



Fear of Crime Target and Calculations

Background

West Midlands Police are undertaking a large-scale survey programme called 'Feeling the Difference' exploring Quality of Life, Reassurance and Fear of Crime issues. The aims of the survey are to:

- To measure effectiveness of the policing strategies;
- To provide a statistically valid benchmark of Quality of Life and Reassurance issues to OCU and Force level;
- To measure key performance indicators;
- To measure change in key performance indicators across time, using recognised statistical techniques;
- To enhance the Force's understanding of the role of policing in Quality of Life and Reassurance issues;
- To measure public perception of the Authority and the way it currently polices communities.

The programme comprises 5 waves of research, with surveys being completed on a quarterly basis over a 12-month period. In each wave 250 people will be interviewed per OCU, face to face in their homes.

The survey will be ongoing.

NB

Walsall's targets were based upon the first Waves of the survey which were conducted in 2004.

Waves 1 and 2 (Walsall's Baseline)

Table 9: Feeling Safe				
LA Area	Wave 1		Wave 2	
	Important %	True of neighbourhood %	Important %	True of neighbourhood %
Birmingham	40	20	44	29
Solihull	55	9	37	37
Coventry	46	19	42	23
Dudley	43	14	38	32
Sandwell	50	17	57	45
Walsall	46	32	43	27
Wolverhampton	33	19	22	28

To calculate the Fear of Crime we have to look at the % of people who feel **UNSAFE** in the neighbourhood.

Calculation

- 100 - % TRUE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD of Waves 1 and 2
- AVERAGE taken

Walsall's calculation reads as follows:

100 – 32 = 68% FEAR OF CRIME for Wave 1

100 – 27 = 73% FEAR OF CRIME for Wave 2

$$\text{Average} = (68 + 73)/2 = 71\% \text{ FEAR OF CRIME}$$

NB Force (West Midlands) Average also taken as a comparator

Force Average = 75% FEAR OF CRIME

A 5% REDUCTION is our target for 07/08 with a 1% REDUCTION for 05/06 and 2% REDUCTIONS for 06/07 and 07/08 respectively.

The reason we have done this is because Fear of Crime has stabilised somewhat over the previous years and achieving large reductions on already stable figures is notoriously difficult. This is especially true of today's political climate when both local and national events can impact upon this indicator.

Therefore, the Partnership has targeted a 5% REDCUTION for the 3 year period.