

Perceptions of Organised Crime Module

Questions to be asked biennially, to the entire (approximately) 2,000 sample.

HARMOC

I would now like to ask you for your views on the harm that may be caused by offences associated with organised crime. This includes, for instance, the illegal supply of drugs, armed robbery, protection or extortion racketeering, fuel and money laundering, cigarette smuggling and the sale of counterfeit goods.

(Text updated)

(New question 1)

How widespread do you think the problem of organised crime is within your local area; that is within a 15 minute walk from here?

1=Very widespread.

2=Fairly widespread.

3=Not widespread.

4=Does not occur in Northern Ireland.

5=Don't know.

(This is question DoJ1 from the Organised Crime module of the Omnibus survey).

(New question 2)

To what extent does each of the following occur within your local area; that is within a 15 minute walk from here?

Drug dealing

Armed robbery / Tiger kidnappings

Fuel laundering / Fuel smuggling (excise fraud)

Cigarette/tobacco smuggling (excise fraud)

Trading in counterfeit goods / stolen goods

Protection/extortion/racketeering

Illegal money lending / Loan sharks

Modern slavery (including human trafficking)

Prostitution

Illegal waste dumping

1=Widespread.

2=Some extent.

3=Little extent.

4=Does not happen in my local area.

5=Don't know.

(This is an adjusted version of IMPACTOC, using the new list of options, and switched to 5 choices rather than a 1-10 scale)

IMPACTOC – to be removed

From the items listed on this card, what do you think is the main harm caused by organised crime?

1=Damage to people's health.

2=Fear in the community.

3=Legitimate businesses lose trade.

4=Loss of confidence in law enforcement agencies.

5=Market flooded with inferior goods.

6=Small businesses / retailers forced to close.

7=Less money available for public services.

8=Violence in the community.

9=Loss of jobs.

(Replaced with the following question)

(New question 3)

In what ways does organised crime harm you and your community?

SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

1=Damages people's health and wellbeing.

2=Public safety issues, e.g. through inferior or counterfeit goods.

3=Environmental damage.

4=Businesses lose trade / Loss of jobs.

5=Violence and fear in the community.

6=Instability in the community.

7=Increased anti-social behaviour.

8=Increased drug usage.

9=Less money available for public services.

10=People are exploited.

11=Loss of confidence in law enforcement.

12=Other (please specify).

(This is question DoJ5 from the Omnibus, but with an updated list of options).

(New question 4)

How much would you say the extent of organised crime has changed in the past 12 months in your local area?

1=A lot more.

2=A little more.

3=About the same.

4=A little less.

5=A lot less.

(This is an adjusted version of question HarmRat from the Crime Survey)

(New question 5)

What impact do you believe the successful prosecution of cases linked to organised crime has had on the level of organised crime in your local area in the past 12 months?

1=Positive impact.

2=No impact.

3=Negative impact.

4=Don't know.

(New question)

(New question 6)

Why do you think this?

Freeform text answer

(New question)

(New question 7)

What impact do you believe the level of sentences handed down in cases linked to organised crime has had on the level of organised crime in your local area in the past 12 months?

1=Positive impact.

2=No impact.

3=Negative impact.

4=Don't know.

(New question)

(New question 8)

Why do you think this?

Freeform text answer

(New question)

HARMINTR – to be removed

For the following questions, on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is no harm and 10 is extreme harm...

(Replaced with the following questions using a new scale and an updated list of activities)

HARMDRUG – to be removed

How much harm is caused in your local area, that is within 15 minutes walk from here, by...
... people selling or buying illegal drugs?

1...10

(Replaced with the following questions using a new scale and an updated list of activities)

HARMSMUG – to be removed

(How much harm is caused in your local area by...)
... people selling or buying counterfeit or smuggled goods?

1...10

(Replaced with the following questions using a new scale and an updated list of activities)

HARMFUEL – to be removed

(How much harm is caused in your local area by...)
... fuel laundering and smuggling?

1...10

(Replaced with the following questions using a new scale and an updated list of activities)

HARMMONE – to be removed

(How much harm is caused in your local area by...)
... money laundering and fraud?

1...10

(Replaced with the following questions using a new scale and an updated list of activities)

HARMRACK – to be removed

(How much harm is caused in your local area by...)
... protection or extortion racketeering?

1...10

(Replaced with the following questions using a new scale and an updated list of activities)

HARMARM – to be removed

(How much harm is caused in your local area by...)
... armed robbery?

1...10

(Replaced with the following questions using a new scale and an updated list of activities)

HARMTRAF – to be removed

(How much harm is caused in your local area by...)
... immigration crime, including human trafficking and smuggling?

1...10

(Replaced with the following questions using a new scale and an updated list of activities)

(New question 9)

How much harm is caused in your local area by each of the following; that is within a 15 minute walk from here?

Drug dealing

Armed robbery / Tiger kidnappings

Fuel laundering / Fuel smuggling (excise fraud)

Cigarette/tobacco smuggling (excise fraud)

Trading in counterfeit goods / stolen goods

Protection/extortion/racketeering

Illegal money lending / Loan sharks

Modern slavery (including human trafficking)

Prostitution

Illegal waste dumping

1=*Extremely harmful.*

2=*Fairly harmful.*

3=Little harm.

4=Does not happen in my local area.

5=Don't know.

(This is question ImpactOC from the Crime Survey, using the new list of options from Q2 above, and switched to 5 choices rather than a 1-10 scale)

HARMOC2 – to be removed

Overall, how much harm is caused in your local area by organised crime?

1...10

(Not used, and has been replaced with new questions earlier in the module)

(New question 10)

Do you believe there are any links between organised crime and ongoing paramilitary activity within your local area; that is within a 15 minute walk from here?

1=Yes.

2=No.

3=Some.

(This is question DoJ4 from the Omnibus)

(New question 11)

What level of influence do paramilitary groups have within your local area; that is within a 15 minute walk from here?

1=A lot of influence.

2=Some influence.

3=Limited influence.

4=No influence.

5=Don't know.

(New question)

(New question 12)

If 'some' or 'a lot' (from New Question 11), how would you describe this influence?

1=Positive influence.

2=More positive than negative.

3=Both positive and negative.

4=More negative than positive.

5=Negative influence.

(New question. Only for those answering 3 or 4 to New Question 11)

(New question 13)

How common do you feel paramilitary style attacks are in your area?

1=Very common.

2=Fairly common.

3=Not very common.

4=Does not occur in my area.

5=Don't know.

(New question)

(New question 14)

What role, if any, is there for members of the public (including yourself) to play in tackling organised crime?

1=I don't have a role.

2=Report to the police or other law enforcement body (e.g. NCA, HMRC).

3=To contact Crimestoppers.

4=To give evidence in court.

5=To refuse to purchase counterfeit or illicit goods or services.

6=To dissuade others, for example your children, from purchasing counterfeit goods or services.

7=To speak to elected representatives.

8=*Other (please specify).*

(This is question DoJ8 from the Omnibus, with an updated list of options (2, 3, 5 have all been combined into an all-encompassing “law enforcement” option))

(New question 15)

What would prevent you from reporting an incident or suspected incident linked to organised crime to the police?

1=*Nothing.*

2=*Fear of reprisal.*

3=*Not sure how to report something to the police.*

4=*Personal reputation (e.g. being called a ‘tout’).*

5=*They’re not harming anybody.*

6=*Not my business / I don’t want to get involved.*

7=*Don’t want to get anyone in trouble.*

8=*Don’t think the police would do anything about it.*

9=*Other (please specify).*

(This is question DoJ901-DoJ907 from the Omnibus, with a slightly updated list of options)

HARMRAT – to be removed

How much would you say the level of harm associated with organised crime has changed in the past 12 months in your local area? Would you say it is causing more harm or less harm?

1=*A lot more harm.*

2=*A little more harm.*

3=*About the same.*

4=*A little less harm.*

5=*A lot less harm.*

(Not used, and has been replaced with new questions earlier in the module)