, but it was revised a number of times.

This section of the technical report is divided into two parts, one for each survey year, but with common elements described just once and referenced where necessary.

2.2 Sample design for survey year 2021-22

The 2021-22 sample design was for half a survey year, with fieldwork starting in October 2021 rather than April 2021. However, it was designed as if it was for a whole survey year, with just half of the sample (allocated to October 2021 through March 2022) issued to the field. Key features of the *whole-year* 2021-22 design include:

- A target sample size of 34,000 interviews with people aged 16 years and over who are resident in private households in England and Wales (slightly down from 34,500 in previous years);
- A minimum of 625 interviews per year in each of the 42 police force areas (PFAs).[12] This required a degree of over-sampling in less populous PFAs;
- Use of a bespoke sampling geography for the survey that maximises the heterogeneity of the sample clusters;
- Different levels of sample clustering in different population density segments with every cluster being sampled at least once over a three-year period to create a near un-clustered sample; and
- Fieldwork conducted on a continuous basis with each sample cluster allocated to a specific quarter in such a way that updated nationally representative estimates are available every three months.

2.2.1 Sample size

The *whole-year* target sample size for the 2021-22 survey was 34,000 interviews with people aged 16 and over living in private households in England and Wales.

A minimum of 625 16+ interviews was required per police force area (representing a total of 26,250 interviews across 42 PFAs), with the remaining 7,750 16+ interviews (to take the total up to 34,000) allocated in proportion among the most populous police force areas to maximise the sample efficiency of national estimates. This model provides a national sample

[12] For sampling purposes, the City of London police force area is combined with the Metropolitan police force area.

efficiency of 95% with police force area target sample sizes ranging from 625 up to 3,837 (in the Metropolitan police force area).[13]

All these numbers were halved in practice because the 2021-22 survey covered half a year only.

The sampling fraction used in each police force area was based on (i) the target sample size, (ii) the observed deadwood and response rates over the survey years 2017-18 and 2018-19; and (iii) an assumption that the overall response rate would be slightly lower than over that period: 65% rather than 70%.[14] Since these rates are subject to some annual fluctuation at police force area level - and any post-pandemic systematic effects were then unknown - the number of addresses to sample in each PFA was inflated by a magnitude of 1.67 to create a pool of reserve addresses.

Excluding the reserve pool, 29,000 addresses were sampled and allocated to the October 2021 to March 2022 survey period (14,527 to October-December 2021 and 14,473 to January-March 2022). In the event, none of the reserve addresses were used and a large proportion of the 'main' sample for January-March 2022 (4,838 addresses: 33% of the total of 14,473) was not issued due to fieldwork capacity problems that followed from the much lower than expected response rate.

2.2.2 Sample structure

In 2012, Verian worked with the mapping experts, *UK Geographics*, to create a set of bespoke, geographically discrete strata for use in the CSEW.

Section 2.3.1 of the 2013-14 Technical Report describes the creation of these strata and they were also the subject of an article in the *Survey Methodology Bulletin* published by the Office for National Statistics[15]. To summarise:

- Every police force area was divided into a set of geographically discrete sample strata, each with an approximately equal number of addresses.
- Each sample stratum was constructed from whole lower-level super output areas (LSOAs) so that population statistics could easily be generated for the sample stratum.
- In constructing the sample strata, the design team took account of geographical barriers and the primary road network to ensure that field assignments based upon sample stratum boundaries would be practical.
- The size of each sample stratum was governed by the requirement that approximately 32 addresses should be sampled from each stratum each year.

Each of the 1,639 sample strata was designed to be activated[16] once a year and was allocated to a specific 'activation quarter'. Each activation quarter contains a (stratified) random subsample of the 1,639 sample strata, representative in terms of (i) expected victimisation rates, and (ii) spatial distribution. This minimises the risk of spurious quarter-by-

[13] Sample efficiency = effective national sample size due to disproportionate sampling divided by the actual national sample size of 34,000.
[14] 'Deadwood' addresses are those identified as not being an eligible residential address. The most common type of deadwood is empty or vacant residential properties.
[15] Williams J (2012) The creation of bespoke sample clusters for the Crime Survey for England and Wales 2012-2015, Survey Methodology Bulletin, 71, pp. 45-55
[16] By 'activated' we mean that a sample of addresses is drawn within the stratum, advance letters are sent, and field interviewers start work.

quarter changes in CSEW estimates that are due solely to differences in sample composition.

Once constructed, the 1,639 strata were ranked by the geographical density of addresses within their borders:

- The densest third were classified as belonging to the 'high density segment'
- The least dense third were classified as belonging to the 'low density segment'
- The rest were classified as belonging to the 'mid density segment'[17] [18]

In the 'low density' strata, three geographically discrete sub-divisions were formed (A, B and C), each with an approximately equal number of addresses and constructed from whole LSOAs[19]. In the mid density strata, two sub-divisions (A and B) were formed on the same basis. No subdivision was carried out in the high-density strata.

The combination of high-density strata plus the sub-divisions in the mid and low-density strata are termed 'sample units'. Just one sample unit per stratum is used per year following a sequence established in 2012. In most situations, a fieldwork assignment is based on one sample unit[20].

Each survey year has a planned sample unit activation sequence as shown in Table 2.1. In the event, no sample units were activated in 2020-21 and only sample units allocated to the October-December and January-March quarters were activated in 2021-22.

[17] Verian carried out a small degree of reallocation after this initial classification, essentially to allow a small number of police force areas to obtain the benefits of an unclustered sample over two years rather than three (and every year for the Metropolitan/City police force area).

[18] It should be acknowledged that address density may change over time and that the classification of a stratum as high, mid or low density is specific to 2012.

[19] Stratum subdivisions were designed to be as heterogeneous as possible in terms of crime rates but without forming awkward geographical shapes that would be difficult for interviewers to manage.

[20] Generally speaking, a high-density stratum will contain twice as many addresses as a subdivision within a mid-density stratum and three times as many addresses as a subdivision within a low-density stratum. However, geographically they will be of similar size. Consequently, sample units/fieldwork assignments are roughly equal in size too.

Table 2.1 - Planned sample unit activation in the CSEW (2012-23)

	High density strata	Mid density strata	Low density strata
2012-13	All	‘A’ subdivisions only	‘A’ subdivisions only
2013-14	All	‘B’ subdivisions only	‘B’ subdivisions only
2014-15	All	‘A’ subdivisions only	‘C’ subdivisions only
2015-16	All	‘B’ subdivisions only	‘A’ subdivisions only
2016-17	All	‘A’ subdivisions only	‘B’ subdivisions only
2017-18	All	‘B’ subdivisions only	‘C’ subdivisions only
2018-19	All	‘A’ subdivisions only	‘A’ subdivisions only
2019-20	All	‘B’ subdivisions only	‘B’ subdivisions only
2020-21	All	‘A’ subdivisions only	‘C’ subdivisions only
2021-22	All	‘B’ subdivisions only	‘A’ subdivisions only
2022-23	All	‘A’ subdivisions only	‘B’ subdivisions only

Although each sample stratum was allocated to a quarter, they are actually ‘activated’ on a monthly basis. Consequently, each sample stratum was randomly allocated a specific month (1,2,3) within its activation quarter. Monthly activation ensures a smooth flow of interviews over time and maximises the representativeness of the datasets, given they are defined by interview date rather than sample activation date. Occasionally, the activation month is switched to improve the management of fieldwork, but activation quarter has remained a fixed characteristic of each sample unit.

Before the 2015-16 survey, the sample strata and their associated sub-divisions were redefined, based on the new LSOAs constructed from 2011 census data rather than 2001 census data. This work was carried out by the geographer who had directed the original construction of the sample strata and their associated sub-divisions.

2.3 Sample design for survey year 2022-23

As noted in section 2.1, the sample design for 2022-23 was similar but not identical to that of 2021-22.

The same sample strata and units were used, and in the same activation quarters and months, but the national response rate assumption was dropped from 65% to 55% and all police force area response rate assumptions were decreased proportionately. However, in order to respond to changing user needs and to allow for maximum operational flexibility, a number of within year changes were required.

At the start of the survey year, the target household interview sample size was set at 34,000, with the sample being drawn on that basis. However, as a result of the ongoing challenges facing survey research in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, response rates proved to be lower than 55%. Interview targets were therefore revised downwards to 30,000 without any corresponding change to the sample.

A further change was required halfway through the year to respond to an emerging need for more detailed insight on neighbourhood crime. A decision was made to increase the target household interview sample size from 30,000 to 35,850 with the extra 5,850 coming entirely from the sample issued from October 2022 through March 2023. This expansion meant that the address sample needed to be redrawn in those sample units allocated to the second half of the year. Despite these changes, the 2022-23 target minimum police force area household sample size was kept at 625 (as it had been in 2021-22).

To provide additional flexibility in allocating fieldwork assignments we brought forward 115 of the 410 sample units that were due to be activated in the January 2023 – March 2023 quarter into the October 2022 – December 2022 quarter.

Finally, in late March 2023, a decision was made to limit the usual carryover of remaining 2022-23 sample beyond the end of the survey year. This meant ceasing work in a total of 210 sample units. Of the 820 sample units that were due to be activated over the period October 2022-March 2023, 215 were reasonable candidates to be deactivated, either because they had not yet been activated (117) or because, although activated, hardly any fieldwork had been carried out (98). Five of these candidate sample units were selected at random to be activated fully but the remaining 210 were deactivated. Of the deactivated 210 sample units, 24 had been due to be activated in the October 2022 – December 2022 quarter (but had not been), while 186 had been due to be activated in the January 2023 – March 2023 quarter.

In total, 75,835 addresses were issued for the 2022-23 survey year.

2.4 Address sample frame (2021-22 and 2022-23)

The Postcode Address File (PAF) was used as the address source for the CSEW.[21] The PAF is thought to list the addresses for at least 98% of the residential population.[22] PAF addresses are linked to higher level geographies via ONS's National Statistics Postcode Lookup database which is updated four times a year. This database links postcodes to 2011 LSOAs, allowing addresses to be allocated to sample strata and units in an unambiguous fashion.

The PAF is filtered to exclude obvious non-residential addresses before it is used as a sample frame, but it errs towards over-coverage (i.e. inclusion of addresses that are not yet built or sold for the first time, or which have been demolished or abandoned, or are not used as a primary residence). More than nine in ten addresses on the sample frame will be private, 'main' residential addresses, but c.8-12% will be 'deadwood' (ineligible).

2.5 Selection of addresses within sample units (2021-22 and 2022-23)

In each sample unit, addresses were geographically sorted prior to a systematic sample being drawn using a fixed interval and random start method. Geographic sorting within

[21] This excludes addresses that receive more than 25 postal items a day.
[22] Individuals living in communal accommodation are excluded from the population base.

sample unit was based on LSOA, Output Area, full postcode, and alphanumeric first line of address.

The number of addresses selected by survey year and by sample unit varied but averaged around 59 in 2021-22 and around 83 in 2022-23 (c.70 in the first two quarters and c.97 in the second two quarters when the sample size was boosted). After the addresses had been selected, 40% of addresses were randomly allocated to the reserve sample pool and removed from the main sample. This meant that the average assignment size issued to interviewers was around 35 addresses in 2021-22 and around 50 addresses in 2022-23 (c.42 in the first two quarters; c.58 in the second two quarters).

Because of the large number of addresses issued per sample unit in 2022-23 – especially in the last two quarters – many were broken up into two or more fieldwork assignments.

2.6 Identifying eligible and ineligible addresses (2021-22 and 2022-23)

At each address, one of the interviewer's first tasks is to establish whether the address is eligible or not. Addresses that are not traceable, that are non-residential, or that are empty or considered as a second home are all coded as deadwood. Each type of deadwood is considered below.

2.6.1 Non-residential addresses

Most non-residential addresses are excluded from the PAF-based sample frame. However, since inclusion is based on the volume of mail a particular address receives, some non-residential addresses with a relatively low volume of mail are included in the sample frame.

The most common types of non-residential addresses include factories, businesses, shops, offices, schools, hospitals, churches, etc.

However, an address which may appear non-residential may contain a private residence which shares the same address. For example, a shop may have a flat above it which shares the same address. In this situation the flat would be an eligible residential address. Similarly, a school caretaker may live in a house in the grounds of a school, where the school and the house share the same address. In this situation the caretaker's house would be an eligible residential address.

In both these examples, it may also be the case that the shop and the flat or the school and the house actually have slightly different addresses. For example, the shop may be 3 High Street and the flat above it may be 3A High Street. If this is the case, the two properties are treated as completely separate addresses. An interview will only be conducted at the exact address as listed in the sample frame.

2.6.2 Residential addresses - communal establishments

Another type of deadwood is anything that might be classed as an institution or a communal establishment. Examples include nursing or residential care homes, hotels, hostels, NHS nursing accommodation, college halls of residence, etc. Although these types of addresses are residential, the survey is limited to the occupants of private residential addresses.

It is important to distinguish a communal establishment from a private residential establishment. In some cases the distinction between the two can be subtle. Three examples illustrate the potential difficulties:

- While residential care homes for older people are usually classed as communal establishments, sheltered accommodation is generally considered private residential addresses (even where there is a warden);
- While most hostel type establishments are usually classed as communal establishments, bed sits are generally considered to be private residential addresses;
- While army barracks are usually classified as communal establishments, private residences located on an army base are generally considered to be private residential addresses.

In making these distinctions, interviewers are instructed to try to think in terms of how people actually live at an address and the extent to which people live independently. Communal living is generally taken to be situations where people share meals together and share communal living space. Where there is a degree of independent living with people generally cooking for themselves or having their own living space, this is regarded as private residential living.

2.6.3 Private residential addresses - vacant or second homes

There are some situations where an address meets the criteria of a private residential address but is not actually occupied. These are probably the most difficult type of addresses to establish positively as deadwood because it is often difficult to make contact with anyone. It can therefore be difficult to establish whether the property is empty or whether the occupants are just difficult to get hold of.

Addresses are not classed as empty or unoccupied just because an interviewer is unable to make contact with anyone at the address. Either the property must be obviously empty or vacant (e.g. boarded up council flats, properties with no furniture or no sign of occupation) or the interviewer must establish from some other source that no-one is living there. If the interviewer remains unsure about the status of the address, they are instructed to code the outcome as ‘Unknown whether address is residential’.

Second homes and holiday homes are another type of residential property that is not eligible for the survey. Again, the main problem with second homes is that it may be difficult to actually make contact with anyone at the address if they are only there occasionally. Therefore, interviewers always try to check with neighbours wherever possible.

In some cases, an individual may be unsure which of their residences should count as their main address and which should count as their second home. If this is the case, they are asked to think about which address they live at for most of the year. This rule only applies if someone has two or more residences within England and Wales.

2.7 Sampling of households and individuals (2021-22 and 2022-23)

Some eligible addresses contain more than one dwelling unit; in these instances, one dwelling unit was randomly selected for interview based on a standard selection algorithm built into the electronic contact script. The number of dwelling units at each address was recorded by interviewers. Within dwellings, very occasionally, interviewers found more than one household resident within the same dwelling unit (based on the standard definition of a

household). In these cases, one household was selected at random using the same selection process which was used to select one dwelling at multi-dwelling addresses.

Within each eligible household one person aged 16+ was randomly selected for interview based on a standard selection algorithm built into the electronic contact script.

2.8 Sampling of 10 to 15 year olds (2022-23)

The survey also covers 10-15 year olds living in private residential accommodation. Information about other household members is collected as part of the main (16+) interview, so the number of 10-15 year olds is known from that and forms a mini sample frame for the selection of one to interview. If more than one eligible child was identified, just one child was selected at random.

2.9 Wave 2 sampling (2022-23 survey only)

In 2022-23, the CSEW was changed into a quasi-longitudinal survey, with annual re-interviewing of respondents (aged 16+) to the face-to-face interview survey ('wave 1'). This began in October 2022, comprising Wave 1 respondents interviewed in the period 1st-31st October 2021. Wave 2 samples were issued on a monthly basis with composition determined by wave 1 interview date. So, the November 2022 issue comprised those interviewed for wave 1 in November 2021; the December 2022 issue comprised those interviewed for wave 1 in December 2021; and so on.

To be eligible for issue to wave 2, the wave 1 respondent had to (i) explicitly agree to be recontacted, (ii) provide a syntactically valid telephone number, and (iii) not withdraw from the study before the relevant wave 2 issue month. There was no sampling from among this group (i.e. all were issued for wave 2). Wave 1 respondents who had moved by the time of wave 2 were still eligible for the wave 2 survey so long as they were still resident in England or Wales.

Finally, in February and March 2023 a subset of 3,640 individuals who were part of the 'legacy' TCSEW panel (2020-2022) was issued to wave 2. However, this sample issue was not part of the core CSEW even if administratively it was treated like any other sample issued to wave 2.

Table 2.2 shows the number of wave 1 respondents and wave 2 issued cases per month.

Table 2.2 - Wave 2 sample issue (2022-23)

W1 interview month	W1 interviews	W2 issue month	Issued for W2
Oct 21	505	Oct 22	374
Nov 21	840	Nov 22	616
Dec 21	582	Dec 22	418
Jan 22	816	Jan 23	578
Feb 22	1,429	Feb 23	1,047
Mar 22	2,066	Mar 23	1,477
Oct 21 – Mar 22	**6,238**	**Oct 22 – Mar 23**	**4,510**
TCSEW 'legacy'	n/a	Feb 23	1,642
TCSEW 'legacy'	n/a	Mar 23	1,998
TCSEW 'legacy'	**n/a**	**Feb 23 – Mar 23**	**3,640**

3. Questionnaire content and development

The period covered by this report encompasses three separate questionnaires:

- The 2021-22 wave 1 questionnaire
- The 2022-23 wave 1 questionnaire
- The 2022-23 wave 2 questionnaire

This chapter provides details on all three questionnaire.

3.1 Structure and coverage of the 16+ questionnaire

The CSEW questionnaire for the 16+ survey has a complex structure, consisting of a set of core modules asked of the whole sample and a set of modules asked only of random sub-samples. Within some modules, there is often further filtering so that some questions are only asked of even smaller sub-samples.

The structure of the wave 1 CSEW questionnaire retained the original structure of the face-to-face survey, whilst the wave 2 CSEW questionnaire was a cut-down version of the wave 1 survey, similar to the TCSEW.

At wave 2, only 7 of the wave 1 modules were retained, although all of these were modified to some extent to reflect the switch from face-to-face, in-home interviewing to telephone. All self-completion modules were removed, as were any modules asked only of random-sub samples.

Table 3.1 indicates which modules were included in each of the three questionnaires.

Table 3.1 – Questionnaire content

Questionnaire module	W1 2021-22	W1 2022-23	W2 2022-23
Household box	✓	✓	✓
Perceptions of crime	✓	✓	✓
Screener questions	✓	✓	✓
Victimisation modules for non-fraud incidents identified at the screeners (up to a maximum of six)	✓	✓	✓
Victimisation modules for fraud incidents identified at the screeners (up to a maximum of six)	✓	✓	✓
Performance of the Criminal Justice System	✓	✓	✗
Mobile phone crime	✓	✓	✗
Module A: Experiences of the police	✓	✓	✗
Module B: Crime prevention and security: Household	✓	✓	✓
Module C: Crime prevention and security: Vehicle Crime	✓	✓	✗
Module D: Crime prevention and security: Personal and online	✓	✓	✗
Harassment	✗	✓	✗
Anti-social behaviour	✓	✓	✗
Demographics	✓	✓	✓
Self-completion module: Drugs and drinking	✓	✓	✗
Self-completion module: Gangs and Personal Security (16-29 year olds only)	✓	✓	✗
Self-completion module: Domestic abuse, sexual victimisation and stalking	✓	✓	✗
Self-completion module: Nature of domestic abuse	✓	✓	✗
Future participation, Gender & Sexual Orientation	✓	✓	✗

The sub-set of wave 1 respondents who were asked each module of the questionnaire is shown in Table 3.2. The complete questionnaire is documented in Appendix G of Volume 2. The rest of this chapter outlines the broad content of each section or module of the questionnaire.

Table 3.2 Modules of the CSEW wave 1 questionnaire and sub-set of respondents who were asked each module

Questionnaire module	W1 2021-22	W1 2022-23
Household grid	All	All
Perceptions of crime	All	All
Screener questions	All	All
Victimisation module	All victims of non-fraud	All victims of non-fraud
Fraud victimisation module	All victims of fraud	All victims of fraud
Performance of the Criminal Justice System	Random 50% - Groups A and B	Random 50% - Groups A and B
Mobile phone crime	All	All
Module A: Experiences of the police	All	All
Module B: Crime prevention and security: Household	Random 25% - Group B	Random 25% - Group B
Module C: Crime prevention and security: Vehicle Crime	Random 25% - Group C	Random 25% - Group C
Module D: Crime prevention and security: Personal and online	Random 25% - Group D	Random 25% - Group D
Harassment	N/A	Random 50% - Group C and D
Anti-social behaviour	Random 75% - Groups B, C and D	Random 75% - Groups B, C and D
Demographics	All	All
Self-completion module: Drugs and drinking	All aged 16-74	All aged 16-74
Self-completion module: Gangs and Personal Security (16-29 year olds only)	Random 50% Groups A and B aged 16-29 years old	Random 50% Groups A and B aged 16-29 years old
Self-completion module: Domestic abuse, sexual victimisation and stalking	All aged 16-74	All aged 16-74
Self-completion module: Nature of domestic abuse	All victims of domestic abuse	All victims of domestic abuse
Future participation, Gender & Sexual Orientation	All	All

Allocation of respondents to each part-sample module was done using an algorithm based on the pre-allocated serial number of each address.

Almost every question in the survey had a don't know and refused option that the interviewer could use. At most questions these options did not appear on the screen to try to ensure that interviewers did not overuse them. Similarly, on most questions with show cards, the don't know and refused options were not presented to respondents, meaning the respondent had to spontaneously mention these responses.

In the questionnaire in Appendix G of Volume 2, don't know and refused codes are only shown if they were explicit response categories and so actually appeared as an option on the screen or show card.

3.1.1 Household grid

Basic socio-demographic details (age, sex, marital status, relationship to respondent) were collected in the household grid for every person aged over 16 in the household. Additionally, the age, sex and relationship to the respondent of all children under 16 years old were also collected.

The household grid was also used to establish the Household Reference Person (HRP)[23] which is the standard classification used on all government surveys and is based on the following criteria:

- The HRP is the member of the household in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented. In households with a sole householder that person is the HRP.
- In households with joint householders the person with the highest income is taken as the HRP.
- If both householders have exactly the same income, the older is taken as the HRP.
- Finally, at the end of the household grid there are some factual questions around length of time living at the address, internet access, and vehicle ownership, all of which are required for filtering of the screener questions.

3.1.2 Perceptions of crime

The household grid was followed by a series of attitudinal and behavioural questions around particular aspects of crime and anti-social behaviour. Questions included:

- Impact of crime on quality of life (Module D respondents only)
- Perceptions of personal safety (Module D respondents only)
- Worries about being a victim of different types of crime (Module B, C and D respondents only);
- Perceptions of anti-social behaviour in the local area (Module A respondents only)
- Perceptions of national and local crime rates and how these have changed (Module B

[23] Prior to 2001 all previous surveys collected details of the Head of Household.

and C respondents only)

- Behaviour in relation to going out and frequency of visiting certain places (pubs or bars)

3.1.3 Screener questions – Non-fraud

All respondents were asked whether they had experienced certain types of crimes or incidents within a specified reference period. Because respondents are interviewed at different times within each month, they are asked about experiences of crime in the current month plus in the 12 months prior to interview. Crimes experienced in the interview month are excluded from the 12-month reference period used for analysis. For example, interviews taking place throughout October 2022 would all have a reference period of 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2022, but any crimes experienced in October 2022 would still be recorded in the interview.

Questions were designed to ensure that all incidents of crime within the scope of the CSEW, including relatively minor ones, were mentioned. The screener questions deliberately avoided using terms such as 'burglary', 'robbery', or 'assault', all of which have a precise definition that respondents might not know or fully understand the precise meaning. The wording of these screener questions has been kept consistent since the CSEW began to ensure comparability across years, apart from some minor updating of some terminology.

To try and encourage respondents to recall events accurately, a life event calendar was offered to all respondents to act as a visual prompt when answering the screener questions. The idea was to try and place events or incidents in some sort of meaningful context for each respondent by building up a picture of events that have happened to them in the last year (e.g. birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, starting a new job, etc.) that are memorable.

Appendix I in Volume 2 has an example of the calendar used on the 2022-23 core 16+ survey.

Depending on individual circumstances, a maximum of 25 screener questions were asked which can be grouped into four main categories:

- All respondents who owned vehicles or bicycles were asked about experience of vehicle-related crimes (e.g. theft of vehicles, theft from vehicles, damage to vehicles, bicycle theft);
- All respondents were asked about experience of property-related crimes in their current residence (e.g. whether the property was broken into, whether anything was stolen from the property, whether the property was damaged);
- All respondents who had moved in the last 12 months were also asked about their experience of property-related crimes at their previous residence(s); and
- All respondents were asked about experience of personal crimes (e.g. whether any personal property was stolen, whether any personal property was damaged, whether they had been a victim of violence or threats)

The questions are designed to ensure that the respondent does not mention the same incident more than once. As a check, at the end of the screener questions, the interviewer is shown a list of all incidents recorded and asked to check with the respondent that all incidents have been recorded and nothing has been counted twice. If there is any evidence of double counting the respondent has an opportunity to correct the information before proceeding.

Within the screener questions there is a crucial distinction between **household** incidents and **personal** incidents.

All vehicle-related and property-related crimes are counted as household incidents. Respondents are asked whether anyone currently residing in their household has experienced any relevant incidents within the reference period. A typical example of a household incident is criminal damage to a car. It is assumed that the respondent will be able to recall these incidents and provide information even in cases where he/she was not the owner or user of the car.

Personal incidents refer to all crimes against the individual and so only relate to things that have happened to the respondent personally, but not to other people in the household. This is often a difficult concept for respondents to understand as their natural inclination is to tell the interviewer about incidents affecting other members of their household. An example of a personal incident would be an assault. An assault against other household members (no matter how serious) should not be recorded, unless the respondent was also assaulted as part of the same incident.

3.1.4 Screener questions – Fraud

From October 2015, screener questions covering experiences of fraud and cybercrime during the previous 12 months have been included on the survey. The fraud screener questions were asked to all respondents and were administered in the same way as the traditional non-fraud screeners.

The six main topic areas covered by the fraud screeners were:

- Incidents which occurred as a direct result of a previous non-fraud crime
- Personal information or account details been used to obtain money, or buy goods or services without permission
- Being tricked or deceived out of money or goods
- Attempts to trick or deceive out of money or goods
- Theft of personal information or details held on your computer or in on-line accounts
- Computer or other internet-enabled device being infected or interfered with by a virus

3.1.5 Victimisation modules

All incidents identified at the screener questions are followed through in more detail in the victimisation module. Incidents are covered in a specific priority order which has been kept consistent since the start of the CSEW.

Identification and ordering of incidents for victimisation modules

Where a respondent had experienced one or more incidents in the reference period, the questionnaire script automatically identified the order in which the modules were asked. This prioritisation process was adjusted to take account of fraud when these screeners were added to the survey. Fraud crimes were given a lower priority than the existing non-fraud crime types. The automatic selection meant that the interviewer had no discretion about the selection or order of the modules[24]. The priority ordering used by the script was as follows:

- **According to the type of crime.** Non-fraud victimisation modules were asked first, in reverse order to the screener questions. Broadly speaking this means that all personal incidents were asked before property-related incidents, which were asked before vehicle-related incidents. Fraud victimisation modules were asked but in the same order as the fraud screener questions. Overall, across both non-fraud and fraud crimes a maximum of six victimisation modules were completed, with non-fraud incidents taking priority.

- **Chronologically within each type of crime.** If a respondent reported more than one incident of the same type of crime, modules were asked about the most recent incident first and worked backwards chronologically.

If six or fewer incidents were identified at the screener questions, a victimisation module was completed for all of the incidents reported. For non-fraud cases, the first three modules contained a set of detailed questions relating to each incident (called 'long' modules). The second three modules contained a sub-set of key questions (called 'short' modules) which would still allow the incidents to be classified. This approach was done to minimise respondent burden by limiting overall interview length. Fraud and computer misuse victimisation modules included a different set of questions which were asked for every fraud or computer misuse incident (i.e. no distinction between long and short modules).

In the 2021-22 survey, a total of 2.052 victimisation modules were completed by 1,428 individual victims, with 22.9% of all respondents reporting at least one incident (see Table 3.2).

[24] In the case of the incidents of sexual victimisation or domestic abuse, the interviewer had an option to suspend the victimisation module, as this might make the respondents feel uncomfortable or endanger the respondent in some situations. The interviewer would then attempt to arrange a revisit at a time that would be more convenient, for example when other household members would not be present.

Table 3.2 Core sample wave 1 and wave 2 respondents who completed victimisation modules, 2022-23 CSEW

	N	% of all respondents	% of victims
Non victims	4,810	77.1	
Victims[25]	1,428	22.9	
No. of victim modules completed			
1	1,057	16.9	75.0
2	204	3.3	14.5
3	74	1.2	5.2
4	36	0.6	2.6
5	13	0.2	0.9
6	26	0.4	1.8
Total	**2,052**		
Bases:		*6,238*	*1,428*

In the 2022-23 survey, a total of 9,937 victimisation modules were completed by 7,040 individual victims, with 19.9% of all respondents reporting at least one incident (see Table 3.3).

[25] Victims refers to the number of respondents who started at least one victimisation module. This is slightly different to the number of respondents who reported at least one incident at the screener questions.

Table 3.3 Core sample wave 1 and wave 2 respondents who completed victimisation modules, 2022-23 CSEW

	N	% of all respondents	% of victims
Non victims	28,294	80.1	
Victims[26]	7,040	19.9	
No. of victim modules completed			
1	5,184	14.7	73.6
2	1,133	3.2	16.1
3	319	0.9	4.5
4	148	0.4	2.1
5	70	0.2	1.0
6	98	0.3	1.4
Total	**9,937**		
Bases:		*35,334*	*7,040*

Defining a series of incidents

Most incidents reported represent one-off crimes or single incidents. However, in a minority of cases a respondent may have been victimised a number of times in succession. At each screener question where a respondent reported an incident, they were asked how many incidents of the given type had occurred during the reference period. If more than one incident was reported, the respondent was asked whether they thought that these incidents represented a 'series' or not. A series was defined as "the same thing, done under the same circumstances and probably by the same people". Where this was the case, only one victimisation module was completed in relation to the most recent incident in the series. Again, this was done to minimise respondent burden.

In fraud cases the definition of a series is more complex, as the survey is intended to replicate the way in which the police would record fraud incidents as close as possible. The key measures for identifying a series with fraud offences is whether all the incidents are identified at the same time, and whether the victim responded in the same way. This is designed to ensure that cases of fraud involving multiple transactions on a single account are counted as a single incident rather than multiple incidents. For example; if someone discovers four separate transactions on their bank account these will be recorded as a single

[26] Victims refers to the number of respondents who started at least one victimisation module. This is slightly different to the number of respondents who reported at least one incident at the screener questions.

incident rather than four separate incidents or a series. However, if they later discover more transactions on their account then this would be recorded as a separate incident or as the second incident in a series.

There are two practical advantages to the approach of only asking about the most recent incident where a series of similar incidents has occurred. First, since some (although not all) incidents classified as a series can be petty or minor incidents (e.g. vandalism) it avoids the need to ask the same questions to a respondent several times over. And second, it avoids using up the limit of six victimisation modules on incidents which may be fairly trivial, while missing out potentially more serious incidents.

In 2022-23, 89% of all victimisation modules related to single incidents and 11% related to a series of incidents. This split between single and series incidents was broadly the same as on previous surveys.

In the rare cases where a respondent has experienced a mixture of single incidents and a series of incidents the interview program has a complex routine which handles the sequence of individual and series incidents and allows the priority ordering of the victimisation modules to be decided.

In terms of estimating the victimisation rates, series incidents receive a weight corresponding to the number of incidents in the series that fall within the reference period, subject to a maximum limit that is specific to the offence code group (see section 11.3.5). This is a relatively recent change to how the data is weighted as previously all offence types were capped at a limit of five.

Content of victimisation module

The victimisation module collects the key information needed to classify each incident to a particular offence type, which is the basis for calculating the prevalence and incidence rates. It contains three types of information:

- **The exact month(s) in which the incident or series of incidents occurred**. In a few cases, respondents may have reported an incident which later turns out to have been outside the reference period. In such cases, the victimisation module is simply by-passed. If respondents were unsure about the exact month in which something happened, they were asked to narrow it down to a specific quarter. For incidents that were part of a series, respondents were asked how many incidents occurred in each quarter and the month in which the most recent incident had occurred.

- **An open-ended description of the incident where the respondent describes exactly what happened in their own words**. The open-ended description is vital to the accurate coding of offences that takes place in the office. Short, ambiguous or inconsistent descriptions can often make offence coding difficult. In fraud victimisation modules a second open-ended description is included to collect information about the action the respondent took following the fraud or attempted fraud, as this is a key aspect of the fraud offence coding. At the end of each victimisation module, the original open-ended description that the interviewer had entered at the start is re-capped, along with the answers to some of the key pre-coded questions. By presenting this information on a single screen, interviewers have the chance to confirm with respondents that the information is correct and consistent. If the respondent and/or interviewer wish to add or clarify any information they can do this.

- **A series of key questions used to establish important characteristics about the incident.** These include where and when the incident took place; whether anything was stolen or damaged and, if so, what; the costs of things stolen or damaged; any details of the offenders (if known); whether force or violence was used and, if so, the nature of the force used and any injuries sustained; and whether the police were informed or not. While many of the questions in the fraud victimisation module reflect the non-fraud module there are also other questions which are more relevant for these specific types of crime.

3.1.6 Reference dates

In the questionnaire script reference dates were automatically calculated based on the date of interview and appropriate text substitution was used to ensure that the questions always referred to the correct reference period.

Because the 12-month reference period changed each month throughout the fieldwork year, some date-related questions in the victimisation module had different text each month to reflect this changing reference period. Thus, for example, any interviews conducted in July 2022 would use the reference period "*since the first of July 2021*". This means that in practice the 12-month reference period consisted of the last 12 full calendar months, plus the current month (i.e. slightly more than 12 months). This is taken into account when the victimisation rates are estimated by excluding incidents that took place in the month of interview from the analysis.

In the previous section it was noted that for each incident the respondent is asked which month of the year the incident happened in. At these questions the code frame presented to the interviewer and respondent always displays the last 13 months counting back from the date of interview.

If respondents are unable to narrow it down to a particular month, they are then asked for the quarter of the year it happened in. Additionally, where respondents have reported a series of incidents in the last 12 months, they are asked how many incidents happened in each quarter. The time period used for both these questions is not 'rolling quarters' but rather are fixed to match the standard quarters used in both the survey design and in terms of how the estimates are reported (i.e. January – March, April – June, July – September, October – December).

Since the reference period is based on a rolling 12 months based on the month of interview it is important in cases where only the quarter is recorded to be able to establish whether the incident is in scope (within the last 12 months) or out of scope (more than 12 months ago). This requires some questions within the victimisation module to have an adjusted code frame which differs based on the exact month of interview. This is illustrated in Table 3.4 below for the full year 2022-23. In each case the first code is always out scope (more than 12 months ago) and the other codes are in scope.

Table 3.4 Code frame by month of interview at the victimisation module

Interview month=April 2022
1. Before the 1st of April 2021 (Out of scope)
2. Between April and June 2021
3. Between July and September 2021
4. Between October and December 2021
5. Between January and March 2022
6. Between the 1st of April 2022 and present

Interview month=May 2022
1. Before the 1st of May 2021 (Out of scope)
2. In May or June 2021
3. Between July and September 2021
4. Between October and December 2021
5. Between January and March 2022
6. Between the 1st of April 2022 and present

Interview month=June 2022
1. Before the first of June 2021 (Out of scope)
2. Inn June 2021
3. Between July and September 2021
4. Between October and December 2021
5. Between January and March 2022
6. Between the 1st of April 2022 and the present

Interview month =July 2022
1. Before the 1st of July 2021 (Out of scope)
2. Between July and September 2021
3. Between October and December 2021
4. Between January and March 2022
5. Between April and June 2022
6. Between the 1st of July 2022 and present

Interview month=August 2022
1. Before the 1st of August 2021 (Out of scope)
2. In August or September 2021
3. Between October and December 2021
4. Between January and March 2022
5. Between April and June 2022
6. Between the 1st of July 2022 and present

Interview month=September 2022
1. Before the 1st of September 2021 (Out of scope)
2. In September 2021
3. Between October and December 2021
4. Between January and March 2022
5. Between April and June 2022
6. Between the 1st of July 2022 and present

Interview month=October 2022
1. Before the 1st of October 2021 (Out of scope)
2. Between October and December 2021
3. Between January and March 2022
4. Between April and June 2022
5. Between July and September 2022
6. Between the 1st October 2022 and present

Interview month=November 2022
1. Before the 1st of November 2021 (Out of scope)
2. In November or December 2021
3. Between January and March 2022
4. Between April and June 2022
5. Between July and September 2022
6. Between the 1st of October 2022 and present

Interview month=December 2022
1. Before the 1st of December 2021 (Out of scope)
2. In December 2021
3. Between January and March 2022
4. Between April and June 2022
5. Between July and September 2022
6. Between the 1st of October 2022 and present

Interview month=January 2023
1. Before the 1st of January 2022 (Out of scope)
2. Between January and March 2022
3. Between April and June 2022
4. Between July and September 2022
5. Between October and December 2022
6. Between the 1st of January 2023 and present

Interview month=February 2023
1. Before the 1st of February 2022 (Out of scope)
2. In February or March 2022
3. Between April and June 2022
4. Between July and September 2022
5. Between October and December 2022
6. Between the 1st of January 2023 and present

Interview month =March 2023
1. Before the 1st of March 2022 (Out of scope)
2. In March 2022
3. Between April and June 2022
4. Between July and September 2022
5. Between October and December 2022
6. Between 1st of January 2023 and present

3.1.7 Performance and experiences of the Criminal Justice System

A random sub-set of respondents were asked their perceptions about the effectiveness and fairness of both the Criminal Justice System (CJS) as a whole, as well as about the individual agencies that make up the CJS (the police, the courts, the CPS, the probation service and prisons).

This sub-set of respondents were also asked about their levels of trust and confidence in the police, both nationally and locally. Questions covered overall trust in the police as an institution, perceptions of how good a job the local police are doing, and questions related to specific aspects of local policing.

Finally, a few questions related to respondents' awareness of Police Crime Commissioners and the Victims' Code, and their perceptions of how good a job the National Crime Agency are doing.

3.1.8 Mobile phone crime

Although mobile phones stolen from the respondent should be identified in the victimisation module, thefts from other members of the household are not covered. Consequently, in this module, respondents in Group C were asked if anyone else in the household had had a mobile phone stolen in the last 12 months and, if so, from whom the phone had been stolen. Respondents were asked to include incidents where mobile phones stolen had been stolen from children in the household.

3.1.9 Experiences of the police

Sections of this module are asked to a random subset of respondents (Group A). They are asked:

- the extent to which police are visible in the local area
- what sources they use to get information about their local police
- whether they have had contact with their local police and what form did the contact take

All respondents were asked about whether they'd contacted the police for any reason by calling 999 or 101. If so, respondents asked for details, including the reason, their satisfaction with the call, the police's subsequent action and how the police handled the matter as a whole. Respondents are also asked about alternative methods of contacting the police.

Respondents were asked about whether they'd ever been in a car or on a motorcycle which was approached or stopped by police officers. If so, they were asked for the more information, including the reason the police gave for the stop, whether they or the vehicle were searched, if force was used and their satisfaction with how the matter was handled.

Finally, respondents were asked if they had ever been approached or stopped and asked questions by police officers or PCSOs when they were on foot. If so, they were asked for the more information, including the reason the police gave for the stop, whether they were searched, if force was used and their satisfaction with how the matter was handled.

3.1.10 Sub-sample modules (B-D)

Respondents were randomly allocated to one of three modules (B, C or D). The random allocation maintains a representative sub-sample in each of the modules and ensure roughly equal sample sizes.

Module B: Household crime prevention and security
Topics covered in this module included:

- whether or not respondents have a range of security measures installed at their home
- whether respondents have changed their home security measures or behaviour in the last 12 months

Module C: Vehicle crime prevention and security
Topics covered in this module included:

- whether or not respondents have a range of security measures on their vehicles

Module D: Personal and online crime prevention and security
Topics covered in this module included:

- personal security habits and the steps that respondents take to reduce their chances of being a victim of crime when they are out and about in public
- whether or not respondents take measures to keep themselves safe online

3.1.11 Anti-social behaviour

This module included:

- perceptions of anti-social behaviour in the local area
- experiences of different types of anti-social behaviour

3.1.12 Harassment

As a result of cognitive testing, a new set of questions about threats, harassment and intimidation were added to the self-completion section.

These questions were asked to a random subset of respondents (Groups C and D).

They covered:

- experience of harassment or intimidation in the last 12 months
- type of harassment/intimidation, e.g., abusive or offensive comments or behaviour
- reasons for the harassment/intimidation
- location it took place
- relationship to offender

3.1.13 Demographics

This section collected additional information on the respondent and the Household Reference Person (where this was not the same as the respondent). Question topics included:

- health and disability
- employment details[27]
- ethnicity and national identity
- educational attainment and qualifications
- housing tenure
- household income.

Some more sensitive questions related to wellbeing, sexual orientation and gender identity were included in the self-completion module of the survey (see next section).

3.1.14 Self-completion modules

The self-completion modules were asked of all wave 1 respondents. These modules are all presented as computer assisted self-completion (CASI) modules to ensure respondent confidentiality in answering these questions.

The respondent was asked to follow the instructions on the laptop screen and enter their answers accordingly. Practice questions were included before the start of the self-completion module to give the interviewer an opportunity to show the respondent the different functions of the tablet. If the respondent was unable or unwilling to complete the modules using the computer, the interviewer could administer the self-completion. In these circumstances, respondents were only asked the modules on drug use and drinking but not the module on domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking. Interviewer assistance and the presence of others while completing these modules was recorded by the interviewer (see Table 5.3).

In 2016-17, Verian experimented with increasing the age limit on the self-completion module, from 59 years of age to 74 years. Results showed that adults of this age were able to successfully answer self-completion questions, although refusal rates were slightly higher compared with other age groups and respondents were more likely to require help from an interviewer. From 2018-19 the upper age limit for the self-completion modules was raised to 74 years and then removed completely from October 2021.

Self-completion module – illicit drug use and alcohol consumption

All core respondents under 60 years old were asked this series of questions on drug and alcohol use. The module covered a wide variety of drugs of all classes including amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, and many others. Respondents were asked whether they had ever taken each drug and, if so, whether they had taken it in the last 12 months and whether they had taken it in the last month. The list of drugs included a drug that did not exist (Semeron) to attempt to identify instances of over reporting.

Respondents were also asked about taking psychoactive substances such as nitrous oxide and substance formerly known as legal highs and any prescription-only painkillers that were not prescribed in the last 12 months.

[27] Where the respondent was not the Household Reference person occupation details were also collected about the HRP.

Finally, respondents were asked about their alcohol consumption, including how often they had drunk alcohol in the past 12 months, how often they had felt drunk and whether they thought they had driven a vehicle when they were over the legal alcohol limit.

Gangs and Personal Security

Respondents aged 16-29 years old were routed to an additional short self-completion module containing questions on street gangs and knife carrying.

Domestic abuse, sexual victimisation and stalking

All respondents who accepted the self-completion module without any interviewer assistance were routed to a self-completion module covering experiences of domestic abuse, sexual victimisation and stalking.

This current set of questions on inter-personal violence cover the following topics:

- experience of domestic abuse by either a partner or by another family member since age 16 and in the last 12 months
- experience of less serious sexual assault since age 16 and in the last 12 months
- experience of serious sexual assault since age 16 and in the last 12 months
- experience of stalking since age 16 and in the last 12 months

Nature of domestic abuse

Those who had been a victim of partner abuse in the last 12 months were asked supplementary questions about the nature of the abuse. The questions covered:

- who they have told
- whether they have reported the abuse to anyone, including to the police
- whether respondent suffered any injuries or sought any medical help
- whether respondent had to take any time off work
- their living situation throughout the abuse
- whether drugs or alcohol were involved
- whether pregnancy or children were involved
- whether the relationship has ended or still continuing

3.2 Domestic Abuse scripting/ data error

In January 2023, Verian discovered an error in the script which was launched in October 2022. A filter was incorrectly changed in the script, which resulted in missing data for 10 key questions relating to partner abuse. This missing data also affected other derived variables dependent on the missing data. This issue affected interviews conducted between 1st October 2022 and 6th February 2023.

Table 3.5 outlines all the variables directly affected by this error.

In addition to these variables, the number of respondents who were asked the **Nature of Partner Domestic Abuse** module was reduced as the filter was dependent on the affected variables.

As a result, estimates for the year ending March 2023 for domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking were based on eight months of interviews and exclude the affected survey months. Additional weights (c11indivwgt_dv and c11hhdwgt_dv) were added to the 2022-23 data file for use in analysing this data. Further details are included in chapter 11.

The script was corrected on 31st January 2023[28].

[28] Although the script was updated and launched on 31st January, there was a delay in some interviewers downloading the updated script onto their laptops. As a result, the error was still in effect for a small number of interviews conducted between 31st January and 6th February.

Table 3.5 – Variables affected by Domestic Abuse scripting error

Variable	Question	Correct filter	Filter applied Oct 22 - Jan 23	Number of missing cases	Dependent variables
nipv18	Since you were 16 has a **partner or ex-partner** ever indecently exposed themselves to you (i.e. flashing) in a way that caused you fear, alarm or distress?	IF [NIPV17 =1 and NIPV1 NE 3]	IF [NIPV17 = 1 and NIPV1a = 1]	412 out of 571	nipv21
nipv24	Since you were 16, has a **partner or ex-partner** ever touched you in a sexual way, (e.g. touching, grabbing, kissing or fondling), when you did not want it?	IF [NIPV23 =1 and NIPV1 NE 3]	IF [NIPV23 = 1 and NIPV1a = 1]	729 out of 1,011	nipv27
nipv90	Since the AGE OF 16, has a PARTNER OR EX-PARTNER ever penetrated your [vagina or anus/anus] with an object (including their fingers) when you made it clear that you did not agree or when you were not capable of consent?	IF [NIPV89 =1 and NIPV1 NE 3]	IF [NIPV89 = 1 and NIPV1a = 1]	162 out of 227	nipv93
nipv96	Since the AGE OF 16, has a PARTNER OR EX-PARTNER ever ATTEMPTED to penetrate your [vagina or anus/anus] with an object (including their fingers) when you made it clear that you did not agree or when you were not capable of consent?	IF [NIPV95 =1 and NIPV1 NE 3]	IF [NIPV95 = 1 and NIPV1a = 1]	170 out of 249	nipv99
nipv543	Since you were 16 has a **partner or ex-partner** ever sent you more than one unwanted letter, text message or card that was either obscene or threatening and which caused you fear, alarm or distress?	IF [NIPV533 =1 and NIPV1 NE 3]	IF [NIPV533 = 1 and NIPV1a = 1]	344 out of 534	nipv573
nipv602	Since you were 16 has a **partner or ex-partner** ever made more than one obscene, threatening, nuisance or silent phone call to you which caused you fear, alarm or distress?	IF [NIPV592 =1 and NIPV1 NE 3]	IF [NIPV592 = 1 and NIPV1a = 1]	399 out of 570	nipv632

nipv662	Since you were 16 has a **partner or ex-partner** ever waited or loitered outside your home or workplace on more than one occasion in a manner which caused you fear, alarm or distress?	IF [NIPV652 =1 and NIPV1 NE 3]	IF [NIPV652 = 1 and NIPV1a = 1]	307 out of 570	nipv692
nipv722	Since you were 16 has a **partner or ex-partner** ever followed you around and watched you on more than one occasion in a manner which caused you fear, alarm or distress?	IF [NIPV712 =1 and NIPV1 NE 3]	IF [NIPV712 = 1 and NIPV1a = 1]	298 out of 431	nipv752
nipv782	Since you were 16 has a **partner or ex-partner** ever sent you more than one unwanted email or social network message that was obscene or threatening and which caused you fear, alarm or distress?	IF [NIPV772 =1 and NIPV1 NE 3]	IF [NIPV772 = 1 and NIPV1a = 1]	247 out of 391	nipv812
nipv842	Since you were 16 has a **partner or ex-partner** ever put personal, obscene or threatening information about you on the internet on more than one occasion and which caused you fear, alarm or distress?	IF [NIPV832 =1 and NIPV1 NE 3]	IF [NIPV832 = 1 and NIPV1a = 1]	82 out of 129	nipv872

3.3 Question development and testing

For the 2022-23 survey, cognitive testing was conducted on a new set of questions about threats, harassment and intimidation. 15 interviews were conducted in January and February 2022 remotely via Zoom. Respondents were recruited by Criteria Fieldwork Ltd, a specialist qualitative research recruitment agency. Quotas for gender, age, level of education, working status, ethnicity and religion were set to ensure a broad range of respondents were recruited. Respondents were given an appropriate monetary payment as a thank you for their contribution.

The testing revealed a number of issues that could undermine the quality of the data collected. The report included proposals for how the questions could be revised to potentially resolve these issues and recommended further testing before adding the questions to the main survey.

As a result, the set of questions added to the 2022-23 survey included an open text question to gain a better understanding of how respondents interpret the initial question and describe their experiences of harassment in their own words. These questions were asked for a 6 month period (Q1 and Q2) to a random set of respondents (Groups C and D) to allow for the questions to be developed and tested fully. Based on this testing, updates to several questions were made to this module for Q3.

3.4 Structure and coverage of the 10-to-15 year-olds survey

The 10-15 year old survey was only asked to children of wave 1 respondents. This was a standard element of the pre-pandemic CSEW and was reintroduced for the 2022-23 survey, starting on 1st April 2022.

The 2022-23 CSEW questionnaire for 10 to 15 year olds covered:

- Schooling
- Crime screener questions – personal incidents only
- Victimisation module
- Self-completion module;
    - Use of the internet
    - Bullying
    - Speaking to or meeting strangers online
    - Sending and receiving sexual messages (13-15 years only)
    - Online security
    - School truancy
    - Drinking behaviour and cannabis use
- Demographics

3.4.1 Schooling

This module included questions about whether the respondent attended school and, if so, what school year they were in (school year is used later in the questionnaire to help respondents recall exactly when incidents of crime took place).

3.4.2 Crime screener questions

All respondents were asked whether they had experienced certain types of crimes or incidents within the last 12 months. To aid recall, respondents were given a life events calendar similar to the one used on the 16+ survey. Appendix J in Volume 2 has an example of the calendar used on the 10 to 15 year olds survey.

Respondents in the 10 to15 year-olds survey were not asked about household incidents as these would have been covered in the 16+ interview. Respondents were asked:

- Whether anything had been stolen from them;
- Whether anyone had attempted to steal something from them;
- Whether anyone had deliberately damaged their property;
- Whether anyone had deliberately kicked, hit, pushed or been physically violent towards them in any other way; and
- Whether they had been threatened

3.4.3 Victimisation modules

All incidents identified at the screener questions were followed up in more detail in the victimisation module. Incidents were covered in specific priority order up to a maximum of three:

- according to the type of crime
- chronologically within each type of crime – if a respondent reported more than one type of incident of the same crime type, victim modules were asked about the most recent incident first and worked backwards chronologically; and
- up to a maximum of three full victim forms

As with the core survey the victimisation module collected the key information required for classification of offences including:

- the exact month in which the most recent incident took place:
- an open-ended description of the incident; and
- a series of key questions to establish important characteristics of the incident

3.4.4 Self-completion modules

Several modules contained potentially sensitive questions and were therefore included in the self-completion section of the survey. As in the core survey, practice questions were included so that the interviewer could explain to the respondent how to use the computer.

Use of the internet - Respondents were asked whether they had used the internet in the last 12 months and, if so, what they used the internet for.

Bullying – This module asked whether the respondent had been bullied either offline or online and, if this was the case, some follow up questions were asked about the nature and extent of the bullying.

Speaking/Meeting strangers online – This module asked respondents about the contact they had had with people online on any platform (e.g., on a computer, mobile phone or gaming console). Respondents were asked who they spoke to online, whether they knew them or not, methods of communication and whether they had met anyone in person as a result of an online exchange. If the respondent had met up with a stranger in person, they were asked about this meeting, including whether they had told anyone in advance (e.g. a parent, friend).

Sending and receiving sexual messages – This module asked respondents aged 13-15 years whether they had sent or received any sexual messages in the last 12 months. If they had, the respondent was asked what type of messages, how these were sent/received, if they were bothered about it, and if they told anyone. If the respondent sent a sexual message to someone, they were also asked if anyone still has the message saved, if it was posted or shown to anyone else without agreement, and how they felt about it.

Online security – Respondents were asked questions about how their parents monitored what they did online, including if they had any rules or restrictions about what they could do and if their parents talked to them about online safety. They were also asked about if they'd received information about keeping safe online and where they got their online safety information from.

School truancy – Three questions were asked covering whether the respondent had missed school without permission in the preceding 12 months, how many times they had missed school without permission and whether they had been suspended or excluded from school.

Drinking behaviour – This section of questions asked whether the respondent had ever drunk alcohol, whether they had ever been drunk, and how often they had been drunk.

Cannabis use – Respondents were asked whether they had ever tried cannabis, and how often they had tried it.

3.4.5 Demographics module

The demographics module included questions regarding ethnicity, religion and whether the respondent had a disability or suffered from a long-term illness.

4. Risk rating system for 10-15 year olds survey

This chapter discusses the risk scoring and rating system for the 10-15 year old survey, which was created to inform parents and children of the potential risk of the child's online behaviour. The system was first implemented alongside the cybercrime and online behaviours module in April 2019.

4.1 Background

In 2016, ONS and Verian began development for a new cybercrime and online behaviour module for the 10-15-year olds survey. This module was developed to measure the extent of victimisation of cyber related crime among children. Cybercrime in this context is defined as any crimes facilitated by technology and/or the internet, including both cyber enabled and cyber dependent crime. The module includes questions about online bullying, speaking to and meeting up with strangers, sending and receiving messages or images of a sexual nature, and attitudes towards staying safe online.

In 2018, the module was reviewed by the ONS Ethics Committee, with input from the NSPCC. During this process it was suggested that a mechanism to inform parents and children of the potential risk of the child's online behaviour should be developed. As a result, a risk score was devised based on responses to key questions throughout the survey. This risk score was in turn used to develop a risk rating for each section of the module. The highest rating across all sections was then taken as the overall risk rating for the respondent: either 'low risk', 'medium risk', or 'high risk'. The scoring system was developed through collaboration between the ONS, NSPCC and Verian. The scores are weighted depending on the level of risk represented by each specific response. Aggravating behaviours serve to multiply and increase risk scores.

4.2 Pilot study

In 2018, a small-scale pilot was conducted with parents and children aged 10-15 to explore reactions to the risk rating and understanding of the score among both parents and 10-15-year olds. Interviews were conducted with parents and children aged between 10 and 15. Each interview consisted of three parts: an initial interview with the parent, an interview with the child to complete the survey and a final interview with the parent to discuss the risk rating.

The pilot had three aims:

1. To understand how parents and children interpreted the information about the survey and the risk rating.
2. To understand whether the risk rating and confidentiality statements affect children's responses to the self-completion module (specifically, whether they select different responses as a result)
3. To understand the reaction of parents and children to the risk rating and survey materials.

Findings from the pilot study determined that, in principle, a risk rating system could be implemented from April 2019. Following the pilot study, the matrix scoring system was updated to reflect questionnaire changes and further input from ONS and NSPCC.

4.3 Calculating risk scores and ratings

Each section in the cybercrime and online behaviour module have their own scoring and risk rating system[29]. The highest rating in any of the sections was taken as the overall rating.

A matrix was used to assign risk values to responses at key questions or combinations of questions in each of these sections. A response code could either increase the score by a fixed value, multiply the score, or flag a case as high risk (so overriding the score). These actions could be assigned to individual response codes or in some cases to combinations of responses which indicated a level of risk. For example, if a respondent indicates that they are being bullied every day, and they have not reported it to anyone.

As each section has a separate scoring system, each section has a separate rating system to account for the differences in score distributions (see Table 4.1). These rating brackets were developed in collaboration with the ONS and NSPCC and determined by examining potential responses and the scenarios they may indicate.

Table 4.1 Module rating systems

Section	Low rating	Medium rating	High rating	Max score
Bullying	0-9	10-17	18-192	192
Speaking to strangers	0-7	8-22	23-46	46
Meeting strangers	0-8	9-21	22-192	192
Receiving images	0-8	9-18	19-50	50
Sending images	0-9	10-18	19-154	154

Risk scores and ratings were calculated monthly with SPSS syntax using an export of the live data.

4.4 Informing respondents and parents/ guardians of risk ratings

Letters detailing the participants' risk rating were sent to both the 10-15-year-old and the parent/guardian who provided consent for the interview. Both letters provided the risk rating produced for the child and a short text providing general examples of what this level of risk

[29] Sections are bullying, speaking to strangers online, meeting strangers, receiving images of a sexual nature and sending images of a sexual nature.

meant. The letter also contained contact information for sources of information for parents to support their children staying safe online.

The score, which section the rating was taken from, or details of what the child reported in the survey were not included in the letter. The letter addressed to the 10-15-year-old participant contained the same information but in a simpler and child-friendly manner and provided details for age appropriate support to staying safe online. Letters were despatched monthly.

Copies of the risk rating letters sent to both parents and children can be found in Appendix F of Volume 2.

5. Fieldwork

This chapter documents all aspects of the data collection process, focusing on fieldwork procedures, the management of fieldwork across the survey year(s), quality control procedures and response rates achieved across the different samples and methodologies.

5.1 Briefing of interviewers

Traditionally, all new interviewers working on the Crime Survey for England and Wales were required to attend a full day face-to-face briefing before they could work on the survey. However, as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic all face-to-face briefings were suspended in March 2020 and, as of September 2023, have not been reinstated.

Briefings with new interviewers were therefore held remotely between September 2021 and March 2023. New interviewers working on either wave 1 or wave 2 attended two remote briefings (held on the same day; morning and afternoon). During this time, 88 full day interviewer briefings were held (wave 1: 82; wave 2: 6) with a total of 731 interviewers attending (wave 1: 687; wave 2: 44).

Briefings with existing interviewers were also held remotely, but they attended a shorter refresher briefing during this time. Existing interviewers were required to attend a biennial refresher briefing and between October 2021 and March 2023 19 refresher briefings were attended by 319 interviewers.

5.2 Supervisions and quality control

5.2.1 Face-to-face interviewing (wave 1)

Several methods were used to ensure the quality and validity of the data collection operation.

Across face-to-face interviews a total of 240 CSEW assignments, approximately 8% of all CSEW assignments allocated October 2021 - March 23, were supervised. Assignments supervised tended to be those assigned to less experienced interviewers. Interviewers new to random probability sample surveys were also accompanied on the first day of their CSEW assignment by a supervisor.

A total of 5,527 addresses across 1,886 separate CSEW assignments were validated during the year; 14% of all addresses where an interview was achieved. Validation was carried out mainly by telephone. Where no telephone number was available, a short postal questionnaire was sent to the address to collect the same information.

Addresses for validation were selected on the basis of Verian's standard field quality procedures, where all interviewers have their work checked at least twice a year. For these checks, full assignments were validated (i.e. all addresses in the assignment where an interview was achieved). On top of these whole assignment checks a random 6% of all CSEW interviews were also validated.

In addition to validation, the performance of all interviewers working on the survey was monitored closely. Where an underperforming interviewer was identified they were offered

additional training and, in some cases, accompanied by an experienced supervisor on their next assignment.

To ensure that the data collected was robust and collected in a consistent manner, Verian also conducted systematic quality checks on the data on a quarterly basis at an interviewer level. This involved collating responses across several key indicators at an interviewer level (e.g. average interview length, number of victims identified, take up of the self-completion modules, agreement to recontact) and identifying outliers. Interviewers, who were consistently identified as being outside of the expected range, were flagged for remedial action, such as being warned about performance, further discussions with their supervisor, or in extreme cases being removed from the interviewer panel.

5.2.2 Telephone interviewing (wave 2)

Verian's telephone interviewers worked in shifts, with each individual shift lasting 3.5 hours. These interviewers were assigned a dedicated Team Leader or Senior Interviewer to supervise and oversee quality control during the shift. At the start of each shift, the Team Leader or Senior Interviewer would organise a communications call to confirm that all interviewers were logged in, and to provide any additional briefing instructions which interviewers would require. Interviewers were also informed on this call which wave of sample they were being allocated to for that shift.

During each shift, a chat group on Microsoft Teams was made available to all interviewers. In this chat group interviewers were able to ask any questions or queries that came up during the course of the shift, and these could be immediately addressed by the Team Leader or Senior Interviewer.

As is standard on all telephone projects, a certain proportion of interviews are listened to for quality control purposes[30]. For wave 2 between October 2022 and March 2023, 10% of all interviews were listened to in full in order to meet standard quality control requirements. Beyond this standard requirement, further quality control measures were put in place for wave 2 specifically, with a supervisor within the telephone unit responsible for quality control listening to at least one completed survey per interviewer each week. As a result of this additional quality control process, the quality of every interviewer's work was checked frequently throughout the year.

5.3 Fieldwork dates and management

5.3.1 Face-to-face fieldwork (wave 1) 2021-22 & 2022-23

The 2021-22 survey fieldwork period ran from 1st October 2021 to 31st March 2022. The 2022-23 survey fieldwork period ran from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

Between October 2021 and March 2023 the face-to-face survey was managed on a monthly basis with a variable number of assignments were issued each month (between 96 and 342). Following lower than anticipated response rates following the return to face-to-face fieldwork, the sample for March 2022 was not issued to field. This was withheld to focus

[30] Both live interviews and recordings are listened to.

fieldwork resource on maximising response among the October 2021-February 2022 sample already in field.

It is normal practice on the CSEW for the 12 months of issued sample in any one year (6 months in the case of 2021-22) to be worked in the field over a 15-month period, with each issued quarter of sample being in the field for up to six months. This means that not all interviews are achieved in the quarter in which they are issued. Approximately 80% of interviews are achieved in the same quarter they are issued, with 20% falling into the next quarter. In light of the lower than expected response rates following the return to face-to-face, the fieldwork period was extended for sample issued during the 2021-22 survey year. The fieldwork end dates for each issue month are shown below:

Month of issue	Fieldwork end date
October 2021	31st May
November 2021	31st May
December 2021	30th June
January 2021	31st July
February 2021	31st July

The questionnaire used in the field is always aligned to the survey year, rather than being aligned to the sample issue period. All interviews carried out between 1st October 2021 and 31st March 2022 were therefore completed using the 2021-22 questionnaire, irrespective of the time period in which the sample was issued. Similarly, all interviews carried out between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023 were completed using the 2022-23 questionnaire.

5.3.2 Telephone fieldwork (wave 2) 2022-23

Wave 2 sample comprised of respondents who had taken part in a face-to-face interview 12 months prior. Fieldwork began on 31st October 2022. Wave 2 samples are issued on a monthly basis with composition determined by the wave 1 interview date. Sample for wave 2 is eligible for release in the anniversary month following the initial wave 1 interview. Therefore, if the wave 1 interview was conducted in November 2021, it would become eligible for issue to wave 2 in November 2022. Once issued, sample was worked for two months, with the aim of achieving 70% of interviews in the month of issue and the remaining 30% in the following month. Sample stayed live for the full fieldwork period, with the time between calls being automatically set based on previous outcomes.

Sample was managed through an automatic dialler, with each piece of sample being allocated to the next available interviewer. The dialler was able to prioritise some batches of sample over others (for example, prioritising cases that had received a low number of calls to ensure that call requirements were met for all sample).

5.4 Survey materials

5.4.1 Face-to-face materials (wave 1) 2021-22 & 2022-23

All selected addresses were sent a letter in advance of an interviewer calling at the address. Letters were processed and despatched by Verian but printed on ONS letterhead and featuring an ONS signatory. The letter explained a little about the survey, why this particular address had been selected and told the occupiers that an interviewer from Verian would be calling in the next few weeks. The letter also provided a telephone number and an email address for people to contact to find out more about the survey, to make an appointment for an interviewer to call, or to opt out of the survey. Between October 2021 and March 2023, 2,780 people, representing around 3% of addresses issued, opted out of the survey by contacting either Verian or ONS.

Included with the advance letter was a leaflet from the Office for National Statistics which provided people with some more details about the survey, including findings from the previous survey. The leaflet also tried to answer some questions that potential respondents might have, such as issues relating to confidentiality. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, a second leaflet was included with the advance letter to reassure participants that interviewers were working in line with Government and Market Research Society guidelines to minimise the risk of Covid-19 transmission. This was included in advance communication until April 2022, after which interviewers were provided with copies to show to respondents on an ad hoc basis.

Advance materials for the 2022-23 survey year also contained a leaflet specifically designed for the 10 to 15 year olds that explained in relatively simple terms what the survey was about. This leaflet was not sent to households in advance and was rather handed out by the interviewer in eligible household, usually after conducting the core survey. Much of the detailed information about the survey was omitted from this leaflet on the basis that the 10 to 15 year olds would also have access to the original household letter and leaflet about the survey.

Examples of the advance letters used can be found in Appendix A and a copy of the leaflets (including the leaflet designed for 10 to 15 year olds) can be found in Appendix D of Volume 2.

In Wales, a bilingual copy of the advance letter and survey leaflet were sent to all selected addresses.

5.4.2 Telephone materials (wave 2) 2022-23

All eligible respondents were sent an advance letter, reminding them that they had previously taken part in the survey, and explaining that Verian would like to conduct a follow-up interview over the telephone. The letter sent to each household was addressed to the named respondent. An advance email or SMS message was also sent to those respondents who had provided a valid email address or mobile phone number. As at wave 1, letters were processed and despatched by Verian, but printed on ONS letterhead and featuring an ONS signatory. Examples of the letters, emails and SMS messages can be found in Appendices A-C of Volume 2.

Respondents living in Wales received a bilingual version of the advance letters and emails. The bilingual versions of the letters and emails included the same information as the English

versions but displayed this in both English and Welsh. Again, examples of the Welsh advance letters and emails can be found in Appendices A-C of Volume 2.

Respondents who mentioned that they had been affected by the content of the face-to-face or telephone survey were sent either an email or letter signposting various charities and other organisations that they could turn to for support. SMS messages also directed respondents with a valid mobile phone number to our website upon request. The survey website also signposted various charities and other organisations that respondents could turn to for support.

5.4.3 Survey website

A website with information about the survey was set up, with the style and content of information updated regularly. Respondents could be directed to this website by the interviewer and the website was also referenced in all respondent-facing survey materials.

Information displayed on this website included what the survey was about and what types of questions were asked, survey results, confidentiality and data security, as well as a section on frequently asked questions. The website was available in both English and Welsh.

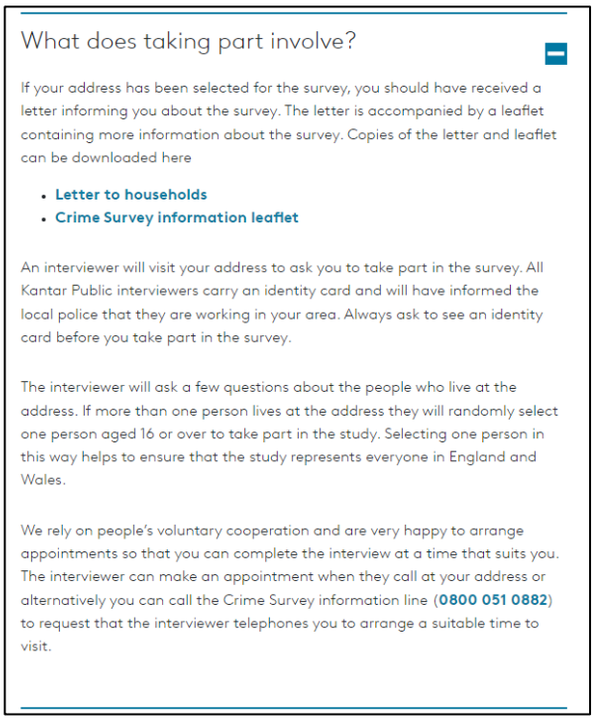
Two separate versions of the website were set-up, tailored to the specific survey mode:

Face-to-face (wave 1): https://www.crimesurvey.co.uk

Telephone (wave 2): https://www.crimesurvey.co.uk/telephone

While much of the content was the same, different information was provided around what the survey involved, details on incentives, and how to take part (see examples below).

Wave 1 website



What does taking part involve?

If your address has been selected for the survey, you should have received a letter informing you about the survey. The letter is accompanied by a leaflet containing more information about the survey. Copies of the letter and leaflet can be downloaded here

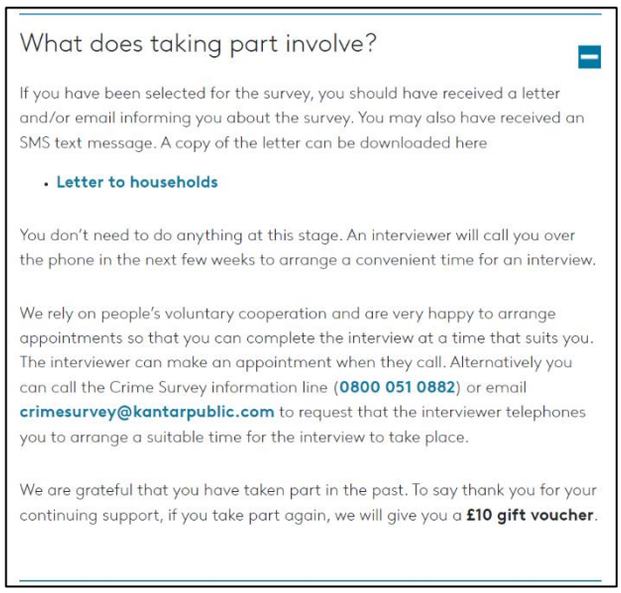
- **Letter to households**
- **Crime Survey information leaflet**

An interviewer will visit your address to ask you to take part in the survey. All Kantar Public interviewers carry an identity card and will have informed the local police that they are working in your area. Always ask to see an identity card before you take part in the survey.

The interviewer will ask a few questions about the people who live at the address. If more than one person lives at the address they will randomly select one person aged 16 or over to take part in the study. Selecting one person in this way helps to ensure that the study represents everyone in England and Wales.

We rely on people's voluntary cooperation and are very happy to arrange appointments so that you can complete the interview at a time that suits you. The interviewer can make an appointment when they call at your address or alternatively you can call the Crime Survey information line (**0800 051 0882**) to request that the interviewer telephones you to arrange a suitable time to visit.

Wave 2 website



What does taking part involve?

If you have been selected for the survey, you should have received a letter and/or email informing you about the survey. You may also have received an SMS text message. A copy of the letter can be downloaded here

- **Letter to households**

You don't need to do anything at this stage. An interviewer will call you over the phone in the next few weeks to arrange a convenient time for an interview.

We rely on people's voluntary cooperation and are very happy to arrange appointments so that you can complete the interview at a time that suits you. The interviewer can make an appointment when they call. Alternatively you can call the Crime Survey information line (**0800 051 0882**) or email **crimesurvey@kantarpublic.com** to request that the interviewer telephones you to arrange a suitable time for the interview to take place.

We are grateful that you have taken part in the past. To say thank you for your continuing support, if you take part again, we will give you a **£10 gift voucher**.

5.5 Incentives

5.5.1 Face-to-face survey (wave 1) 2021-22 & 2022-23

Prior to the pandemic, a book of stamps was used as the standard incentive for the face-to-face crime survey. However, as part of the development of the 2020-21 survey it was agreed that a split sample experiment should be introduced to look at the potential impact of using a card protector as an incentive. With the return to face-to-face in October 2021, the experiment ran across all sample issued in October – December 2021.

13,053 respondents were included in the experiment with 6,250 receiving card protectors and 6,803 receiving stamps. This slight imbalance was based on the number of card protectors that had been purchased at the time of the original experiment, whereas more serials were issued when fieldwork finally returned.

The experiment took place within assignment with half of the addresses sent a card protector and half sent a book of stamps, although some December assignments would have only received a book of stamps given the finite number of card protectors.

The response rates for the two experiment groups were broadly comparable; 41% among households receiving a card protector and 44% among households receiving the standard book of stamps. While this is a statistically significant difference, a response rate increase of c. 3% would have negligible impact on the reliability of the estimates produced. The marginally higher response rate achieved by issuing stamps must be balanced against the associated, and substantial, increase in costs. Given the higher cost of stamps compared to card protectors, there is no appreciable benefit in issuing stamps as an incentive.

All households in Q4 2021-22 received a book of stamps as their incentive, but all households in subsequent quarters, starting in Q1 2022-23, received a card protector as their incentive.

5.5.2 Telephone survey (wave 2) 2022-23

Due to the re-contact nature of the survey, additional incentives were offered to encourage respondents to continue to participate in future waves. At wave 2, respondents were offered a conditional £10 gift voucher incentive, which they would receive upon completion of a telephone interview.

Respondents completing a wave 2 survey and requesting an eVoucher were sent an email with a unique voucher code which allowed them to select their £10 eVoucher from the range of vouchers on offer at Merit Incentives. Respondents requesting a physical voucher were instead sent a letter containing a £10 Love2Shop voucher upon completion of their telephone interview.

5.6 Fieldwork procedures and documents for the 10-15s survey (2022-23)

All respondents to the 10-15 year olds survey were selected from households already selected to take part in the core survey. Screening for 10 to 15 year olds was only carried out in households where a successful interview for the 16+ survey was achieved. In most cases screening was conducted only on completion of the 16+ interview, although in some situations it was carried out before that interview had taken place.

Where a 10-15 year old was identified in a household, interviewers had first to obtain the permission of a parent or guardian to interview the child and then the consent of the child themselves before starting the survey. Permission was recorded on the ECS by recording the name of the adult giving consent and their relationship to the selected child. In some cases, the person interviewed on the main survey was not the parent or guardian of the child (for example, an older sibling or a grandparent). In such situations, interviewers were not able to obtain permission to interview the child from the core respondent but had to make contact with the parent or guardian instead.

Interviewers were provided with a parental information card which gave details of the nature and content of the survey. This was presented to parents or guardians as part of gaining permission to interview the child. An example of this card can be found in Appendix F of Volume 2.

Once parental permission was obtained, interviewers were instructed to ensure that the 10-15 year old also gave their consent to participate in the survey and that they understood what the survey would be about. In order to emphasise to 10-15 year olds their right to refuse any particular question, they were given a red and green card to use throughout the interview. If they did not want to answer a question, they could simply show the interviewer the red card and that particular question would be coded as a refusal. This technique was developed primarily with the younger age groups in mind as a way to reassure parents.

5.7 Presence of others during the interview (wave 1)

During the interviewer briefing sessions emphasis was placed on the importance of trying, wherever possible, to conduct the interview in private. This generally helps to make the interview run more smoothly, but it also might encourage some respondents to mention certain incidents or events, which they might be embarrassed or worried of talking about in front of others.

Privacy during the interview is a particular concern for respondents who have experienced domestic abuse or sexual assault. Where respondents had experienced such incidents in the last 12 months, interviewers had the option of suspending the victimisation module (simply by skipping over it) if they felt it was inappropriate to continue with the questions because of the presence of others in the room. This procedure meant that the interviewer could complete the rest of the questionnaire, rather than having to abandon the whole interview. During 2020-21, a total of 5 victimisation modules were suspended by interviewers for this reason, while the equivalent figure for 2022-23 was 16 victimisation modules.

Although it is preferable for the interview to be conducted with no-one else present, there are also some situations where the presence of others might improve the accuracy of the information collected. This is particularly the case for incidents of vehicle crime or property crime, where the respondent may not have been personally present, reported the incident to the police, etc. Additionally, in many cases it is simply not possible for the interview to be conducted without others present in the room.

5.7.1 Presence of others during the 16+ screener interview

The key point at which the presence of another person could affect the estimate of victimisation is during the initial set of screener questions. Respondents may be less willing to report incidents when others are present during the interview.

Therefore, at the end of these questions, the interviewer recorded whether anyone else was present or not. Table 5.1 shows whether or not anyone else was present in the room during the initial screener questionnaire, when respondents are giving details about their experiences of crime.

Table 5.1 Presence of others during the screener questionnaire, 2021-23 CSEW

	2021-22	2022-23
	%	%
No-one present	76	77
Child(ren) under 16	5	5
Spouse/partner	16	15
Other person aged 16+	5	5
Base: All respondents aged over 16	*6,238*	*31,183*

In both 2021-22 and 2022-23, around three quarters of respondents to the 16+ survey were interviewed with no-one else other than the interviewer being present. Where someone else was present, the people most commonly there were the respondent's spouse or partner (15% and 16% respectively).

Table 5.2 shows the information from the previous table with single person households identified separately. For both 2021-22 and 2022-23, over nine in ten (95%) respondents interviewed in single person households were interviewed with no-one else present. In households containing more than one person, around three in ten respondents (32%) were interviewed with someone else present.

Table 5.2 Presence of others during the screener questionnaire by household size and sample type, 2021-23 CSEW

	2021-22		2022-23	
	Single person household	More than one person household	Single person household	More than one person household
	%	*%*	*%*	*%*
No-one present	95	68	95	68
Child(ren) under 16	*	7	1	7
Spouse/partner	*	23	*	22
Other person aged 16+	4	5	4	6
Bases: All respondents aged over 16	*1,886*	*4,352*	*9,731*	*21,452*

5.7.2 Presence of others during the self-completion and assistance given

For those who did the self-completion, the presence of others during this part of the interview was also recorded. Self-completion should offer a respondent a degree of privacy, even when others are present during the interview. Where this was the case, interviewers were briefed to try and 'arrange' the room whenever possible so that the respondent had a degree of privacy - for example, ensuring that the respondent was sitting with the screen facing a wall or was in a position so that no-one else in the room could read the computer screen. However, given the sensitive nature of the modules it could still be the case that some

respondents are less likely to report certain things if other people are present during the interview.

Table 5.3 shows that more than three quarters of respondents aged 16+ who did the self-completion did so when no-one else was present. Around 15% completed the self-completion with a spouse or partner present and 4% did so when children were present in the room.

Table 5.3 Whether anyone else was present or not during the self-completion, 2021-23 CSEW

	2021-22	2022-23
	%	*%*
No-one else	77	78
Spouse/partner/girlfriend/boyfriend	15	14
Child(ren) under 16	4	4
Other household member (aged 16+)	4	4
Someone else	2	2
Base: All respondents aged 16+ who did the self-completion (inc. interviewer administered)	*5,180*	*25,992*

Percentages add up to more than 100% since more than one answer could be coded at this question.

Where anyone else was present, the extent to which they looked at or discussed the questions with the respondent was also recorded. This occurred in around two in ten cases where someone else was present during the self-completion.

The amount of help or assistance provided by the interviewer during the self-completion part of the interview was also recorded (Table 5.4). Respondents who accepted the self-completion module rarely needed help.

Table 5.4 Amount of assistance given by interviewers with the self-completion questionnaire, 2021-23 CSEW

	2021-22	2022-23
	%	*%*
All done by respondent	89	87
Help given with one or two questions	6	7
Help given with more than one or two questions, but less than half	3	4
Help given with more than half, but not all	1	1
Help given with all/nearly all	1	1
Base: All respondents aged 16+ who did the self-completion (exc. Interviewer administered)	*5,180*	*25,992*

5.7.3 Presence of others during the 10-15 year olds interview

The 10-15 year olds survey was reinstated in April 2022. Interviews with 10-15 year olds were more likely to take place in the presence of others than the 16+ interview, with a parent or guardian being the most likely person to be present during the screener questionnaire. As might be expected, there was a clear association between the age of the child and the likelihood of a parent or guardian being present. Thus, when interviewing a 10 year old a parent or guardian was present in 89% of interviews compared with 68% of interviews with 15 year olds.

Table 5.5 Presence of others during the screener questionnaire, 2022-23 survey: 10-15 year olds sample

	Age of child						Total
	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Parent/guardian	89	80	80	73	70	68	77
Other child from household	10	7	9	9	8	4	8
Other person from household (16+)	1	1	2	2	4	2	2
Other non-household child	1	*	4	3	1	4	2
Other non-household person (16+)	1	1	*	2	1	2	1
No one present	10	17	18	25	27	28	21
Base:	211	223	224	237	227	188	1,310

5.8 Length of interview

Timing stamps were placed throughout both the 16+ and 10-15 year olds questionnaire to allow timing of individual sections. In a small number of cases, the time stamps were invalid due to technical issues although valid times were available for around 98% of interviews.

5.8.1 2021-22 survey

The average (mean) core interview length in 2021-22 was 57 minutes (median 53 minutes). Two thirds (64%) of 16+ interviews took 60 minutes or less to complete, a further 29% took between 60 and 90 minutes, and a small proportion (8%) took over 90 minutes to complete.

The main influences on core interview length were whether the respondent had been a victim of crime and whether they answered the self-completion modules. The average interview length for victims of crime was 75 minutes compared with 51 minutes for non-victims. Respondents who completed the self-completion modules of the survey took on average 61 minutes compared with 40 minutes for those who did not. Non-victims who did

not complete the self-completion modules had the shortest interview length (35 minutes on average).

The average length of interview by number of victimisation modules completed is shown in Table 5.6. Not unexpectedly, interview length was strongly related to the number of victimisation modules completed, with those completing four or more modules (5% of victims) having an average interview length of 108 minutes.

Table 5.6 Average time of interview by number of victimisation modules, 2021-22 survey

Number of victimisation modules	Average time (minutes)
Non victims	51
All victims	75
1	71
2	84
3	96
4 or more	108
All respondents (aged 16+)	57

5.8.2 2022-23 survey: Face-to-face (wave 1)

The average (mean) core interview length in 2022-23 was 52 minutes (median 48 minutes). Seven in ten (72%) 16+ interviews took 60 minutes or less to complete, a further 22% took between 60 and 90 minutes, and a small proportion (6%) took over 90 minutes to complete.

The main influences on core interview length were whether the respondent had been a victim of crime and whether they answered the self-completion modules. The average interview length for victims of crime was 73 minutes compared with 47 minutes for non-victims. Respondents who completed the self-completion modules of the survey took on average 56 minutes compared with 36 minutes for those who did not. Non-victims who did not complete the self-completion modules had the shortest interview length (33 minutes on average).

The average length of interview by number of victimisation modules completed is shown in Table 5.7. Not unexpectedly, interview length was strongly related to the number of victimisation modules completed, with those completing four or more modules (5% of victims) having an average interview length of around 110 minutes.

Table 5.7 Average time of interview by number of victimisation modules, 2022-23 survey (wave 1)

Number of victimisation modules	Average time (minutes)
Non victims	47
All victims	73
1	67
2	85
3	97
4 or more	110
All respondents (16+)	52

In 2022-23, the average interview length of the 10-15 year olds survey was 24 minutes. As was the case with the core 16+ interview, respondents who reported being a victim of crime had a longer interview. The average interview length for non-victims was 20 minutes compared with 38 minutes for those who reported being a victim of crime.

5.8.3 2022-23 survey: Telephone (wave 2)

The average (mean) core interview length in 2022-23 was 30 minutes (median 25 minutes). Seven in ten (72%) 16+ interviews took 30 minutes or less to complete, a further 24% took between 30 and 60 minutes, and a small proportion (4%) took over 60 minutes to complete.

The main influence on core interview length was whether the respondent had been a victim of crime. The average interview length for victims of crime was 51 minutes compared with 25 minutes for non-victims.

The average length of interview by number of victimisation modules completed is shown in Table 5.8. Not unexpectedly, interview length was strongly related to the number of victimisation modules completed, with those completing four or more modules (3% of victims) having an average interview length of around 90 minutes.

Table 5.8 Average time of interview by number of victimisation modules, 2022-23 CSEW (wave 2)

Number of victimisation modules	Average time (minutes)
Non victims	25
All victims	51
1	47
2	64
3	81
4 or more	90
All respondents (16+)	30

6. Fieldwork performance and response rates: 2021-22 survey (wave 1)

6.1 Core survey response rate and non-response

The full response and non-response breakdown for the October 2021- March 22 core sample is shown in Table 6.1. In 2021-22, 8.2% of issued addresses were identified as not being an eligible residential address (known as deadwood). The most common type of deadwood was empty or vacant residential properties, which accounted for 3.6% of all issued addresses.

Interviewers made contact with either the selected respondent or a responsible person aged 16+ at 89.2% of eligible addresses, with a non-contact rate of 10.8%. There were two types of non-contact. The most common (9.6% of eligible addresses) was where no contact was made with anyone at the address despite repeated calls over a lengthy fieldwork period. The remaining addresses classified as non-contact (1.2% of eligible addresses) were where contact was made with someone at the address, but no contact was made with the person selected for interview.

At eligible addresses, the most common reason for not getting an interview was due to a refusal, which accounted for 39.2% of all eligible addresses. The most common types of refusal were where no information about the household was given, meaning that the person selection could not be carried out (21.7%) and where the person selected for interview refused to take part in the survey (7.6%). Instances where refusals were made directly to Head Office, accounted for 4.0% of all eligible addresses. Proxy refusals (someone refusing on behalf of the selected respondent) were less common (2.1%).

A further 5.9% of eligible addresses were categorised as unproductive for other reasons including broken appointments, people who were ill or away during the period of the survey and people who had inadequate English to complete the survey.

Overall, 9,781 interviews with people aged 16 and over were achieved in October 2021-March 2022 representing a response rate of 44.1%.

Table 6.1 Core sample response rate and non-response outcomes, 2021-22 CSEW

	N	*% of issued*	*% of eligible*
TOTAL ISSUED ADDRESSES	**24,162**	***100.0***	
Deadwood			
Addresses not traced/accessible	283	1.2	
Not built/does not exist	51	0.2	
Derelict/demolished	60	0.2	
Empty/vacant	867	3.6	
Second home/not main residence	238	1.0	
Business/industrial	269	1.1	
Institution	73	0.3	
COVID related - can't conduct interview	81	0.3	
Other deadwood	58	0.2	
TOTAL DEADWOOD	**1,980**	**8.2**	
TOTAL ELIGIBLE ADDRESSES	**22,182**	**91.8**	**100**
Non-contact			
No contact made with household	2,140	8.9	9.6
No contact with selected	266	1.1	1.2
Total non-contact	**2,406**	**10.0**	**10.8**
Refusal			
Office refusal	887	3.7	4.0
Refused all information	4,803	19.9	21.7
Personal refusal	1,689	7.0	7.6
Proxy refusal	463	1.9	2.1
Contact made, no specific	706	2.9	3.2
COVID screener refusal	142	0.6	0.6
Total refusal	**8,690**	**36.0**	**39.2**
Other unproductive			
Broken appointment	566	2.3	2.6
Temporarily ill/incapacitated	155	0.6	0.7
Physically or mentally unable	162	0.7	0.7
Away/in hospital	146	0.6	0.7
Inadequate English	120	0.5	0.5
Other unsuccessful	156	0.6	0.7
Total other unsuccessful	**1,305**	**5.4**	**5.9**
TOTAL UNPRODUCTIVE	**12,401**	**51.3**	**55.9**
Full interviews	**9,774**	**40.5**	**44.1**
Partial interviews	**7**	**0.0**	**0.0**
TOTAL INTERVIEWS	**9,781**	**3.3**	**44.1**

6.2 Core response rates by Government Office Region

Table 6.2 shows the different response rates and reasons for non-response achieved by region in 2021-22. This shows that across regions the response rate ranged from 48.5% in the North West to 35.5% in London.

Table 6.2 Core sample response rates and non-response by Government Office Region, 2021-22 CSEW

	North East	North West	Yorkshire & The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West	Wales
	Percentage of eligible addresses (%):									
Non-contact	7.8	6.4	11.1	12.6	10.7	10.9	18.8	10.9	8.7	8
Refusal	39.6	38.7	37.9	34.3	37.4	42.7	41.2	36.3	44	38.6
Other unproductive	7.2	6.4	5.9	5.6	7.5	5.9	4.5	4.8	6.6	5.5
Achieved interview	45.4	48.5	45.1	47.5	44.4	40.5	35.5	48	40.7	47.9

6.3 Core response rate by Police Force Area

As outlined in section 2.2 the aim was to achieve a minimum of 625 interviews in each PFA, with larger sample sizes in the most populous areas. In order to achieve this sample size within each PFA the amount of sample issued was based on actual average deadwood rates and response rates over the previous year.

Table 6.3 below shows the actual number of interviews achieved in each PFA and the response rates.

Table 6.3 Core sample achieved interviews and response rates by PFA, 2021-22 CSEW

PFA	Target	Achieved	Response rate
	N	*N*	*%*
Avon & Somerset	425	228	41.8
Bedfordshire	312	99	35.5
Cambridgeshire	312	194	43.2
Cheshire	312	202	49.5
Cleveland	312	121	33.9
Cumbria	312	149	41.5
Derbyshire	312	189	49.9
Devon & Cornwall	471	256	39.6
Dorset	312	161	39.2
Durham	312	177	49.7
Dyfed Powys	312	189	53.2
Essex	451	228	37.9
Gloucestershire	312	189	38.7
Greater Manchester	705	444	49.8
Gwent	312	192	49.2
Hampshire	496	326	58.6
Hertfordshire	312	168	39.4
Humberside	312	152	40.6
Kent	446	236	42.5
Lancashire	387	266	52.8
Leicestershire	312	275	50.0
Lincolnshire	312	173	46.5
Merseyside	451	226	46.2
Metropolitan and City of London	1949	955	35.5
Norfolk	312	179	43.1
North Wales	312	188	47.7
North Yorkshire	312	134	36.8
Northamptonshire	312	238	54.3
Northumbria	390	262	50.4
Nottinghamshire	312	142	35.4
South Wales	339	194	42.8
South Yorkshire	354	220	49.9
Staffordshire	312	184	46.9
Suffolk	312	188	43.2
Surrey	312	174	47.7
Sussex	426	259	42.6
Thames Valley	573	377	48.7
Warwickshire	312	141	40.3
West Mercia	312	183	44.2
West Midlands	677	408	44.9
West Yorkshire	581	336	49.0
Wiltshire	312	179	45.5

6.4 Core response rates by type of area

Since large administrative areas such as regions contain a variety of different types of area it is useful to examine response to the survey broken down by area type. Table 6.4 shows the response rates and reasons for non-response by different types of area, showing that overall response rates tended to be lower in areas categorised as inner city compared with non-inner-city areas (38.3% and 44.7% respectively). This difference in response rate explains why the current CSEW data includes a weight to correct for differential response rates between those areas defined as inner city and non-inner city (see section 9).

Similarly, the response rate in urban areas was slightly lower compared with that achieved in rural areas (43.3% and 47.2% respectively). Response also varied significantly by ACORN[31] Category, being highest in areas classified as 'Affluent achievers' (48.4%) and lowest in areas classified as 'Rising Prosperity' (38.6%). There was similar variation in response by Output Area Classification, ranging from 48.4% in 'Rural residents' to 33.1% in 'Ethnicity central'. Looking at the differences in response rates by types of area shows how most of the response differential is due to variation in the non-contact rate, while the refusal rate tends to be fairly consistent. Thus, while the refusal rate varied between 37% and 40.5% in the different types of areas shown in Table 6.4, the non-contact rate varied from 7.2% to 21.2%.

[31] For details of ACORN categories please see: https://www.caci.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Acorn-User-Guide-NEW.pdf

Table 6.4 Core sample response rates and non-response by types of area, 2021-22 CSEW

	Non-contact	Refusal	Other unproductive	Achieved interviews
	Percentage of eligible addresses			
	%	%	%	%
Inner city[1]	16.9	37.4	7.4	38.3
Non-inner city	10.2	39.4	5.7	44.7
Urban[2]	11.5	39.3	5.9	43.3
Rural	8.2	38.7	5.8	47.2
ACORN Category				
Affluent achievers	7.6	39.7	4.3	48.4
Rising prosperity	17.5	38.7	5.2	38.6
Comfortably communities	9.2	39.3	5.2	46.3
Financially stretched	10.6	39.9	7	42.6
Urban adversity	15	37.5	8	39.5
Output Area Classification				
Rural residents	7.2	38.4	5.9	48.4
Cosmopolitans	21.2	38.9	4.7	35.2
Ethnicity central	20.3	39.9	6.8	33.1
Multicultural metropolitans	14.6	37	6.9	41.4
Urbanites	10.5	39.3	5.4	44.8
Suburbanites	7.7	40.5	4.4	47.4
Constrained city dwellers	12.4	38.2	7.4	42
Hard pressed living	8.8	39.9	6.7	44.6

[1] Inner city is based on the CSEW definition that has been used for many years. See section 9 for more details.

[2] This is based on the ONS definition of urban-rural areas, where urban is classed as 'urban –sparse' and 'urban –less sparse' and all other areas are classed as rural

6.5 Response to the self-completion questionnaire

The last part of the core 16+ questionnaire involved a self-completion module which was asked of all respondents. In 2021-22 there were four self-completion modules on the survey:

- Use of illicit drugs and drinking behaviour
- Gangs and personal security (Groups A and B aged 16-29 years old)
- Experience of domestic abuse, sexual victimisation, and stalking
- Nature domestic abuse
- Attitudes to domestic abuse

Although respondents were encouraged to use the computer themselves, if they did not want to use it for any reason, interviewers were allowed to administer the modules provided that no-one else was present in the room. Where the self-completion part of the survey was administered by the interviewer the domestic abuse, sexual victimisation and stalking modules were not completed, since these questions were considered too sensitive to be read out by the interviewer.

Table 6.5 shows that 91.6% of eligible respondents answered the self-completion module, with 83.0% of them entering their answers directly into the laptop themselves and 8.6% asking the interviewer to enter their answers for them.

Table 6.5 Response to the self-completion module, 2021-22

	Core sample
	%
Refused	8.4
Completed by interviewer	8.6
Accepted by respondent	83.0
Overall self-completion response	***91.6***
Base	***6,238***

Table 6.6 shows how response to the self-completion questionnaire varied according to the demographic characteristics of respondents.

There was no difference between men and women in terms of response to the self-completion. Older respondents were more likely than younger ones to ask the interviewer to enter their answers for them (10.2% of respondents aged 65-74, and 23.6% of 75+ compared with 1.7% of 16-24 year olds).

Some of the most noticeable differences were between respondents from different ethnic groups. Only 8.1% of White respondents refused to do the self-completion compared with 12.7% of Asian respondents. Although 'Other ethnic group' respondents were the least likely to refuse, at 3.6%, this was on a base of only 55. Black respondents were more likely than White respondents to ask the interviewer to enter their answers for them.

There were also some differences by socio-economic classification, with respondents who never worked and long-term unemployed being slightly less likely than those from managerial and professional occupations to answer the self-completion (87.5% compared with 94%). Refusal rates were highest for respondents who have never worked or are long-term unemployed (12.5%). Respondents who have never worked or are long-term unemployed were also more likely than those from managerial and professional occupations to ask the interviewer to enter their answers for them (15.1% and 5.7% respectively).

Table 6.6 Response to the self-completion questionnaire by socio-demographic characteristics of respondents (core sample), 2021-22 CSEW

	Refused	Completed by interviewer	Accepted by respondent[1]	*Overall self-completion response*	*Bases:*
	%	*%*	*%*	*%*	***N***
Sex					
Male	9.0	8.9	82.1	**91.0**	2,935
Female	7.9	8.3	83.9	**92.1**	3,303
Age					
16-24	5.7	1.7	92.6	**94.3**	350
25-44	6.5	2.9	90.6	**93.5**	1,779
45-64	7.5	6.9	85.6	**92.5**	2,043
65-74	8.5	10.2	81.3	**91.5**	1,126
75+	14.6	23.6	61.8	**85.4**	940
Ethnicity					
White	8.1	8.8	83.1	**91.9**	5,521
Mixed	9.1	1.3	89.6	**90.9**	77
Asian	12.7	7.3	80.0	**87.3**	424
Black	6.2	9.7	84.1	**93.8**	145
Other ethnic group	3.6	7.3	89.1	**96.4**	55
NS-SEC[2]					
Higher managerial, administrative & professional	6.0	5.7	88.3	**94.0**	2,329
Intermediate occupations	9.3	9.2	81.5	**90.7**	1,429
Routine & manual	10.2	11.1	78.6	**89.8**	1,911
Never worked and long-term unemployed	12.5	15.1	72.4	**87.5**	312

[1] Respondent used the laptop on their own

[2] National Statistics Socio-economic Classification

Table 6.7 shows the reasons given by respondents either for refusing the self-completion module or for asking the interviewer to enter their answers for them.

Running out of time was the most common reason cited for respondents refusing to complete the self-completion (mentioned by 25.4%). A dislike of computers was the most common reason why respondents asked the interviewer to enter their answers for them (mentioned by 40.8%). The “Not comfortable touching the computer (due to COVID)” option has high in both categories as reason in 20.6% of refused and 21.3% completed by interviewer cases.

Table 6.7 Reasons for refusing self-completion questionnaire or for completion by interviewer (core sample), 2021-22 CSEW

	Refused	Completed by interviewer	Total
	%	%	%
Not comfortable touching the computer (due to COVID)	20.6	21.3	20.9
Didn't like computer (general)	18.6	40.8	29.5
Eyesight problems	6.5	17.4	11.8
Respondent unwell and unable to do it	9.2	9.8	9.5
Other disability	5.2	7	6.1
Objected to study	1.3	0.4	0.8
Worried about confidentiality	4.1	2.1	3.1
Could not read/write	2	2.9	2.5
Respondent unwilling to carry on- interview already too long	23.8	2.8	13.5
Ran out of time	25.4	5.5	15.7
Language problems	5.7	5.9	5.8
Couldn't be bothered	2.4	2.6	2.5
Children present/tending to children	4.3	1.1	2.7
Other people present in room	2.9	0.8	1.9
Other	10	13.5	11.7
Bases:	*790*	*757*	*1,547*

Percentages add up to more than 100% since more than one answer could be coded at this question.

7. Fieldwork performance and response rates: 2022-23 survey (wave 1)

7.1 Core survey response rate and non-response

The full response and non-response breakdown for the 2022-23 core sample is shown in Table 7.1 In 2022-23, 7.6% of issued addresses were identified as not being an eligible residential address (known as deadwood). The most common type of deadwood was empty or vacant residential properties, which accounted for 3.7% of all issued addresses.

Interviewers made contact with either the selected respondent or a responsible person aged 16+ at 84.2% of eligible addresses, with a non-contact rate of 12.8%, and addresses not completed of 3%. There were two types of non-contact. The most common (11.6% of eligible addresses) was where no contact was made with anyone at the address despite repeated calls over a lengthy fieldwork period. The remaining addresses classified as non-contact (1.1% of eligible addresses) were where contact was made with someone at the address, but no contact was made with the person selected for interview.

Some addresses were stopped before they were completed, 1.8% of eligible addresses had not been started, while 1.1% had some form of visit but did not reach a final outcome.

At eligible addresses, the most common reason for not getting an interview was due to a refusal, which accounted for 36.9% of all eligible addresses. The most common types of refusal were where no information about the household was given, meaning that the person selection could not be carried out (22.5%) and where the person selected for interview refused to take part in the survey (6.5%). Instances where refusals were made directly to Head Office, accounted for 2.7% of all eligible addresses. Proxy refusals (someone refusing on behalf of the selected respondent) were less common (1.6%).

A further 5.8% of eligible addresses were categorised as unproductive for other reasons including broken appointments, people who were ill or away during the period of the survey and people who had inadequate English to complete the survey.

Overall, 29,089 interviews with people aged 16 and over were achieved in 2022-23 representing a response rate of 41.5%.

Table 7.1 Core sample response rate and non-response outcomes, 2022-23 CSEW

	N	*% of issued*	*% of eligible*
TOTAL ISSUED ADDRESSES	**75,835**	***100.0***	
Deadwood			
Addresses not traced/accessible	881	1.2	
Not built/does not exist	142	0.2	
Derelict/demolished	174	0.2	
Empty/vacant	2,795	3.7	
Second home/not main residence	651	0.9	
Business/industrial	754	1.0	
Institution	180	0.2	
COVID related - can't conduct interview	15	0.0	
Other deadwood	156	0.2	
TOTAL DEADWOOD	**5,748**	**7.6**	
TOTAL ELIGIBLE ADDRESSES	**70,087**	**92.4**	**100**
Non-contact			
No contact made with household	8,158	10.8	11.6
No contact with selected respondent	787	1.0	1.1
Total non-contact	**8,945**	**11.8**	**12.8**
Refusal			
Office refusal	1,893	2.5	2.7
Refused all information	15,797	20.8	22.5
Personal refusal	4,574	6.0	6.5
Proxy refusal	1,113	1.5	1.6
Contact made, no specific appointment	2,299	3.0	3.3
COVID screener refusal	202	0.3	0.3
Total refusal	**25,878**	**34.1**	**36.9**
Other unproductive			
Broken appointment	1,754	2.3	2.5
Temporarily ill/incapacitated	508	0.7	0.7
Physically or mentally unable	382	0.5	0.5
Away/in hospital	454	0.6	0.6
Inadequate English	375	0.5	0.5
Other unsuccessful	611	0.8	0.9
Total other unsuccessful	**4,084**	**5.4**	**5.8**
Fieldwork not completed			
Address not started in field	1,284	1.7	1.8
Address started – unknown eligibility	730	1.0	1.0
Address started – know eligibility	77	0.1	0.1
Total fieldwork not completed	**2,091**	**2.8**	**3.0**
TOTAL UNPRODUCTIVE	**40,998**	**54.1**	**58.5**
Full interviews	**29,053**	**38.3**	**41.5**
Partial interviews	**36**	**0.0**	**0.1**
TOTAL INTERVIEWS	**29,089**	**3.3**	**41.5**

7.2 Response rate and reasons for non-response: 10-15 year olds sample

Table 7.2 shows the screening and response outcomes for the 10-15 year olds sample. During 2022-23, interviewers were required to screen for 10 to 15 year olds at all of their core sampled addresses where a core interview was conducted.

After accounting for deadwood addresses, 57.7% of addresses which were issued for the core survey were not screened for 10-15 year olds because the outcome at the core address was an unsuccessful outcome. Interviewers identified at least one 10-15 year old at 11.2% of addresses where screening was successfully carried out. Among those households where an eligible respondent was identified the response rate achieved was 42.7%.

The level of non-contact (2.5%) was lower than the level achieved on the core sample but the level of refusals was higher at 50.7%.

The response rate achieved on the 10 to 15 year olds survey does not take into account households where it was not known whether a 10-15 year old was present because of non-response to the core sample.

Table 7.2 Response rate and non-response outcomes 10-15 year olds survey, 2022-23 CSEW

	N	*% of issued eligibl*	*% of screened households*	*% of eligible households*
TOTAL ADDRESSES FOR SCREENING	**75,835**	**100.0**		
Core deadwood addresses	5,748			
Addresses not started	1,284			
TOTAL ELIGIBLE ADDRESSES FOR SCREENING	**68,803**	**100.0**		
No screening attempted (eligibility unknown)	39,690	57.7		
Screening information refused (eligibility unknown)	0	0.0		
Total unknown eligibility	**39,690**	**57.7**		
Total households screened for 10-15 year olds	**29,113**	**42.3**	**100.0**	
Screened households with no 10-15 year old	25,859	37.6	88.8	
Screened households with a 10-15 year old	3,254	4.7	11.2	
Total screened households with a 10-15 year old	**3,254**		**100.0**	
No contact with selected respondent	43			1.3
No contact with parent/guardian	39			1.2
Total non-contact	**82**			**2.5**
Office refusal	0			0.0
Refused all information	12			0.4
Parent/guardian permission refusal	1045			32.1
Personal refusal	445			13.7
Proxy refusal	65			2.0
Contact made, no specific appointment	83			2.6
Total refusal	**1,650**			**50.7**
Broken appointment	33			1.0
Temporarily ill/incapacitated	7			0.2
Physically or mentally unable	20			0.6
Away/in hospital	45			1.4
Inadequate English	4			0.1
Other unsuccessful	25			0.8
Total other unsuccessful	**134**			**4.1**
TOTAL UNPRODUCTIVE	**1,866**	**2.7**		**57.3**
Full interviews	1,388			42.7
Partial interviews	0			0.0
TOTAL INTERVIEWS	**1,388**			**42.7**

7.3 Core response rates by Government Office Region

Table 7.3 shows the different response rates and reasons for non-response achieved by region in 2022-23. This shows that across regions the response rate ranged from 50.9% in the North East to 32.4% in London.

Table 7.3 Core sample response rates and non-response by Government Office Region, 2022-23 CSEW

	North East	North West	Yorkshire & The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West	Wales
	Percentage of eligible addresses (%):									
Non-contact	11.5	7.5	15.1	13.0	11.3	10.7	23.5	10.0	12.4	8.5
Refusal	31.4	35.4	35.0	36.3	34.5	42.4	35.0	38.3	40.4	36.2
Other unproductive	4.7	7.4	5.2	6.1	7.4	5.2	4.9	5.1	5.8	6.7
Interim outcome[32]	1.4	1.6	4.6	0.6	1.5	2.7	4.3	3.9	5.3	2.1
Achieved interview	50.9	48.0	40.3	44.1	45.3	39.0	32.4	42.8	36.2	46.5

7.4 Core response rate by Police Force Area

As outlined in section 2.2 the aim was to achieve a minimum of 800 interviews in each PFA, with larger sample sizes in the most populous areas. In order to achieve this sample size within each PFA the amount of sample issued was based on actual average deadwood rates and response rates over the previous year.

Table 7.4 below shows the actual number of interviews achieved in each PFA and the response rates.

[32] These figures relate to the 'Fieldwork not completed' group of outcomes in Table 7.1.

Table 7.4 Core sample achieved interviews and response rates by PFA, 2022-23 CSEW

PFA	Target	Achieved	Response rate
	N	*N*	*%*
Avon & Somerset	850	591	34.0
Bedfordshire	625	454	39.2
Cambridgeshire	625	513	41.7
Cheshire	625	573	50.0
Cleveland	625	557	52.9
Cumbria	625	430	45.5
Derbyshire	625	727	53.2
Devon & Cornwall	943	730	35.4
Dorset	625	540	42.5
Durham	625	432	46.9
Dyfed Powys	625	599	56.9
Essex	903	731	32.8
Gloucestershire	625	424	30.3
Greater Manchester	1,410	1205	48.8
Gwent	625	485	47.9
Hampshire	992	857	50.7
Hertfordshire	625	587	43.9
Humberside	625	313	30.2
Kent	893	807	44.2
Lancashire	774	714	53.2
Leicestershire	625	717	43.7
Lincolnshire	625	360	31.6
Merseyside	903	688	42.4
Metropolitan and City of London	3,899	3124	32.4
Norfolk	625	510	40.3
North Wales	625	553	47.4
North Yorkshire	625	661	51.5
Northamptonshire	625	495	42.1
Northumbria	781	646	52.1
Nottinghamshire	625	644	47.5
South Wales	678	499	36.6
South Yorkshire	708	482	33.5
Staffordshire	625	668	50.8
Suffolk	625	513	40.3
Surrey	625	547	42.7
Sussex	853	703	37.6
Thames Valley	1,146	964	40.1
Warwickshire	625	438	39.1
West Mercia	625	693	46.5
West Midlands	1,355	1461	44.7
West Yorkshire	1,162	960	42.9
Wiltshire	625	494	40.9

7.5 Core response rates by type of area

Since large administrative areas such as regions contain a variety of different types of area it is useful to examine response to the survey broken down by area type. Table 7.5 shows the response rates and reasons for non-response by different types of area, showing that overall response rates tended to be lower in areas categorised as inner city compared with non-inner-city areas (35.3% and 42.2% respectively). This difference in response rate explains why the current CSEW data includes a weight to correct for differential response rates between those areas defined as inner city and non-inner city (see section 9).

Similarly, the response rate in urban areas was slightly lower compared with that achieved in rural areas (40.4% and 46.0% respectively). Response also varied significantly by ACORN[33] Category, being highest in areas classified as 'Affluent achievers' (45.8%) and lowest in areas classified as 'Rising Prosperity' (34.3%). There was similar variation in response by Output Area Classification, ranging from 47.1% in 'Rural residents' to 29.8% in 'Ethnicity central'. Looking at the differences in response rates by types of area shows how most of the response differential is due to variation in the non-contact rate, while the refusal rate tends to be fairly consistent. Thus, while the refusal rate varied between 34.6% and 38.7% in the different types of areas shown in Table 7.5, the non-contact rate varied from 8.1% to 26.8%.

[33] For details of ACORN categories please see: https://www.caci.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Acorn-User-Guide-NEW.pdf

Table 7.5 Core sample response rates and non-response by types of area, 2022-23 CSEW[34]

	Non-contact	Refusal	Other unproductive	Interim outcome	Achieved interviews
	Percentage of eligible addresses				
	%	%	%	%	%
Inner city[1]	20.7	34.6	6.3	3.1	35.3
Non-inner city	11.8	37.2	5.8	3.0	42.2
Urban[2]	13.7	36.9	6.0	3.0	40.4
Rural	8.9	37.0	5.0	3.0	46.0
ACORN Category					
Affluent achievers	9.0	37.0	4.7	3.4	45.8
Rising prosperity	21.5	36.3	4.5	3.5	34.3
Comfortable communities	10.5	37.8	5.3	2.9	43.4
Financially stretched	12.4	36.9	6.9	2.5	41.3
Urban adversity	17.1	35.6	7.5	2.7	37.2
Output Area Classification					
Rural residents	8.1	36.9	4.9	3.1	47.1
Cosmopolitans	25.7	34.9	4.6	4.0	30.8
Ethnicity central	26.8	34.9	5.2	3.2	29.8
Multicultural metropolitans	16.2	35.3	7.0	2.2	39.3
Urbanites	12.1	37.9	5.7	3.3	41.0
Suburbanites	8.7	38.7	4.8	3.0	44.8
Constrained city dwellers	13.1	35.7	8.1	2.6	40.5
Hard pressed living	10.4	36.7	6.6	2.9	43.4

[34] Due to suspension of fieldwork, a small proportion of addresses did not receive a final outcome. As a result, percentages do not add up to 100.

[1] Inner city is based on the CSEW definition that has been used for many years. See section 9 for more details.

[2] This is based on the ONS definition of urban-rural areas, where urban is classed as 'urban –sparse' and 'urban –less sparse' and all other areas are classed as rural

7.6 Response to the self-completion questionnaire

The last part of the core 16+ questionnaire involved a self-completion module which was asked of all respondents. In 2022-23 there were four self-completion modules on the survey:

- Use of illicit drugs and drinking behaviour
- Gangs and personal security (Groups A and B aged 16-29 years old)
- Experience of domestic abuse, sexual victimisation, and stalking
- Nature domestic abuse

Although respondents were encouraged to use the computer themselves, if they did not want to use it for any reason, interviewers were allowed to administer the modules provided that no-one else was present in the room. Where the self-completion part of the survey was administered by the interviewer the domestic abuse, sexual victimisation and stalking modules were not completed, since these questions were considered too sensitive to be read out by the interviewer.

Table 7.6 shows that 89.9% of eligible respondents answered the self-completion module, with 83.4% of them entering their answers directly into the laptop themselves and 6.6% asking the interviewer to enter their answers for them.

Table 7.6 Response to the self-completion module, 2022-23

	Core sample
	%
Refused	10.1
Completed by interviewer	6.6
Accepted by respondent	83.4
Overall self-completion response	***89.9***
Base	***31,183***

Table 7.7 shows how response to the self-completion questionnaire varied according to the demographic characteristics of respondents.

There was no difference between men and women in terms of response to the self-completion. Older respondents were more likely than younger ones to ask the interviewer to enter their answers for them (8.8% of respondents aged 65-74, and 17.5% of 75+ compared with 2.3% of 16-24 year olds).

Some of the most noticeable differences were between respondents from different ethnic groups. Only 9.5% of White respondents refused to do the self-completion compared with 15.1% of Asian respondents and 13.4% of respondents who belong to an 'other ethnic group'. Although mixed ethnicity respondent were the least likely to refuse, at 7.9%. Black and 'other ethnicity' respondents were more likely than White respondents to ask the interviewer to enter their answers for them.

There were also some differences by socio-economic classification, with respondents from routine and manual occupations being slightly less likely than those from managerial and professional occupations to answer the self-completion (97.1% compared with 93.4%). Refusal rates were highest for respondents who have never worked or are long-term unemployed (20.2%). Respondents who have never worked or are long-term unemployed were also more likely than those from managerial and professional occupations to ask the interviewer to enter their answers for them (10.2% and 3.7% respectively).

Table 7.7 Response to the self-completion questionnaire by socio-demographic characteristics of respondents (core sample), 2022-23 CSEW

	Refused	Completed by interviewer	Accepted by respondent[1]	*Overall self-completion response*	*Bases:*
	%	*%*	*%*	*%*	***N***
Sex					
Male	10.0	6.4	83.6	**90.0**	14,772
Female	10.2	6.7	83.1	**89.8**	16,411
Age					
16-24	8.7	2.3	89.0	**91.3**	1,669
25-44	9.0	2.8	88.2	**91.0**	9,150
45-64	9.0	4.3	86.7	**91.0**	10,194
65-74	9.5	8.8	81.8	**90.6**	5,255
75+	15.4	17.5	67.2	**84.7**	4,915
Ethnicity					
White	9.5	6.6	83.9	**90.5**	27,112
Mixed	7.9	2.5	89.6	**92.1**	433
Asian	15.1	6.2	78.7	**84.9**	2,231
Black	12.7	7.9	79.3	**87.2**	982
Other ethnic group	13.4	8.7	77.9	**86.6**	335
NS-SEC[2]					
Higher managerial, administrative & professional	6.6	3.7	89.7	**93.4**	11,921
Intermediate occupations	9.5	6.4	84.1	**90.5**	7,070
Routine & manual	12.8	10.2	76.9	**87.1**	9,207
Never worked and long-term unemployed	20.2	10.2	69.6	**79.8**	1,521

[1] Respondent used the laptop on their own

[2] National Statistics Socio-economic Classification

Table 7.8 shows the reasons given by respondents either for refusing the self-completion module or for asking the interviewer to enter their answers for them.

Running out of time was the most common reason cited for respondents refusing to complete the self-completion (mentioned by 36%). A dislike of computers was the most common reason why respondents asked the interviewer to enter their answers for them (mentioned by 44.8%).

Table 7.8 Reasons for refusing self-completion questionnaire or for completion by interviewer (core sample), 2022-23 CSEW

	Refused	Completed by interviewer	Total
	%	%	%
Not comfortable touching the computer (due to COVID)	10.1	16.3	12.6
Didn't like computer (general)	20.1	44.8	29.8
Eyesight problems	6.5	18.8	11.3
Respondent unwell and unable to do it	9.6	10	9.8
Other disability	6	10.4	7.7
Objected to study	1.4	0.4	1.0
Worried about confidentiality	4.1	2.2	3.3
Could not read/write	1.3	2.8	1.9
Respondent unwilling to carry on- interview already too long	21.6	4.6	14.9
Ran out of time	36	7.5	24.8
Language problems	5.7	6	5.8
Couldn't be bothered	3	3.4	3.2
Children present/tending to children	4.8	2.1	3.7
Other people present in room	3.1	2.4	2.8
Other	7.6	4.5	6.4
Bases:	*3,141*	*2,050*	*5,191*

Percentages add up to more than 100% since more than one answer could be coded at this question

8. Fieldwork performance and response rates: 2022-23 survey (wave 2)

8.1 Survey response rate and non-response

The full response and non-response breakdown for the 2022-23 Wave 2 sample is shown in Table 8.1. This is for wave 2 sample which was issued between October 2022 and March 2023.

For wave 2, 10.5% of issued cases were identified as not being an eligible case (known as deadwood). The most common type of deadwood was dead/ invalid number, which accounted for 9.3% of all issued cases.

Interviewers made contact with either the selected respondent or another responsible person aged 16+ in the household at 81.5% of eligible addresses, meaning a non-contact rate of 18.5%. The most common reason for non-contact (12.9% of eligible cases) was where the call was never answered.

For eligible cases where contact was made, the most common reason for not getting an interview was due to office refusal, which accounted for 8.1% of all eligible cases. Respondent refusals while on the call was at 0.4% of eligible cases.

13.8% of eligible cases were categorised as unproductive for other reasons including broken appointments, dialler error[35] and people who were ill/ in hospital during the period of the survey.

Overall, 4,294 wave 2 interviews were achieved from the 2022-23 sample, representing a response rate of 59.1%. The overall sample conversion rate (achieved interviews/issued sample) was 52.8%.

[35] Dialler Error refers to calls that fail due to dial tone irregularities

Table 8.1 Wave 2 sample response rate and non-response outcomes, 2022-23

	N	*% of issued*	*% of eligible*
TOTAL ISSUED ADDRESSES	8,125	100	
Deadwood			
Business number	7	0.1	
Dead / Invalid number	753	9.3	
Modem/ Fax number	11	0.1	
Respondent has moved	15	0.2	
Respondent unknown at number	68	0.8	
TOTAL DEADWOOD	**854**	**10.5**	
TOTAL ELIGIBLE ADDRESSES	**7271**	**89.5**	**100**
Non-contact			
Caller ID Block/ Call Barring Message	65	0.8	0.9
General call back (not arranged with respondent)	344	4.2	4.7
No answer/ Answer Machine/ Number Busy	936	11.5	12.9
Total non-contact	***1345***	***16.6***	***18.5***
Refusal			
Office refusal	589	7.2	8.1
Respondent refusal	29	0.4	0.4
Proxy refusal	13	0.2	0.2
Quit mid interview, refused to finish	0	0.0	0.0
Total refusal	***631***	***7.8***	***8.7***
Other unproductive			
Broken Appointment	860	10.6	11.8
Dialler Error[36]	9	0.1	0.1
Inadequate English	19	0.2	0.3
Physically or mentally unable	37	0.5	0.5
Respondent has died	18	0.2	0.2
Respondent too ill/ in hospital	43	0.5	0.6
Other unsuccessful	15	0.2	0.2
Total other unsuccessful	***1001***	***12.3***	***13.8***
TOTAL UNPRODUCTIVE	**2977**	**36.6**	**40.9**
TOTAL INTERVIEWS	**4294**	**52.8**	**59.1**

[36] Dialler Error refers to calls that fail due to dial tone irregularities

8.2 Wave 2 response rates by Government Office Region

Table 8.2 shows the different response rates and reasons for non-response achieved by region for 2022-23 wave 2. This shows that across regions the response rate ranged from 50.6% in North West to 62.6% in the East of England.

Table 8.2 Wave 2 sample response rates and non-response by Government Office Region, 2022-23

	North East	North West	Yorkshire & The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West	Wales
	Percentage of eligible addresses (%):									
Non-contact	19.2	20.4	20.0	18.3	17.9	18.8	14.8	17.2	17.9	20.6
Refusal	10.5	13.3	7.5	10.4	8.0	6.6	9.3	7.1	6.6	6.5
Other unproductive	15.3	15.7	13.6	13.9	13.1	12.0	16.4	12.7	11.1	15.2
Achieved interview	55.0	50.6	58.9	57.5	60.9	62.6	59.5	62.9	64.4	57.7

8.3 Wave 2 response rate by Police Force Area

Table 8.3 overleaf shows the number of wave 2 interviews achieved in each PFA and the response rates.

Table 8.3 Wave 2 sample achieved interviews and response rates by PFA, 2022-23

PFA	Achieved	Response rate
	N	***%***
Avon & Somerset	67	59.3
Bedfordshire	59	52.7
Cambridgeshire	109	62.3
Cheshire	67	51.5
Cleveland	47	65.3
Cumbria	91	63.2
Derbyshire	94	61.4
Devon & Cornwall	163	67.6
Dorset	105	68.6
Durham	75	53.2
Dyfed Powys	69	61.6
Essex	137	65.2
Gloucestershire	83	56.5
Greater Manchester	165	45.6
Gwent	51	55.4
Hampshire	166	61.5
Hertfordshire	73	58.4
Humberside	90	64.7
Kent	100	68.0
Lancashire	103	48.1
Leicestershire	109	56.5
Lincolnshire	96	59.3
Merseyside	102	52.6
Metropolitan and City of London	389	59.5
Norfolk	104	63.8
North Wales	91	55.2
North Yorkshire	81	57.9
Northamptonshire	71	53.8
Northumbria	104	52.5
Nottinghamshire	61	55.5
South Wales	63	59.4
South Yorkshire	97	56.1
Staffordshire	61	60.4
Suffolk	105	68.6
Surrey	67	58.3
Sussex	93	63.7
Thames Valley	177	63.2
Warwickshire	79	63.7
West Mercia	100	67.1
West Midlands	103	54.5
West Yorkshire	148	58.3
Wiltshire	79	66.9

9. Offence Coding

This chapter outlines the offence coding process that takes place on the survey.

Although changes were made to the victimisation module for wave 2 compared with wave 1 the aim was to retain all the questions that were critical for offence classification. As such the offence coding processes carried out on wave 2 were consistent with the wave 1 survey.

9.1 History of offence classification on the CSEW

The CSEW Offence Coding System, which was originally developed in 1982 as part of the first Crime Survey, is designed to replicate as far as possible how incidents are classified by the police. The survey counts crime according to the victim's account of events, rather than requiring criminal intent to be proven. This is reflected in how the police record crimes under the National Crime Recording Standard using the Counting Rules[37]. It should be noted, however, that the Counting Rules evolve and change over time, and while efforts are made to reflect these changes in the survey, there are always likely to be some discrepancies between the two systems.

To classify offences, detailed information is collected about the incidents reported by respondents in the victimisation modules. Once the data is returned to the office, all victimisation modules are reviewed by specially trained coders to determine whether what has been reported represents a crime or not and, if so, what offence code should be assigned to the crime.

Apart from some minor changes, the code frame and the instructions to coders on the core survey (see Volume 2 for a copy of the Coding Manual) have remained largely unchanged since 1982. The current operational procedures used for assigning codes have been in place since 2001. In 2010 the coding process was updated to include the coding of offences against 10 to 15 year olds, while in 2015 it was updated to include the classification of fraud and cyber offences. Neither of these changes affected the way in which non-fraud incidents affecting people aged 16 and over were coded.

The coding manual itself is reviewed annually. Most updates are minor modifications to account for new scenarios that evolve over time and to reflect changes in the Counting Rules. However, in October 2018, a more significant update was incorporated to change the classification of offences related to identity theft. Prior to the change these incidents were recorded as computer misuse offences due to unauthorised access to the victim's personal details. After the change was applied these offences were recorded as 'other fraud' offences, reflecting the fraudulent use of a victim's details to apply for a loan or another type of credit agreement. Despite the changes that were being applied to the TCSEW the approach to offence coding remained consistent with the CSEW.

The current Offence Coding System consists of the following steps:

[37] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counting-rules-for-recorded-crime

- For each victimisation module a summary (called an RTF) is produced drawing together the key information from the module into a single easy reference document. This allows the coders to review each incident as a whole and make a judgement on the most appropriate code to allocate based on the totality of the information.

- In addition to these summaries, the coders use a specially developed computer assisted questionnaire to help them arrive at a final offence code for each incident.

- As well as recording an offence code for all fraud crimes, coders record whether the offence meets the criteria for being a cybercrime or not.

- A supervisor checks any codes that the original coder is uncertain about. Additionally, 5% of codes where the coder is certain of the outcome are also checked by a supervisor as a further quality check. These are systematically selected from all cases that have been coded (i.e. every n*th* case) in a particular period.

- A further quality check is carried out by a team at the Office for National Statistics who examine:

    - Any codes that Verian is uncertain about.

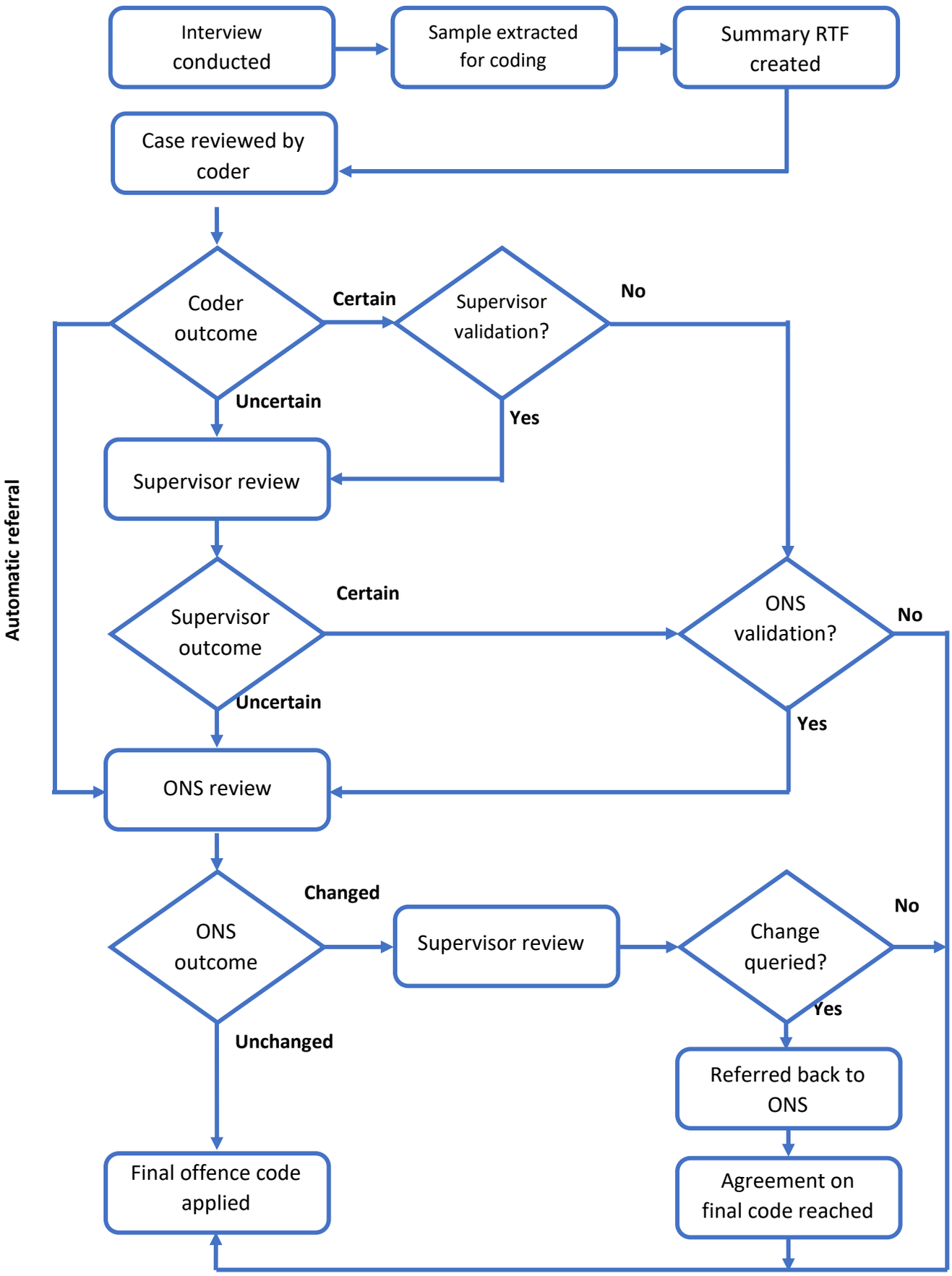
    - Certain types of incident that are automatically referred (e.g. arson).

    - A proportion (minimum of 5%) of certain codes, as part of a general quality control check. Again, these cases are systematically selected from all cases that have been coded.

The result of this process is that every victimisation module has a final offence code assigned to it. Although the coding rules are broadly similar, separate instructions exist for the coding of traditional (non-fraud) incidents and fraud and computer misuse incidents.

A flow chart of the Offence Coding process is shown in Figure 6.1 and the offence coding system is explained in more detail below.

Figure 6.1 - Offence Coding Flowchart



9.2 The offence coding task

Coders are provided with a summary sheet (called an RTF) of the key variables from each victimisation module and this information forms the basis of the coding. This summary sheet includes the open-ended description collected during the interview, as well as some of the key pre-coded questions in the survey which feed into the classifying of offences. It is important that the coders can consider all the information in its totality because sometimes the information collected may not be entirely clear or some of the information may appear contradictory or inconsistent. While a lot of emphasis is placed on the training and briefing of interviewers about collecting comprehensive and accurate data, inevitably there are cases where coders must make judgements about which bits of information to prioritise.

To assist with their task, coders use a specially designed computer assisted questionnaire to carry out the coding. This questionnaire consists of several different modules each of which relate to a high-level offence category (assault, burglary, theft, criminal damage, fraud, etc.). For each case coders must select an offence module to start with. Once in a module the questionnaire programme asks the coders a series of questions about the incident, and they are able to use the information from the RTF to record an answer. The questionnaire is structured like a flow chart to take account of the major rules that apply to offence coding (such as the priority of codes). By answering the sequence of questions based on the information provided in the victimisation module, the coder either reaches an offence code or is directed to another module to repeat the process.

The coders are also provided with a coding manual. The manual contains all the rules that govern offence coding plus further guidance by using specific examples. The manual also provides flow-charts that show how the coding questionnaire works, so that coders can see how they reach a particular offence code on the basis of the answers that they input. The coding manual is kept updated both in terms of major changes to the survey (such as the incorporation of coding guidelines for the 10 to 15 year olds survey in 2010 and the incorporation of fraud and cybercrimes in 2015), as well as being updated to add additional detail and guidance based on the experience of the coders and other feedback.

The current Offence Coding Manual can be found in Appendix K in Volume 2 of the 2022-23 Technical Report.

Once a coder arrives at an offence code using all the resources outlined above, they also record whether they are certain or uncertain that it is the right code. Any case where the coder is uncertain is automatically referred to a supervisor for checking. In addition, supervisors check a minimum of 5% of codes which coders are certain about as part of the quality assurance process.

9.3 Quality assurance by ONS coders

All cases where coders are uncertain about the correct code to assign are automatically referred to ONS. In addition to this, a minimum of 5% of all codes which coders are certain about are selected to be sent to ONS for quality control checking. These are selected in a systematic fashion by selecting every n*th* case in each two-week period.

All quality assurance checks carried out by researchers at ONS take place through an online offence coding portal. Victimisation modules to be checked by ONS staff are uploaded to the portal every week. The offence coding portal contains the unique serial number of each victimisation module, the code that the coder (and supervisor if applicable) has given the

incident, how certain the coder (and supervisor) is about the code, and any notes that the coder has added about why they are uncertain. The RTF summary document providing the key variables from the victimisation module are also available from the portal for ONS staff.

Researchers at ONS review each of the victimisation modules sent to them via the portal and add any comments they have on each case. For all cases they either accept the code given by the coder or suggest a different code. These codes then appear on the offence coding portal so that the coders can see the changes that have been made. Apart from making the process more efficient the portal also ensures a complete audit trail for every case.

Once all cases have been reviewed by ONS staff, the coding team at Verian review all cases where a code has been changed. Particular attention is paid to cases where ONS has changed a code that Verian coders had marked as “certain”. If the Verian coders disagree with the ONS coding decision, it is flagged up in the coding portal to both Verian researchers and ONS researchers for further consideration and discussion. This approach of iterative review is continued until everyone is agreed on the final outcome code.

As part of the 2022-23 survey, a total of 1,656 cases from wave 1 and 162 cases from wave 2 were sent to ONS for checking, which represented about 18% of all 16+ victimisation modules (both traditional and fraud cases). Across both waves, 1,151 traditional (non-fraud) cases were sent for checking (20% of all cases) and 667 fraud cases were sent (16% of all cases).

9.3.1 Traditional (non-fraud) cases referred to ONS

For wave 1, 1,034 traditional (non-fraud) modules were sent to ONS. Of these:

- 168 cases were automatically referred. This covers cases of aggravated burglary, duplicate cases and cases where the victimisation module was invalid;
- 15 cases were sent because the Verian coders were uncertain about the code; all uncertain codes are automatically referred;
- 416 cases were sent as part of the systematic quality control check; and
- 435 cases were related victimisation modules. To ensure that those checking offence codes have complete information, all the victimisation modules related to an individual respondent are sent to ONS, rather than just the single module under consideration.

Of the 1,034 non-fraud cases referred to ONS, only 22 cases initially had their code changed by ONS, representing 2% of all cases sent. In all cases where ONS changed a code that Verian coders or supervisors had been certain about, the change was reviewed by a coding supervisor and if there was still disagreement over the final code it was referred back to ONS for further review based on providing additional information on the reasons for reaching a particular code. At the end of this iterative process, only 11 codes were changed from the code originally allocated by the coder or supervisor.

For wave 2, 117 traditional (non-fraud) modules were sent to ONS. Of these:

- 13 cases were automatically referred;
- 1 case was sent because Verian coders were uncertain about the code;
- 57 cases were sent as part of the systematic quality control check; and
- 46 cases were related victimisation modules.

Of the 117 non-fraud cases referred to ONS, only 1 case initially had their code changed by ONS (less than 1% of all cases sent). After the review process had been undertaken, this code was changed from the code originally allocated by the coder or supervisor.

9.3.2 Fraud cases referred to ONS

For wave 1, 622 fraud cases sent to ONS for checking as part of the 2022-23 survey:

- 107 cases were automatically referred to ONS. This covers duplicate cases and cases where the victimisation module was invalid;
- 63 cases were where the Verian coders were uncertain about the code; all uncertain codes are automatically referred;
- 270 cases were sent as part of the systematic quality control check; and
- 182 cases were related victimisation modules.

Of the 622 fraud modules sent to ONS, 13 cases initially had their code changed by ONS staff, representing 2% of all cases sent. However, following further review and discussion only 7 cases were changed from the original code.

For wave 2, 45 fraud cases that were sent to ONS for checking:

- 9 cases were automatically referred to ONS;
- 3 cases were sent where the Verian coders were uncertain about the code;
- 27 cases were sent as part of the systematic quality control check; and
- 6 cases were related victimisation modules

Of the 45 fraud modules sent to ONS, only 1 case was initially changed by ONS staff. After further review and discussion, this case was changed from the original code.

9.4 Final offence code

SPSS data sets were delivered to the ONS on a quarterly basis. These include all the offence codes that have been given to each victimisation module at each stage of the coding process. This ensures an audit trail exists for each case. The final offence code is derived using a priority ordering system, whereby the ONS code takes priority over the supervisor code, which takes priority over the original code assigned by the coder. The variables on the data file are:

(T)VOFFENCE	Code assigned by the original coder
(T)SOFFENCE	Code assigned by the supervisor (if coded)
(T)FINLOFFC	Code assigned by the ONS team (if coded)
(T)OFFENCE	Final offence code

9.5 Checks on final offence code

Once the SPSS data sets are run some further consistency checks are applied to the final offence codes, checking the offence codes against key pre-coded variables in the victimisation module. The purpose of this is to highlight cases where some of the pre-coded data seems potentially anomalous with the final offence code. Such anomalies can arise because occasionally the information reported by the respondent is not consistent, or even seems contradictory. In particular, there can be inconsistencies between the verbatim description of the incident and subsequent pre-coded questions. While interviewers are carefully briefed to try and be aware of such inconsistencies arising during the interview it is inevitable that some will be missed. Consistency checks within the actual questionnaire script to try and pick up anomalies are not possible when a verbatim description is involved.

The consistency checks carried out are as follows:

- Assaults where no force or violence is recorded as having been used
- Burglary where entry to the property is recorded as being authorised
- Car thefts where no car is recorded as being stolen, or where the police were not informed
- Sexual assaults where there is no sexual element to the assault recorded
- Snatch thefts where the item stolen is not recorded as being held or carried
- Other thefts where the item stolen is recorded as being held or carried
- Wounding where no injury is recorded as being sustained
- In scope offences where the offender is perceived by the victim to be mentally ill
- Thefts where nothing is recorded as having been stolen
- Vandalism where no damage is recorded
- Threats where no threat is recorded

Further checks were added in 2015-16 to check the consistency of the fraud coding:

- Computer virus reported where the offence is not classified as a computer virus
- Computer virus where no virus is reported
- Unauthorised access to personal information with loss of money reported
- Fraud with no loss but a loss has been reported
- Checks that the respondent has been correctly identified as a specific intended victim
- Cyber flag checks if inconsistent reporting is evident:
    - Computer virus but no cyber element is reported
    - Classified as a cybercrime but no cyber element is reported
    - Not classified as a cybercrime but a cyber element is reported.

All cases that fail these checks are examined individually by a researcher and, if changes are required the revised code is reviewed by a coding supervisor. Where clear anomalies in the

data do exist, it is up to the judgment of the researchers to decide which bits of information should be prioritised in arriving at the final agreed offence code. In such cases, greater credence tends to be given to a good verbatim description of the incident over the answers to specific pre-coded questions where, for example, anomalies may be a result of interviewer mis-keying, or respondent misreporting.

Experience of running these checks shows that most flagged cases do have the correct offence codes, but a few may be amended each month as a result of these additional checks.

10. Data processing

10.1 Overview

The main outputs provided to ONS are SPSS data files that are delivered on a quarterly basis. Separate data files are provided for the core sample and the 10 to 15 survey sample. For each type of sample, two main data files are provided: The Non-Victim File and the Victim File.

Child interviews start in April 2022, the first delivery of child data was in November 2022 and covered interviews from April 2022 to September 2022.

Telephone interviews with people aged 16+ started in October 2022, following this, wave 2 data was also added to the SPSS data. The wave 2 data was first delivered in May 2023 and covered wave 2 interviews from October 2022 to March 2023. Two sets of these files were delivered, a COMBINED file with wave 1 and wave 2 interviews, and a W1 file with just W1 interviews.

The **Non-Victim File (NVF)** is produced at the level of the individual interview and contains all questionnaire data and associated variables, except for information that is collected in the victimisation modules. Wave 2 interviews were on respondents who had their wave 1 interviews at least 12 months prior, so there are no duplicate respondents in the rolling 12 months datasets. However legacy serials of wave 2 respondents may have duplicates because some serials were from 2020. So in case of duplicate serials, it does not mean they are the same respondent. For unique identification, “NVFID” needs to be used. Data for both victims and non-victims are included on the Non-Victim File.

The **Victim File (VF)** is produced at the level of the individual incident and contains all the data collected in the victimisation modules. Thus, an individual respondent who reported three crimes and completed three victimisation modules would have three separate records in the Victim File. As with the NVF file the addition of wave 2 respondent means there are some duplicate serials due to legacy respondents, however these are not the same respondents appearing multiple times. All generated victimisation modules were included on the file, including cases where the module either had been suspended or where the reference period was out of scope. Although such records contain no information and are not used for analysis, it is useful to keep these on the file to monitor the number of modules that fall into these categories.

10.2 Delivery of data output

During the 2021-2022 survey, two sets of data were supplied to ONS on a quarterly basis (October 2021 to March 2022). For the 2022-23 survey, four sets data files were supplied to ONS on a quarterly basis (April 2022 to March 2023). Data was supplied on a rolling basis to a maximum of 12 months, meaning that each new data delivery was updated by adding the newest quarter of data and deleting the oldest quarter of data if it was over 12 months ago.

In addition to the achieved sample, data files of the entire 2021-22 and 2022-23 issued sample was supplied to ONS. This contained information on every issued address such as the final outcome, the screening outcomes, the observational data collected by interviewers, sample variables and geo-demographic variables.

Data was delivered within six weeks after the end of each quarterly fieldwork period. Each quarterly data delivery included interviews that were achieved in each specific 12-month period, rather than those that were issued in a specific time period. Thus, the quarterly data files delivered in 2021-2022 and 2022-23 covered all the relevant interviews achieved in the following periods:

- October 2021 – December 2021
- October 2021 – March 2022
- October 2021 – June 2022
- October 2021 – September 2022 (First set of 12 months' data, first inclusion of child interviews)
- January 2022 – December 2022
- April 2022 – March 2023 (First inclusion of wave 2 interviews)

10.3 Content of SPSS data file

The SPSS data files delivered to the Office for National Statistics contain various types of variables. The main types of variables contained on the files are:

- Questionnaire variables (NVF and VF).
- Geo-demographic variables (NVF only). All interviews had a set of pre-specified geo-demographic variables attached to them.
- Coding variables (VF). On the Victim File, a full set of offence codes are attached as outlined in Chapter 7.
- Derived variables (NVF and VF). Many derived variables are also added to the file. These consisted primarily of two types: flag variables and classificatory variables
    - Flag variables (NVF and VF) that identify, for example, the date of interview, the month of issue, date of previous interview (if applicable), whether a partial or full interview, whether a victim or non-victim, etc. On the Victim File, flag variables include whether the record was a long or short victimisation module, whether it was a series or a single incident, and whether it was inside or outside the reference period.
    - Classificatory variables (NVF only) derived from the data. These included standard classifications such as ONS harmonised variables, banded age groups, ethnic groups etc.
- Weighting variables (NVF only). These are at an individual and household level.
- Wave information (NVF and VF)

Both the Non-Victim and Victim files include variables that identify the wave of interview and any interview waves that have been missed by the respondent.

10.4 Case identifier

The case identifier is designed to meet the requirements of a continuous survey.

On the Non-Victim File, where each individual case or record represents an interview, the unique interview identifier (NVFID) is a 10-digit number constructed as shown below is included in files since October 2022 data.

	Column position	Values
Year of issue	1-2	1-99
Area point number	3-6	1000-9999
Address number	7-8	1-99
Screen number[38]	9	0 or 8
Wave number	10	1-2

The basic respondent identifier (ROWLABEL) is a 9-digit number constructed as shown below. This is not unique in the data since October 2022 due to some duplicates from legacy wave 2 sample, so should only be used if working with just wave 1 interviews.

	Column position	Values
Year of issue	1-2	1-99
Area point number	3-6	1000-9999
Address number	7-9	1-99
Screen number	9	0 or 8

On the Victim File, where each individual case or record represents a victimisation module, the unique case identifier (VFID) is a 11-digit number, which is identical to TNVFID with the addition of the victimisation module number. This is included in files since October 2022 data.

	Column position	Values
Year of issue	1-2	1-99
Area point number	3-6	1000-9999
Address number	7-8	1-99
Screen number	9	0 or 8
Wave number	10	1-2
Victimisation module number	11	1-6

[34] Screen numbers are used to identify the type of sample. '0' indicates a core sample case.

The basic identifier (MATCH) is a 10-digit number, which is identical to ROWLABEL with the addition of the victimisation module number. As with ROWLABEL this does not necessarily identify unique respondents or victim forms since October 2022 due to legacy wave 2 sample, so should only be used if working with just wave 1 interviews.

	Column position	Values
Year of issue	1-2	1-99
Area point number	3-6	1000-9999
Address number	7-8	1-99
Screen number	9	0 or 8
Victimisation module number	10	1-6

10.5 Naming conventions

In creating the 2021-22 and 2022-23 data files attention was paid to ensuring as much consistency as possible with previous years of the survey. Variable names were kept the same as the previous CSEW wherever possible.

This meant it was especially important to systematically document and account for changes to questions over the course of the survey year to avoid confusion among users. For example, small changes to a question (such as adding an extra code to the code frame) could lead to data from different waves being wrongly merged because they appear similar even although they are not. To avoid such situations, the variable names on the data file were changed as and when any changes were made during the year.

Any variables that were changed during the period October 2021 to March 2022 and April 2022 to March 2023 are outlined in Table 10.1, overleaf:

Table 10.1 Changes in variables during 2021-22 and 2022-23

Module	2019-2020 Variable	2021-2022 Variable	Reason for change
16+ Non Victim File			
Mobile phone crime	Mobstole	mobstole2	Change to routing
Mobile phone crime	mobsaf1a - k	mobsaf2a - l	Change to structure
Experiences of the Police	polvis	polvisv2	Change to routing
Experiences of the Police	locpcon2a - w	locpcon3a - l	Change to code frame
Crime prevention and security C: Vehicle crime	motsecu1a - h	motsecu2a - i	Change to code frame
Crime prevention and security D: Personal and online	qprec2a - s	qprec3a - q	Change to code frame
Demographics	typinc2a - n	typinc3a - o	Change to code frame
Self-Completion Module	whyrfd2a - o	whyrfd3a - p	Change to code frame
Self-Completion Module: Drug Use And Drinking	drqwho3	drqwho3a - k	Change to structure
Self-Completion Module: Drug Use And Drinking	drqwho3o	drqwho2o2	Slight change to text
Self-Completion Module: Drug Use And Drinking	drqwhosm2	drqwhosm3	Change to routing
Self-Completion Module: Drug Use And Drinking	dftmob1	dftmoba - e	Change to structure
16+ Victim File			
Victim Form	alccheb	alccheb2	Change to routing
Victim Form	howctol7	howctol8	Change to code frame

Fraud Victim Form	fv87	fv87a, fv87b	Change to structure
Fraud Victim Form	ffrhw2a - k	ffrhw3a - g	Change to structure
Fraud Victim Form	ftrans	ftrans2	Change to code frame
Fraud Victim Form	faware3a - j	faware2a - k	Change to structure

Module	2021-2022 Variable	2022-2023 Variable	Reason for change
16+ Non Victim File			
Experiences of the Police	whyemrga - s	whyemrg2a - k	Change to code frame
Experiences of the Police	whynonemrga - l	whynonemrg2a - k	Change to code frame
Harassment	harastyp2a - k	harastyp22a - k	Change to code frame
Harassment	harastyp1a - g	harastyp12a - i	Change to code frame
Harassment	harasrela - q	harasrel2a - r	Change to code frame
Self-Completion Module: Drug Use And Drinking	drqaha - p	drqah2a - q	Change to code frame
End of interview administration	followup5	followup52	Change to code frame
16+ Victim File			
Victim Form	htryca3	htryca3a - i	Change in structure
Fraud Victim Form	fcmafrauda - n	fcmafraud2a - o	Change to code frame
Fraud Victim Form	fhowcont2a - j	fhowcont3a - j	Change to question wording
Fraud Victim Form	fmfrdtyp2a - r	fmfrdtyp3a - s	Change to code frame
Fraud Victim Form	frspmon2a - j	frspmon3a - g	Change to code frame
Fraud Victim Form	fhwrspnd4a - p	fhwrspnd5a - p	Change to code frame
Fraud Victim Form	fhwrspnd4oth	fhwrspnd5oth	Change to match fhwrspnd5a - p
Fraud Victim Form	fcontat	fcontat2, fcontatb	Change in structure

Fraud Victim Form	fawarea2	fawarea3	Change to code frame
Fraud Victim Form	fdevice	fdevicea - j	Change in structure
Fraud Victim Form	faware2a - k	faware4a - j	Change to code frame
Fraud Victim Form	fqloss3	fqloss3_2	Change to code frame
Fraud Victim Form	frefunda - f	frefund2a - g	Change to code frame
Fraud Victim Form	fcmloss2a	fcmloss2_2a	Change to question wording
Fraud Victim Form	fqknow2	fqknow3	Change to code frame
Fraud Victim Form	fafresp3a - h	fafresp3_2a - h	Change to question wording
Child Non-Victim File			
Background	Cschatt	Cschatt2	Change to code frame
Self-completion	creasona - m	creason2a - n	Change to code frame
Self-completion	cintac1a - n	cintac2a - p	Change to code frame
Self-completion	cbadex01 - 11	cbadex201 - 13	Change to list
Self-completion	conlact1 - 5	conlact21 - 5	Change to list
Self-completion	cbulonla - i	cbulonl2a - l	Change to code frame
Self-completion	cbultrada - j	cbultrad2a - h	Change to code frame
Self-completion	cbuloft01 - 13	cbuloft201 - 14	Change to list
Self-completion	ctrthow1a - 8g	ctrthow21a – 9g	Change to list
Self-completion	chrthow1a - 8g	chrthow21a – 9i	Change to list and code frame
Self-completion	cpubpri1 - 8	cpubpri21a – 9e	Change in structure
Self-completion	ccrepora - i	ccrepor2a - m	Change to code frame
Self-completion	ccnotrepa - h	ccnotrep2a - j	Change to code frame
Self-completion	cnetwhoa - j	cnetwho2a - l	Change to code frame
Self-completion	conmale	conmale2	Change to code frame
Self-completion	concont	concont2	Change to code frame
Self-completion	crecmsga - g	crecmsg	Change in structure

Self-completion	cfstella - l	cfstell2a - m	Change to code frame
Self-completion	cnomeet	cnomeet2	Change to code frame
Self-completion	cconwher	cconwher2	Change to code frame
Self-completion	ctella - l	ctell2a - m	Change to code frame
Self-completion	cfeel	cfeela - k	Change in structure
Self-completion	cunsaf	cunsaf2	Change to routing
Self-completion	cmetple	cmetple1	Change to code frame
Self-completion	cexcgen	cexcgen2	Change to code frame
Self-completion	cxsntmsg	cxsntmsg2	Change to code frame
Self-completion	cxfstsnt	cxfstsnta - e	Change in structure
Self-completion	cxrecmsga - g	cxrecmsg	Change in structure
Self-completion	cxfstella - l	cxfstell2a - m	Change to code frame
Self-completion	cxnomeet	cxnomeet2	Change to code frame
Self-completion	chowreca - g	chowrec2a - i	Change to code frame
Self-completion	chowrecka - e	chowreck2a - f	Change to code frame
Self-completion	cpubrec	cpubreca - e	Change in structure
Self-completion	cmswhoa - i	cmswho2a - m	Change to code frame
Self-completion	chowsenta - g	chowsent2a - i	Change to code frame
Self-completion	chsentchka - e	chsentchk2a - f	Change to code frame
Self-completion	cmsprec	cmspreca - e	Change in structure
Self-completion	csenttel	csenttela - m	Change in structure
Demographics	ccarer2	ccarer2a - e	Change in structure
Child Victim File			
Background	Cschatt	Cschatt2	Change to code frame
Victim Form	Crepwh2a - j	Crepwh3a - o	Change to code frame
Victim Form	Chowcopk	Chowcopka - h	Change in structure

Table 10.2 Geo-demographic variables added to the survey in 2021-22 and 2022-23

Variable	Comments
atyp2018	Removed Oct 2021
agrp2018	Removed Oct 2021
acat2018	Removed Oct 2021
atyp2019	Removed Oct 2021
agrp2019	Removed Oct 2021
acat2019	Removed Oct 2021
mtyp2018	Removed Oct 2021
mgrp2018	Removed Oct 2021
atyp2021	Added Oct 2021
agrp2021	Added Oct 2021
acat2021	Added Oct 2021
mgrp2021	Added Oct 2021
mtyp2021	Added Oct 2021
wmdidc14	Removed Oct 2021
wincdc14	Removed Oct 2021
wempdc14	Removed Oct 2021
wedudc14	Removed Oct 2021
wheadc14	Removed Oct 2021
waccdc14	Removed Oct 2021
wcridc14	Removed Oct 2021
wenvdc14	Removed Oct 2021
whoudc14	Removed Oct 2021
wmdidc19	Added Oct 2021
wincdc19	Added Oct 2021
wempdc19	Added Oct 2021
wedudc19	Added Oct 2021
wheadc19	Added Oct 2021
waccdc19	Added Oct 2021
wcridc19	Added Oct 2021
wenvdc19	Added Oct 2021
whoudc19	Added Oct 2021

10.6 Don’t Know and Refused values

The convention for Don’t Know and Refusal codes used in the most recent surveys was maintained on the 2021-22 and 2022-23 data. This meant that on the SPSS file the code for Don’t Know was ‘9’ for code frames up to 7, ‘99’ for code frames up to 97, and so on. The code for Refused was 8, 98, and so on. Since these are standard codes used throughout the SPSS files, Don’t Know and Refused codes are not labelled.

11. Weighting

11.1 Overview of weighting

The following weights have been calculated for both the 2021-22 and 2022-23 CSEW datasets:

- A household weight
- An individual person (aged 16+) weight
- An individual child (aged 10-15) weight
- A per-incident weight (usually equal to the household or 16+ weight, depending on the incident type, but with some exceptions)

The base weights for each were calculated on a quarterly basis. ONS then applied additional calibration factors on a rolling annual basis to ensure that the 12-month datasets reflect the population profile with respect to age by sex within region (see section 9.3.7).

For the 2022-23 survey, separate wave 2 base weights were produced at the household, 16+ and incident levels. These were produced for the October – December 2022 and January – March 2023 quarters. Combined wave 1/wave 2 base weights were also produced. The first 12-month dataset to include wave 2 data was April 2022 – March 2023: ONS applied calibration factors to both the wave 1-only dataset and the combined Wave 1/Wave 2 dataset.

11.2 Motivation for computing weights

There are three main reasons for computing weights for the CSEW data:

- *To compensate for unequal selection probabilities*. In the CSEW, different units of analysis (households, individuals, victimisation incidents) have different probabilities of inclusion in the sample due to factors such as over sampling of smaller police force areas, the selection of one household at multi-household addresses, the selection of one person aged 16 or over in each household, and the inclusion of a single victimisation module to represent a series of similar incidents.
- *To compensate for differential response*. Differential response rates can arise both between different geographic units (e.g. differences in response between regions or between different types of neighbourhood) and between different age and sex sub-groups.
- *To ensure that quarters are equally weighted for analyses that combine data from more than one quarter*.

As outlined above a variety of different weights were computed to meet the different analysis requirements.

11.3 Wave 1 weighting (2021-22 and 2022-23)

The wave 1 base weights comprise a number of components:

- **w_1**: weight to compensate for unequal address selection probabilities between police force areas (included in all base weights);
- **w_2**: 'address non-response weight': to compensate for the observed variation in response rates between different types of neighbourhood (included in all base weights);
- **w_3**: dwelling unit weight: to compensate for the variation in selection probabilities that is a function of the number of households at the sampled address (included in all base weights);
- **w_4**: individual selection weight: to compensate for the variation in selection probabilities that is a function of the size of the household (included in the 16+ and child base weights as well as individual-level incident base weights); and
- **numinc**: a weight applied to reflect the number of incidents covered by the relevant victim form (included in incident base weights only)

11.3.1 Police Force Area weight (w_1)

The address sampling probability varies *between* police force areas but not within.

The police force area weight (w_1) is proportional to one divided by the address sampling probability.

11.3.2 Address non-response weight (w_2)

An estimated response probability is calculated for each responding address based on four factors. These factors were selected following an analysis project carried out in 2012. The four factors are:

- 2011 Census Output Area Classification (twenty-one 'group' level)
- Region
- Proportion of households in local LSOA that contain only one person (Census 2011)
- ONS Urbanity indicator (twelve categories, updated based on Census 2011)

The estimated response probability of each responding address is derived from a comparison between (i) the profile (with respect to the four factors described above) of the responding addresses with the relevant w_1 weights applied, and (ii) the profile of the most recently generated 12-month sample of addresses, again with the w_1 weights applied. A propensity score weight mechanism based on a logistic regression model is combined with an estimate of the mean response probability to generate an estimated response probability for each address. Weight w_2 is equal to one divided by this address-level response probability.

11.3.3 Dwelling unit weight (w_3)

At addresses which had more than one dwelling unit (defined as structurally separate properties which have their own lockable front door, or their own letter boxes, or their own

bells but which share the same address), one dwelling unit was selected at random by a computer algorithm built into the electronic contact sheet. The dwelling unit weight is therefore simply the number of dwelling units identified at the address. In the vast majority of cases, the dwelling unit weight is 1.

From 2014, this weight also includes a component to reflect any sampling of households within the sampled dwelling unit. This is a rare occurrence but w_3 is technically equal to the number of dwelling units at the address multiplied by the number of households in the sampled dwelling unit.

Weight w_3 is capped at 4 to limit the variance of these weights.

11.3.4 Individual weight (w_4)

At dwelling units that had more than one eligible person 16 and over, one individual was selected at random by a computer algorithm built into the electronic contact sheet. This means that the probability of any one individual being selected is inversely proportional to the number of people aged 16 and over in the household. The individual weight is therefore usually the number of people aged 16+ in the household.

Weight w_4 is capped at 5 to limit the variance of these weights.

Furthermore, the product of the dwelling unit weight w_3 and the individual weight w_4 is capped at 5 for those weighted analyses that use both components.

In a small number of cases, the number of people aged 16+ recorded during the doorstep screening process was different from that recorded in the subsequent interview. This was primarily due to either the interviewer being given wrong information by a household member or a change in the household composition between screening and interview. In such cases the interviewer was not required to re-do the selection process except under very specific circumstances. To ensure that the correct probability of selection is maintained, the individual weight is always based on the number of people aged 16+ recorded at the screening stage and not the number recorded during the interview.

For the 10-15 year olds, the individual weight w_4 is equal to the number of 10-15 year olds resident in the sampled household, as recorded in the 16+ interview. In previous years of the CSEW, a more complex model-based weight was derived but, because pre-pandemic data would have to be used in its generation, it was not deemed appropriate to retain this weight for the 2022-23 survey. A new version may be developed for the 2023-24 survey.

11.3.5 Series weight (numinc)

This weight is applied when estimating victimisation incidence rates. For single incidents the weight is set to 1. For series incidents, where details are collected only about the most recent incident in the series, the weight equals the number of incidents in the series that fall within the reference period, subject to a maximum limit that is specific to the offence code group[39]. Table 9.1 shows the maximum limits used for the 2022-23 data. These limits are equal to *either* (i) the 98th percentile series incident count over the most recent three-year April – May period, *or* (ii) 5, whichever is the higher value.

[39] Although the number of incidents is capped for weighting purposes, the actual number of reported incidents in each series (uncapped) is also supplied on the data file.

Table 9.1 Limits to series weights for each offence code group

Offence code group	Weight limit (2022-23)
INDIVIDUAL LEVEL OFFENCES	
Violence excepting sex offences, threats and robbery (codes 11,12,13,21,32,33)	8
Sex offences (codes 31,34,35)	5
Threats (codes 91,92,93,94)	9
Robbery (codes 41, 42)	5
Personal theft (codes 43,44,45)	5
Other personal theft (codes 67, 73)	5
Fraud (codes 200,201,202,203,204,205,206,207,208,210,211,212)	5
Computer misuse (codes 320,321,322,323,324)	5
HOUSEHOLD LEVEL OFFENCES	
Burglary (codes 50,51,52,53,57,58)	5
Other household theft (codes 55,56,65)	5
fMotor vehicle crime (codes 60,61,62,63,71,72)	5
Bike theft (code 64)	5
Vandalism (codes 80,81,82,83,84,85,86)	5

In estimating victimisation levels, the (post-calibration) household or individual weights are multiplied by the relevant *numinc* weight.

The first publication of CSEW data following the return to face-to-face fieldwork were headline estimates of domestic abuse and sexual offences for the year-ending March 2022 based on six-months data. The first publication of CSEW data since the return of face-to-face fieldwork for the remaining crime types was for the year ending June 2022. Therefore, separate series weights were not calculated for the 2021-22 data file.

11.3.6 Core sample weights

The main units of analysis used on the CSEW are households, individuals, and incidents of victimisation. Different weights are used depending upon the unit of analysis. In particular, some crimes are considered household crimes (e.g. burglary, vandalism to household property, theft of and from a car) and therefore the main unit of analysis is the household, while others are personal crimes (assault, robbery, sexual offences) and the main unit of analysis is the individual.

For the core sample two base weights have been constructed to take account of this difference, namely the **core household weight** and the **core individual (16+) weight.** These are calculated as follows:

wtm2hhu= $w_1 * w_2 * w_3$

wtm2inu= $w_1 * w_2 * w_3 * w_4$

Note that both w_3 and w_4 are capped to avoid extreme values (see 9.3.3 and 9.3.4 above). Although capping of extreme weights may introduce a small amount of bias this is more than compensated for by the improvement in precision that results. The capped weights are named **wtm2hhf** and **wtm2inf** respectively.

Finally, the weights are scaled to a notional sample size of 11,500 interviews per quarter. Although an approximately equal number of addresses are (normally) issued each quarter, the number of interviews actually achieved per quarter varies to some extent. For analyses based upon a 12 month period, the weights are constructed to adjust for differences in sample size by equalising the quarterly achieved sample sizes.

The final scaled weights are called **wtm2hhs** and **wtm2ins** respectively.

A programming error affected the interpersonal violence module from the start of October 2022 through to the end of January 2023 (four months). Due to the complex consequences of the error, it was decided that none of the data from this period would contribute to survey estimates derived from this module. Consequently, two new versions of wtm2hhs and wtm2ins needed to be calculated to allow correctly scaled 12-months survey estimates. They each have a **_dv** suffix and were calculated by applying a multiplication factor to the values of wtm2hhs and wtm2ins in unaffected data periods within the same 12-months dataset. The multiplication factor applied to each data period varied between different 12-months datasets. Table 11.2 sets out all the planned multiplication factors used to derive **wtm2hhs_dv** and **wtm2ins_dv**.

Table 11.2 Scaling of _dv weights (multiplication factors applied to wtm2hhs and wtm2ins per data period per 12-months dataset)

	12-month datasets						
Data periods	Oct21-Sep22	Jan22-Dec22	Apr22-Mar23	Jul22-Jun23	Oct22-Sep23	Jan23-Dec23	Apr23-Mar24
Oct 21-Dec 21	1						
Jan 22-Mar 22	1	4/3					
Apr 22-Jun 22	1	4/3	4/3				
Jul 22-Sep 22	1	4/3	4/3	4/3			
Oct 22-Dec 22		0	0	0	0		
Jan 23			0	0	0	0	
Feb 23-Mar 23			2*	2*	2*	3/2*	
Apr 23-Jun 23				4/3	4/3	1	1
Jul 23-Sep 23					4/3	1	1
Oct 23-Dec 23						1	1
Jan 24-Mar 24							1

*Approximate; the actual calculation depended on the precise ratio of the sum of wtm2hhs/wtm2ins for January 2023 to that of February to March 2023 (in the standard weighting procedure, this ratio is only controlled between full data quarters).

11.3.7 Calibration Weights

Once the quarterly data is sent to ONS, a set of calibration factors is calculated for the new rolling 12-month dataset using the base weights as a starting point. These counter the effect of differential response rates between age, sex and regional sub-groups. Results for CSEW surveys from 1992 onwards have all been re-weighted using this technique.

The calibration weighting is designed to make adjustments not only for known differences in response rates between different age and sex sub-groups but also for households with

different age and sex compositions. For example, a 24 year old male living alone may be less likely to respond to the survey than one living with a partner and a child. The procedure therefore gives different weights to different household types based on their age and sex composition in such a way that the weighted distribution of individuals in the responding households matches the known distribution in the population as a whole.

The effects of applying these weights are generally small for household crime, but greater for estimates of personal crime, where young respondents generally have much higher crime victimisation rates than average, but also lower response rates to the survey. However, crime trends since the 1992 survey have not been altered to any great extent by the application of calibration weights.

The calibrated weight variables are **c11hhdwgt** (households), **c11indivwgt** (individuals aged 16+), **c11cindivwgt** (individuals aged 10-15) and **c11weighti** (victimisation incidents to households or individuals aged 16+). In addition, for analysis of the error-affected interpersonal violence module, **c11hhdwgt_dv** (households) and **c11indivwgt_dv** (individuals aged 16+) should be used.

11.4 Wave 2 weighting (2022-23 only)

The base weights for wave 2 respondents are calculated quite differently from the base weights for wave 1 respondents but the calculation is based on similar principles.

The starting points are **c11hhdwgt** and **c11indivwgt**: the wave 1 calibrated weight variables for, respectively, households and people aged 16+ (see 9.3.7). Every wave 2 respondent has a value for each of these weights in up to four 'rolling' wave 1 12-month datasets.[40] For example, an individual/household interviewed for wave 1 in June 2022 will appear in these 12-month datasets: October 2021 – September 2022; January 2022 – December 2022; April 2022 – March 2023 (and would have been in the July 2021 – June 2022 dataset had it been produced). These calibrated weights will vary slightly between datasets so the starting point for wave 2 cases is the *mean* of each weight across available datasets.

With the relevant mean calibration weight applied, the *wave 1* data profile of the wave 2 respondents from the latest quarter is compared to a *reference sample*. That reference sample comprises all wave 1 respondents interviewed in any of the quarters in which any of the wave 2 respondents were first interviewed. For example, the January 2023 – March 2023 quarter will contain wave 2 respondents who were first interviewed between October 2021 and March 2022. The wave 1 reference sample is therefore the two quarters October – December 2021 and January 2022 – March 2022. The relevant mean calibration weight is applied to these wave 1 respondent sets and a reference sample data profile is generated.

The wave 1 variables forming the data profile differ between individual-level and household-level analyses:

- **Household-level variables**: number of resident people aged 16 and over, whether children are resident, years resident at address, number of cars available to residents, region, output area classification group, accommodation type, NS-SEC of household reference person, housing tenure status.
- **Individual-level variables**: individualised versions of all household variables plus: sex, age group, relationship status, whether household reference person, whether property is left unoccupied on a typical weekday, frequency of visiting pubs/bars,

[40] In fact, a very small number tend to be missing c11hhdwgt due to incomplete household composition data.

attitude towards the police, whether experienced antisocial behaviour, disability status, victim form status, ethnic group, working status, highest educational level, self-reported difficulty finding £100 if necessary.

As with the generation of the wave 1 base weight component w_2 (see 9.3.2), a propensity score weight mechanism based on a logistic regression model is used to force the wave 1 data profile of the wave 2 respondents to resemble that of the reference sample.

The mean wave 1 calibration weight of each wave 2 respondent is multiplied by the relevant propensity score weight to generate new wave 2 household-level and individual-level base weights.

These base weights are then scaled so they fit with the base weights of same-quarter wave 1 respondents. The general scaling approach is to treat wave 1 and wave 2 respondents as having equal value. Table 9.2 show the details of this scaling approach. It is worth noting that there is a subset of wave 1 respondents that is entirely absent from the wave 2 data: 16-year-olds and very recent immigrants to the UK. For the purpose of scaling the individual-level base weights in the combined wave 1/wave 2 dataset, this subset is treated differently from other wave 1 respondents.

Table 9.2 Scaling of wave 1 and wave 2 base weights in combined wave 1/2 datasets

	W1 sum of weights in W1-only dataset	W1 sum of weights in combined W1/W2 dataset	W2 sum of weights in combined W1/W2 dataset
Individual weight			
Individuals aged 16+	$11500*\sum b_{w1(16)}/*\sum b_{w1}$	$11500*\sum b_{w1(16)}/*\sum b_{w1}$	n/a
Individuals aged 17+	$11500-(11500*\sum b_{w1(16)}/*\sum b_{w1})$	$(n_{w1(17+)}/(n_{w1(17+)}+n_{w2}))*(11500-(11500*\sum b_{w1(16)}/*\sum b_{w1}))$	$(n_{w2}/(n_{w1(17+)}+n_{w2}))*(11500-(11500*\sum b_{w1(16)}/*\sum b_{w1}))$
Household weight			
All households	11500	$(n_{w1}/(n_{w1}+n_{w2}))*11500$	$(n_{w2}/(n_{w1}+n_{w2}))*11500$

Quantity definitions:

$\sum b_{w1}$ = sum of wave 1 individual-level base weights in this particular quarter

$\sum b_{w1(16)}$ = sum of wave 1 individual-level base weights in this particular quarter allocated to 16-year olds and recent (2022/2023) immigrants to the UK

n_{w1} = sum of wave 1 respondents in this particular quarter

$n_{w1(17+)}$ = sum of wave 1 respondents in this particular quarter aged 17+ excluding recent immigrants to the UK

n_{w2} = sum of wave 2 respondents in this particular quarter

12. Comparing key survey variables with the population

In order to assess the representativeness of the final achieved sample this chapter compares the profile of the 2021-22 and 2022-23 surveys against population estimates for a range of socio-demographic variables. In addition to comparing the age and sex profile of the survey with the latest population estimates comparisons are also made with data from the 2021 Census.

The tables presented below show the survey profile with the appropriate design weights applied (either household or individual weight) but without the application of the calibration weighting. Comparisons are made based on the achieved sample within each survey year rather than on the issued sample.

12.1 Regional distribution of the sample

Table 12.1 shows the distribution of households by region compared with the 2021 Census[41]. This shows that the regional profile of the weighted sample was broadly in line with the population distribution.

Table 12.1 Distribution of households by region compared with the 2021 Census

	2021 Census	2021-22 CSEW	2022-23 CSEW
	%	%	%
North East	4.7	4.8	4.7
North West	12.7	13.0	12.5
Yorkshire and The Humber	9.4	9.1	9.1
East Midlands	8.2	8.3	8.3
West Midlands	9.8	9.9	9.8
East of England	10.6	10.5	10.9
London	13.8	13.7	13.6
South East	15.4	15.7	15.5
South West	9.9	9.9	10.0
Wales	5.4	5.1	5.4

[41] All Census figures presented in the tables are sourced from https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS009/editions/2021/versions/2 and https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create

12.2 Age and sex profile of the sample

Table 12.2 shows a comparison between the achieved core adult samples and the 2021 Census for England and Wales by sex and age.

Table 12.2 Age and sex profile of adult sample against 2021 Census

	2021 Census	2021-22 CSEW	2022-23 CSEW
	%	%	%
Sex			
Male	48.4	48.6	48.7
Female	51.6	51.4	51.3
Men			
16-19	5.9	4.0	3.6
20-24	7.7	6.2	5.2
25-34	16.6	12.9	14.3
35-44	16.0	15.2	15.4
45-54	16.9	14.9	15.8
55-64	15.0	18.0	17.8
65-74	12.1	16.6	15.4
75-84	6.9	9.8	10.1
85 and over	2.3	2.2	2.5
Women			
16-19	5.3	2.5	2.9
20-24	7.2	4.8	4.8
25-34	16.5	15.0	14.8
35-44	15.8	15.6	17.7
45-54	16.0	17.3	16.7
55-64	15.2	18.8	16.8
65-74	12.3	15.6	14.5
75-84	8.0	8.6	9.4
85 and over	3.6	2.0	2.5

Table 12.3 shows a similar comparison for the 2022-23 10-15 year olds survey.

Table 12.3 Age and sex profile of 10 to 15 year olds sample against 2021 Census

	2021 Census	2022-23 CSEW
	%	%
Sex		
Boys	51.3	48.5
Girls	48.7	51.5
Boys		
10	17.1	18.4
11	16.9	18.3
12	16.9	15.0
13	16.8	16.8
14	16.3	16.6
15	15.9	14.8
Girls		
10	17.1	14.5
11	17.0	15.2
12	16.9	17.7
13	16.8	21.4
14	16.4	18.0
15	15.9	12.8

Although not reported here, as already mentioned the age and sex distribution of the achieved sample is further corrected by ONS at the analysis stage through the application of calibration weights so that the age and sex profile of survey respondents match population estimates within each region.

12.3 Other household characteristics

Table 12.4 shows the profiles of the 2021-22 and 2022-23 surveys compared with some key household characteristics from the 2021 Census.

Table 12.4 Household characteristic of the core adult sample against 2021 Census

	2021 Census	2021-22 CSEW	2022-23 CSEW
	%	%	%
Tenure			
Owned	62.5	65.0	64.4
Social renting	17.1	16.6	15.6
Private renting	20.4	18.1	18.6
Accommodation type			
Whole house or bungalow	77.9	82.4	82.1
Flat, maisonette or apartment	21.7	17.2	17.2
Household size			
1 person household	30.2	30.4	32.0
2 person household	34.1	37.6	37.6
3 person household	16.0	14.7	13.9
4 or more person household	19.8	17.3	16.5
Car ownership			
No cars or vans	23.3	21.1	22.8
1 or more cars or vans	76.7	78.9	77.1

12.4 Other individual characteristics

Table 12.5 shows the profiles of the 2021-22 and 2022-23 surveys compared with some key individual characteristics from the 2021 Census.

Table 12.5 Comparison of individual respondent characteristic against 2021 Census

	2021 Census	2021-22 CSEW	2022-23 CSEW
	%	%	%
NS-SEC			
Higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations	35.7	37.7	38.5
Intermediate occupations	23.8	23.4	22.1
Routine and manual occupations	31.2	28.0	28.3
Never worked and long-term unemployed	9.2	5.1	4.8
Ethnic group			
White	83.6	84.7	83.9
Mixed/multiple ethnic group	2.0	1.5	1.5
Asian/Asian British	8.7	9.7	9.3
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	3.7	2.9	3.6
Other ethnic group	2.0	1.0	1.3
Religion			
No religion	38.0	39.2	40.2
Christian	51.8	50.7	49.2
Buddhist	0.5	0.5	0.5
Hindu	1.8	2.0	2.2
Jewish	0.5	0.4	0.4
Muslim	5.8	5.0	5.5
Sikh	0.9	1.5	0.8
Other	0.7	0.4	0.5