

NRCN

National Rural Crime Network

The true cost of crime in rural areas

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All Party Parliamentary Group on Rural Services and Policing

Today's meeting

- What is the NRCN?
- Why was a survey needed?
- Results and implications
- Working together

Members

- 30 Police and Crime Commissioners
- Countryside Alliance
- NFU Mutual
- Historic England
- CLA
- Crimestoppers
- Farmers Union of Wales
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Farmers Weekly Magazine
- National Community Safety Network
- Facewatch

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RESULTS

Topline findings

- At £800m, the cost dwarfs previous estimates
- Fear of crime is disproportionate to actual crime levels and is increasing
- Rural communities are strong – they are putting up and making do as best they can
- Confidence in the police is *significantly* lower (24%) in rural areas than the national average
- Businesses, hard-pressed families and people close to urban areas are particularly at risk
- The emotional and monetary cost of crime is high
- There is chronic under-reporting and people do not often claim on their insurance

The cost of crime...

- **Financial impact of crime on rural economy is significant**
 - True cost is £800 million
 - equivalent to £200 for every household in the countryside
 - The average cost to rural households who are victims of crime is £2,500 and £4,100 for rural businesses
- **There is also an emotional cost**
 - Anger, frustration
 - A 'viscious' circle leading to under reporting and increasing lack of confidence, perceived poor levels of response and under reporting...
 - One in four victims did not report further crimes

Fear of crime is increasing

- Despite lower 'threat, risk and harm' in comparison to urban areas, people in rural areas are more afraid of crime
 - 39% of rural people are very or fairly worried about becoming a victim of crime, compared to 19% nationally
 - Rural businesses are the most fearful of becoming victims of crime, with 51% very or fairly fearful,
 - Closely followed by younger families
 - This contrasts with 'convention' which often has older people as the most worried

Low satisfaction with policing

- 39% of rural people rate the police as good or excellent
- This figure is 63% nationally
- Among rural businesses the figure was just 32%

But rural communities are resilient

- **Rural communities are resilient**
 - Clear community spirit, and getting stronger
 - Good base for engagement
- **Local Authorities need to pay heed**
 - Two issues of great concern not ‘crimes’
 - 63% of rural people concerned about road safety
 - 61% of rural people concerned about fly-tipping

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IMPLICATIONS

We are calling for...

1. Fair funding for rural policing
2. Encourage reporting of all incidents
3. Police, government and other partners must work better together
4. Improved targeting of resources
5. Greater focus on 'what works' and best practice
6. Improved local engagement and working
7. A better service for rural businesses

How you can help

- Fair funding
 - Funding formula being discussed now
- Not just a Police matter, Local Authorities and Health key
- Devolution
- Operational 'context'
 - 'Demand' vs population
 - Threat, risk and harm
 - Vulnerablitlity
 - Resilience

Ideas for working together

■ Parliament (formally and informally)

- Write to Rt Hon Mike Penning, Minister for Policing
- Raise it in the lobbies
- EDM
- Backbench/Westminster Hall debates
- APPG to join NRCN?

■ Constituency

- Liaise with local press
- Join forces with local Commissioners
- Write to Local Authority Leaders
- Write to Chief Constables

SIGN THE PETITION – building on Devon and Cornwall work. MPs to sign, and encourage constituents to sign – [NRCN website](#). 850 so far