

SB 37/2009

24 June 2009

Crime Comparisons, 2007-08

This statistical bulletin compares crime in Wales with the nine English Government Office regions. Data for the four Welsh police forces are also included.

Police recorded crime statistics provide a good measure of trends in well-reported crimes and can be used for local crime pattern analysis. They do not include unreported crimes or crimes that the police decide not to record. Police recording practice is governed by the Home Office Counting Rules and the National Crime Recording Standard. For more information please refer to the [Home Office website](#).

The British Crime Survey (BCS) is a survey of crimes against adults aged 16 and over living in private households in England and Wales. The main aim of the survey is to provide information about the extent and trends in crime, and about people's experiences and perceptions of crime and crime-related topics. For the crime types it covers, the BCS provides a more reliable measure of trends in crime as it has a consistent methodology and is unaffected by changes in levels of reporting to the police, recording practice or police activity.

Key Points:

Police recorded crime

- Wales had a lower rate of total crime than England (lower than 7 of the 9 Government Office Regions in 2007-08).

British Crime Survey

- Wales had lower rates than England for both household and personal crime in 2007-08, ranking third lowest for household crime and second lowest for personal crime when compared with the Government Office Regions in England.
- Wales had fairly low proportions of respondents with high levels of worry about crime, but a higher proportion of respondents perceiving high levels of anti-social behaviour.
- Respondents in Wales had low levels of confidence in the criminal justice system, ranking lowest for confidence in local police and second lowest for confidence in the criminal justice system as a whole.

Contact: Tel: 029 2082 5061 E-mail: stats.inclusion@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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Cyhoeddwyd gan Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Ystadegol
Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, Parc Cathays, Caerdydd, CF10 3NQ
Ffon - Swyddfa'r Wasg **029 2089 8099**, Ymholiadau Cyhoeddus **029 2082 5050**
www.cymru.gov.uk/ystadegau

Issued by Statistical Directorate
Welsh Assembly Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ
Telephone - Press Office **029 2089 8099**, Public Enquiries **029 2082 5050**
www.wales.gov.uk/statistics



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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Police Recorded Crime

Wales had a low rate of total crime compared with the nine English Government Office Regions in 2007-08, ranking third lowest, between the South East and South West. Of the ten main offence groups, Wales ranked:

- 7 out of 10 for violence against the person;
- 8 out of 10 for sexual offences;
- 10 out of 10 for robbery;
- 7 out of 10 for burglary;
- 5 out of 10 for offences against vehicles;
- 10 out of 10 for other theft offences;
- 9 out of 10 for fraud and forgery;
- 5 out of 10 for criminal damage;
- 3 out of 10 for drug offences;
- 7 out of 10 for other offences.

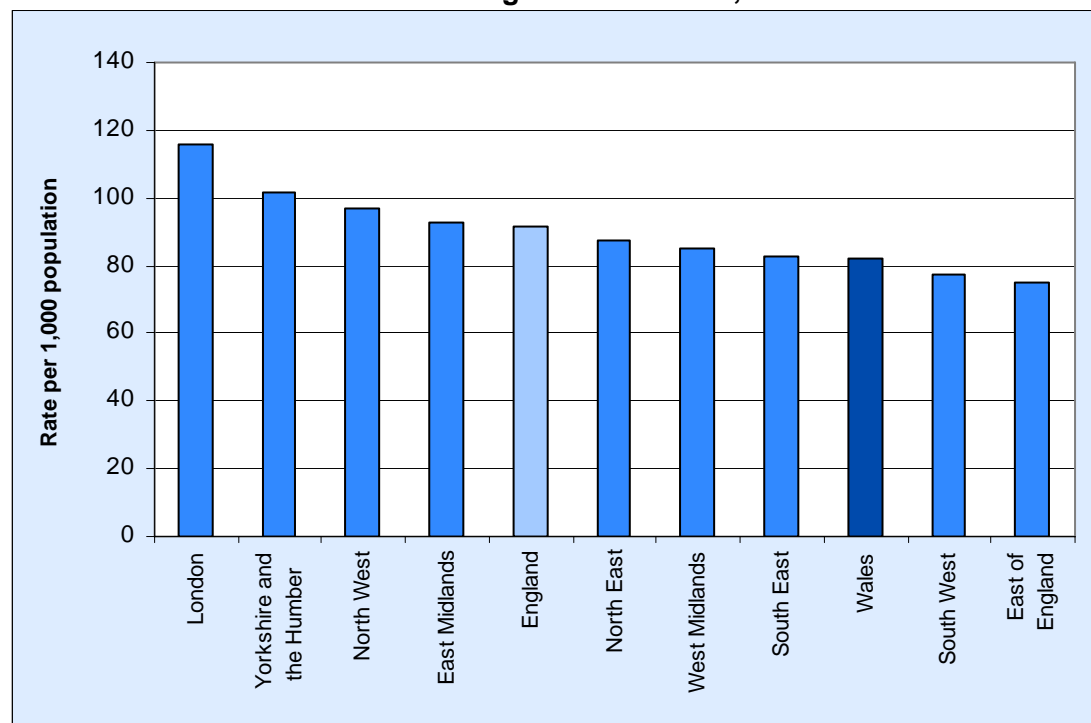
Wales had lower rates than England as a whole for all offence groups except criminal damage and drug offences.

Table 1: Recorded crime in England and Wales, 2007-08

| | <i>Rates per 1,000 population</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------|----------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | Total recorded crime | Violence against the person | Sexual offences | Robbery | Burglary | Offences against vehicles | Other theft offences | Fraud and forgery | Criminal damage | Drug offences | Other offences |
| England | 91 | 18 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 12 | 21 | 3 | 19 | 4 | 1 |
| North East | 88 | 16 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 19 | 2 | 24 | 3 | 2 |
| North West | 97 | 17 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 13 | 20 | 3 | 23 | 5 | 2 |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 101 | 18 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 14 | 22 | 3 | 23 | 3 | 1 |
| East Midlands | 93 | 17 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 13 | 21 | 3 | 21 | 3 | 1 |
| West Midlands | 85 | 18 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 12 | 17 | 3 | 18 | 3 | 1 |
| East of England | 75 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 10 | 18 | 3 | 17 | 3 | 1 |
| London | 116 | 23 | 1 | 5 | 13 | 16 | 28 | 4 | 14 | 10 | 1 |
| South East | 83 | 18 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 10 | 19 | 3 | 18 | 3 | 1 |
| South West | 78 | 15 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 10 | 18 | 2 | 18 | 3 | 1 |
| Wales | 82 | 17 | 1 | - | 9 | 12 | 16 | 2 | 20 | 4 | 1 |

Source: Home Office

Chart 1: Total recorded crime in England and Wales, 2007-08



Source: Home Office

Of the police force areas in Wales, South Wales had the highest rate of total crime in 2007-08, followed by Gwent. South Wales had the highest rates for all offence groups except violence against the person and sexual offences, for which Gwent recorded the highest rate, and other offences, for which North Wales had the highest. Dyfed-Powys had the lowest rates for all offence groups except drug offences, for which it placed second highest.

Table 1 (cont.): Recorded crime in Wales, 2007-08

| | <i>Rates per 1,000 population</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------|----------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | Total recorded crime | Violence against the person | Sexual offences | Robbery | Burglary | Offences against vehicles | Other theft offences | Fraud and forgery | Criminal damage | Drug offences | Other offences |
| Wales | 82 | 17 | 1 | - | 9 | 12 | 16 | 2 | 20 | 4 | 1 |
| Dyfed-Powys | 51 | 12 | 1 | - | 4 | 4 | 10 | 1 | 13 | 5 | 1 |
| Gwent | 87 | 18 | 1 | - | 10 | 13 | 15 | 2 | 22 | 4 | 1 |
| North Wales | 67 | 16 | 1 | - | 6 | 5 | 13 | 1 | 19 | 4 | 1 |
| South Wales | 101 | 18 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 18 | 21 | 2 | 23 | 5 | 1 |

Source: Home Office

British Crime Survey: Offence Groups

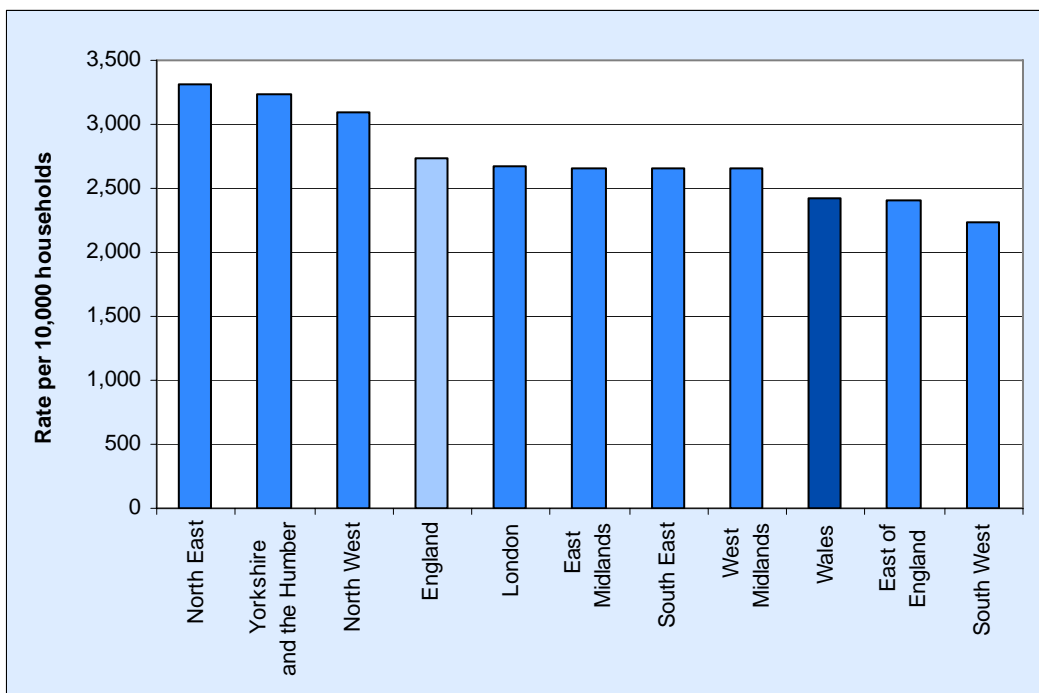
Wales had the third lowest rate of household crime in 2007-08, between the West Midlands and the East of England, and the second lowest rate of personal crime, between the East of England and the South West. The rates of household and personal crime in Wales in 2007-08 were not statistically significantly different to that of 2006-07.

Table 2: Household and personal crime in England and Wales, 2007-08

| | Household crime | | Personal crime | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Rate per 10,000 households | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 | Rate per 10,000 adults | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 |
| England | 2,739 | Down | 857 | Down |
| North East | 3,306 | | 869 | |
| North West | 3,098 | | 804 | Down |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 3,237 | | 899 | |
| East Midlands | 2,662 | Down | 842 | |
| West Midlands | 2,653 | | 818 | |
| East of England | 2,403 | | 729 | |
| London | 2,670 | Down | 1,072 | |
| South East | 2,658 | | 898 | |
| South West | 2,233 | Down | 691 | |
| Wales | 2,418 | | 709 | |

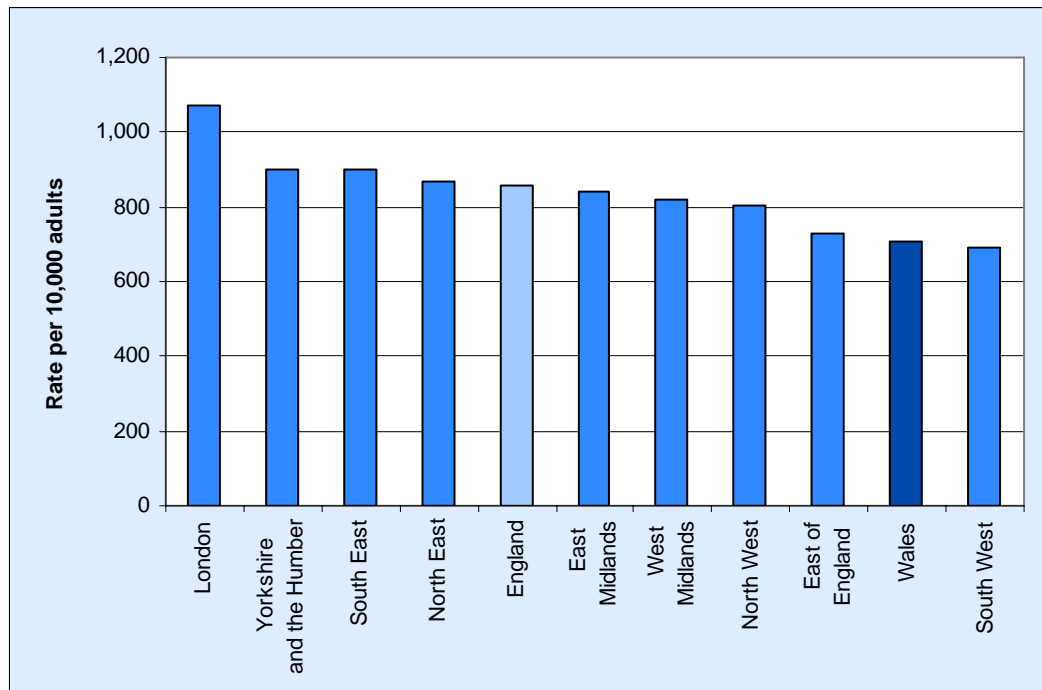
Source: Home Office

Chart 2: Household crime in England and Wales, 2007-08



Source: Home Office

Chart 3: Personal crime in England and Wales, 2007-08



Source: Home Office

Gwent had the highest rate of both household and personal crime in 2007-08, followed by South Wales. North Wales was the only force area to show a statistically significant decrease from the previous year.

Table 2 (cont.): Household and personal crime in Wales, 2007-08

| | Household crime | | Personal Crime | |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Rate per 10,000 households | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 | Rate per 10,000 adults | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 |
| Wales | 2,418 | | 709 | |
| Dyfed-Powys | 1,456 | | 645 | |
| Gwent | 4,039 | | 1,272 | |
| North Wales | 1,508 | Down | 392 | Down |
| South Wales | 2,587 | | 646 | |

Source: Home Office

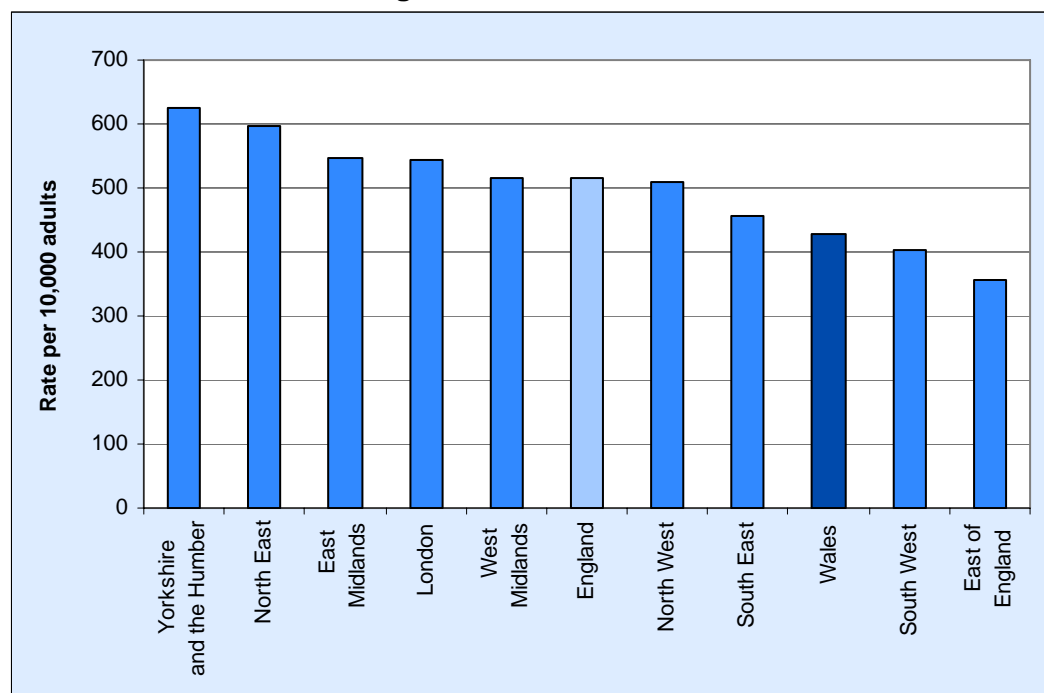
In 2007-08, Wales had low rates of violence, burglary and vehicle theft compared with the Government Office Regions, placing 8 out of 10 for violent crime, 7 out of 10 for burglary and 9 out of 10 for vehicle theft. The only statistically significant change for Wales between 2006-07 and 2007-08 was a reduction in the rate of all vehicle thefts.

Table 3: Personal and household offences in England and Wales, 2007-08

| | Violent crime | | Burglary | | All vehicle thefts | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Rate per 10,000 adults | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 | Rate per 10,000 households | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 | Rate per 10,000 households | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 |
| England | 516 | | 310 | | 642 | Down |
| North East | 598 | | 346 | | 548 | |
| North West | 508 | Down | 376 | | 738 | |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 624 | | 355 | | 704 | |
| East Midlands | 546 | | 347 | | 604 | |
| West Midlands | 517 | | 308 | | 611 | Down |
| East of England | 356 | | 233 | | 516 | |
| London | 542 | | 332 | | 914 | |
| South East | 456 | | 274 | | 566 | |
| South West | 402 | | 245 | | 440 | Down |
| Wales | 429 | | 281 | | 497 | Down |

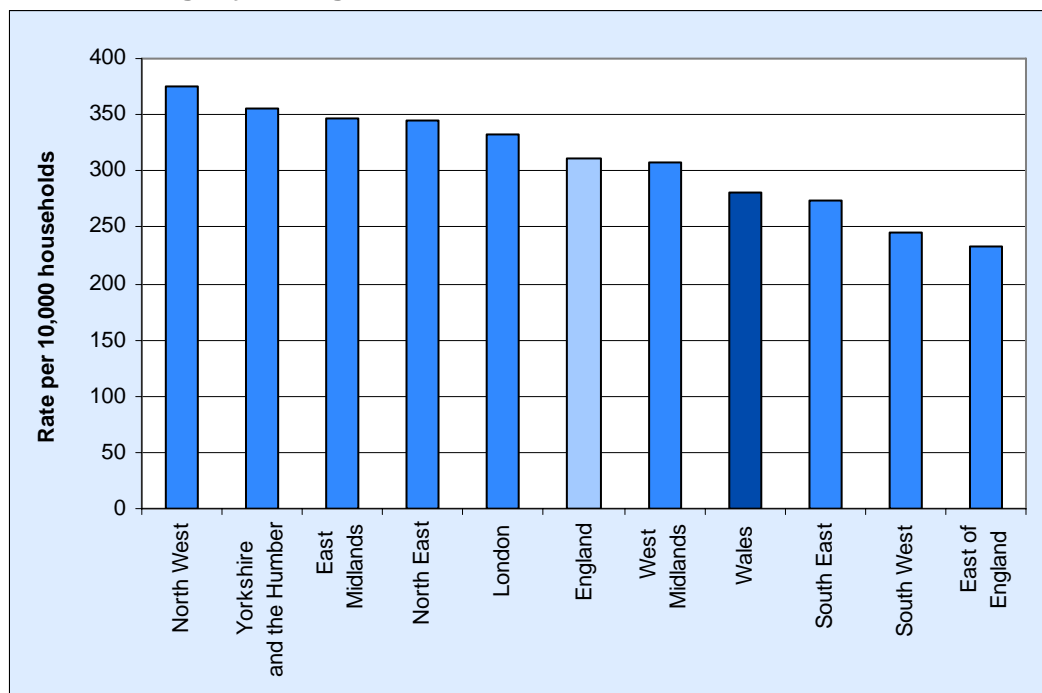
Source: Home Office

Chart 4: Violent crime in England and Wales, 2007-08



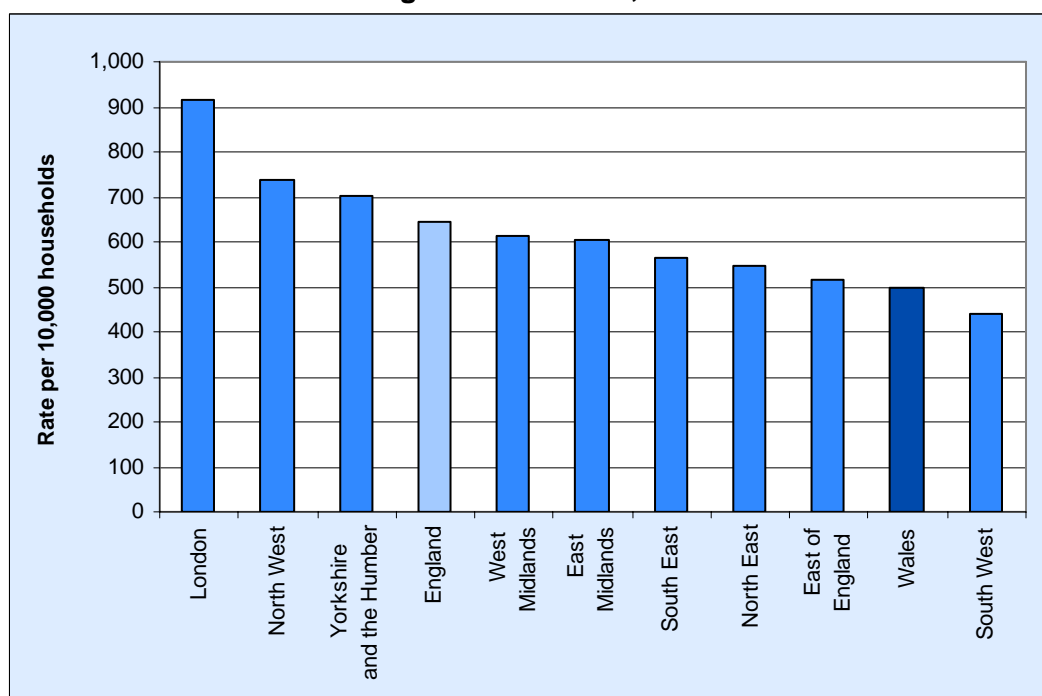
Source: Home Office

Chart 5: Burglary in England and Wales, 2007-08



Source: Home Office

Chart 6: Vehicle thefts in England and Wales, 2007-08



Source: Home Office

Gwent had the highest rates of violent crime, burglary and vehicle theft in Wales. The rate of violent crime for Gwent in 2007-08 was statistically significantly higher than the previous year. South Wales had a statistically significantly lower rate of vehicle thefts in 2007-08 than in 2006-07.

Table 3 (cont.): Personal and household offences in Wales, 2007-08

| | Violent crime | | Burglary | | All vehicle thefts | |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Rate per 10,000 adults | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 | Rate per 10,000 households | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 | Rate per 10,000 households | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 |
| Wales | 429 | | 281 | | 497 | Down |
| Dyfed-Powys | 470 | | 132 | | 258 | |
| Gwent | 885 | Up | 387 | | 880 | |
| North Wales | 238 | | 173 | | 381 | |
| South Wales | 303 | | 357 | | 488 | Down |

Source: Home Office

British Crime Survey: Fear of Crime

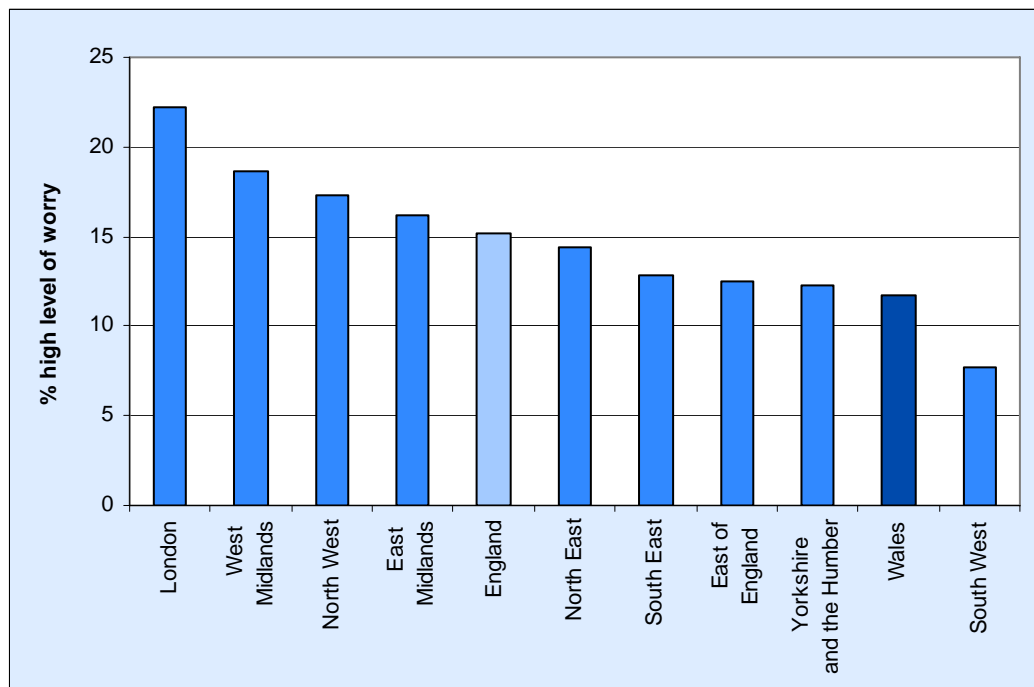
In the British Crime Survey, respondents are asked questions on how worried they are about certain types of crime. In 2007-08, Wales placed 9 out of 10 for the proportion of respondents with a high level of worry about violent crime. Wales placed 7 out of 10 and 6 out of 10 for respondents with a high level of worry about burglary and car crime, respectively.

Table 4: Fear of crime in England and Wales, 2007-08

| | High level of worry about violent crime | | High level of worry about burglary | | High level of worry about car crime | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Percentage | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 | Percentage | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 | Percentage | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 |
| England | 15 | Down | 12 | Down | 12 | Down |
| North East | 14 | | 10 | | 12 | |
| North West | 17 | | 13 | | 14 | |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 12 | | 11 | | 12 | |
| East Midlands | 16 | | 13 | | 14 | |
| West Midlands | 19 | | 14 | | 15 | |
| East of England | 13 | Down | 9 | | 9 | |
| London | 22 | Down | 17 | | 16 | |
| South East | 13 | | 9 | | 10 | |
| South West | 8 | Down | 7 | | 8 | Down |
| Wales | 12 | | 10 | | 12 | |

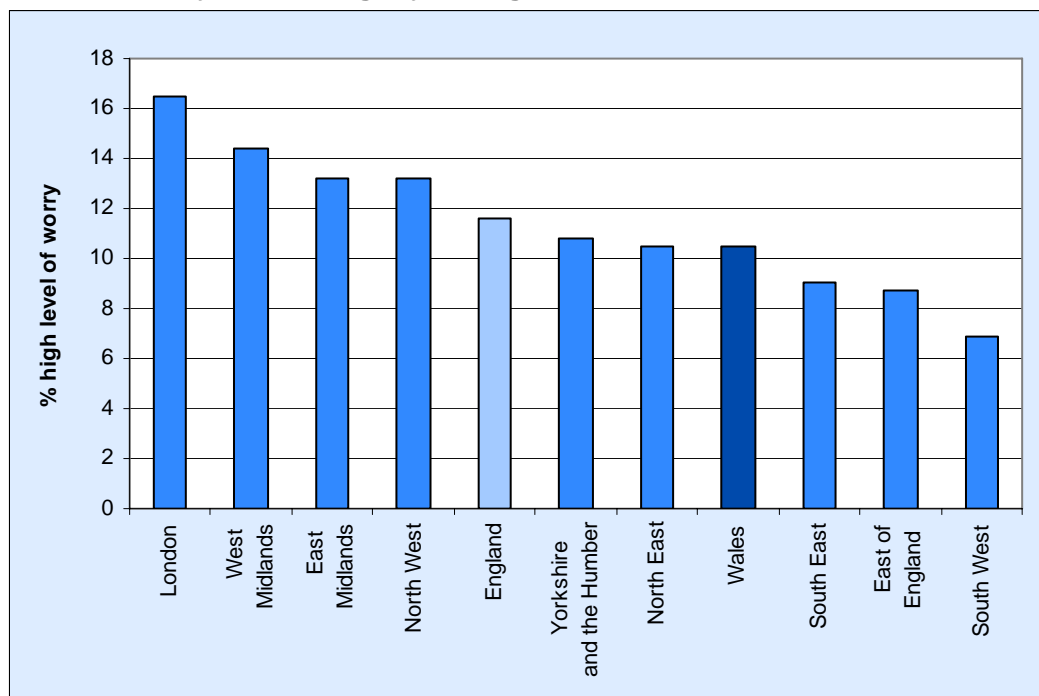
Source: Home Office

Chart 7: Worry about violent crime in England and Wales, 2007-08



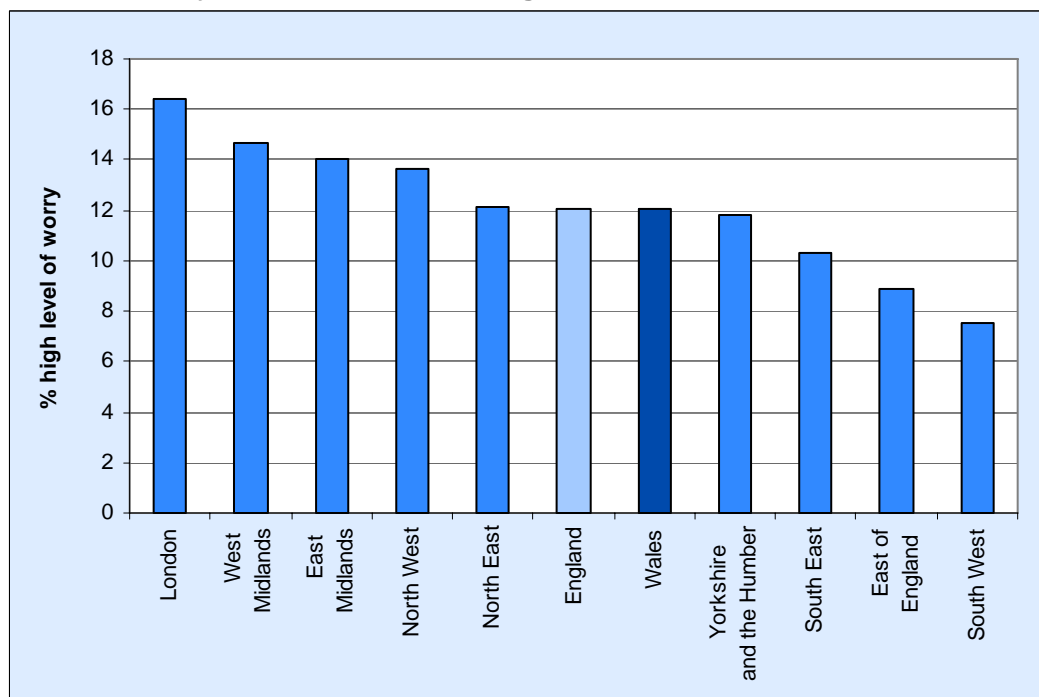
Source: Home Office

Chart 8: Worry about burglary in England and Wales, 2007-08



Source: Home Office

Chart 9: Worry about car crime in England and Wales, 2007-08



Source: Home Office

South Wales had the highest proportions of respondents with a high level of worry about violent crime and burglary, whilst Gwent had the highest proportion for worry about car crime. Dyfed-Powys had the smallest proportion of respondents with high levels of worry for all three components.

Table 4 (cont.): Fear of crime in Wales, 2007-08

| | High level of worry about violent crime | | High level of worry about burglary | | High level of worry about car crime | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Percentage | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 | Percentage | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 | Percentage | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 |
| Wales | 12 | | 10 | | 12 | |
| Dyfed-Powys | 5 | | 5 | | 6 | |
| Gwent | 9 | | 10 | | 15 | |
| North Wales | 13 | | 11 | | 11 | |
| South Wales | 16 | | 13 | | 14 | |

Source: Home Office

British Crime Survey: Perceptions of anti-social behaviour

Respondents in Wales perceived higher levels of anti-social behaviour in their local areas than respondents in the English Government Office Regions, placing 2 out of 10 for overall perceptions of anti-social behaviour. Of the seven individual components respondents were asked about, Wales ranked:

- 1 out of 10 for perception that drug use or dealing is a fairly or very big problem;
- 3 out of 10 for perception of drunk or rowdy behaviour;
- 5 out of 10 for perception of teenagers hanging around;
- 7 out of 10 for perception of vandalism, graffiti or other deliberate damage;
- 2 out of 10 for perception of noisy neighbours or loud parties;
- 6 out of 10 for perception of rubbish or litter;
- 3 out of 10 for perception of abandoned or burnt-out cars.

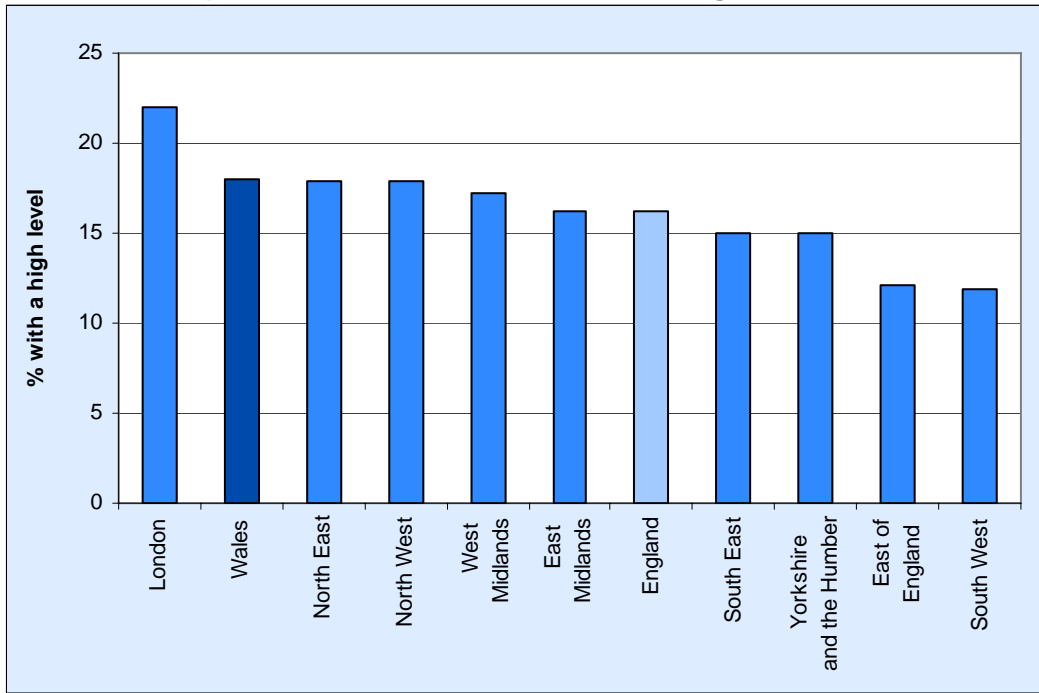
In Wales, drug use or dealing was perceived to be a problem by a larger proportion of respondents than the other 6 components.

Table 5: Perceptions of anti-social behaviour in England and Wales, 2007-08

| | High level of perceived anti-social behaviour | | Types of behaviour perceived to be a fairly or very big problem | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | | | Drug use or dealing | Drunk or rowdy behaviour | Teenagers hanging around | Vandalism/graffiti/other deliberate damage | Noisy neighbours or loud parties | Rubbish or litter | Abandoned or burnt-out cars | |
| | % | Change | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | |
| England | 16 | Down | 26 | 25 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| North East | 18 | | 28 | 28 | 33 | 29 | 10 | 34 | 6 | |
| North West | 18 | | 29 | 28 | 35 | 27 | 10 | 34 | 6 | |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 15 | | 28 | 21 | 30 | 28 | 10 | 31 | 7 | |
| East Midlands | 16 | | 25 | 23 | 29 | 25 | 10 | 30 | 8 | |
| West Midlands | 17 | | 27 | 23 | 32 | 28 | 10 | 33 | 7 | |
| East of England | 12 | | 20 | 20 | 26 | 23 | 8 | 24 | 5 | |
| London | 22 | Down | 31 | 31 | 37 | 33 | 14 | 36 | 11 | |
| South East | 15 | | 23 | 25 | 30 | 28 | 10 | 28 | 6 | |
| South West | 12 | | 21 | 23 | 25 | 22 | 8 | 26 | 4 | |
| Wales | 18 | | 32 | 28 | 30 | 26 | 11 | 30 | 7 | |

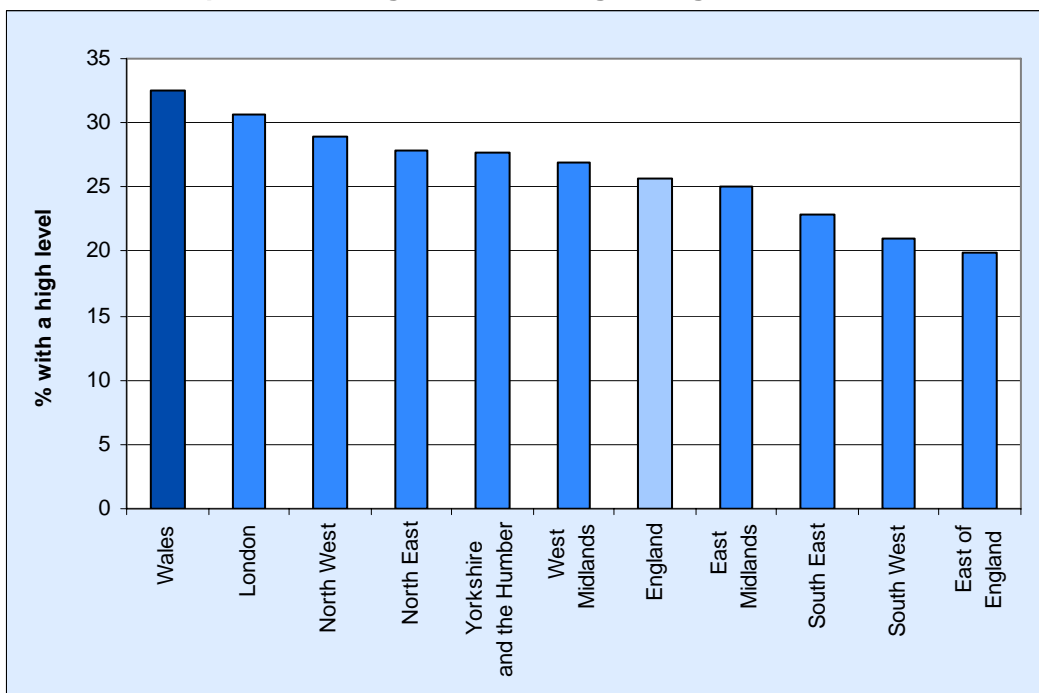
Source: Home Office

Chart 8: Perceptions of anti-social behaviour in England and Wales, 2007-08



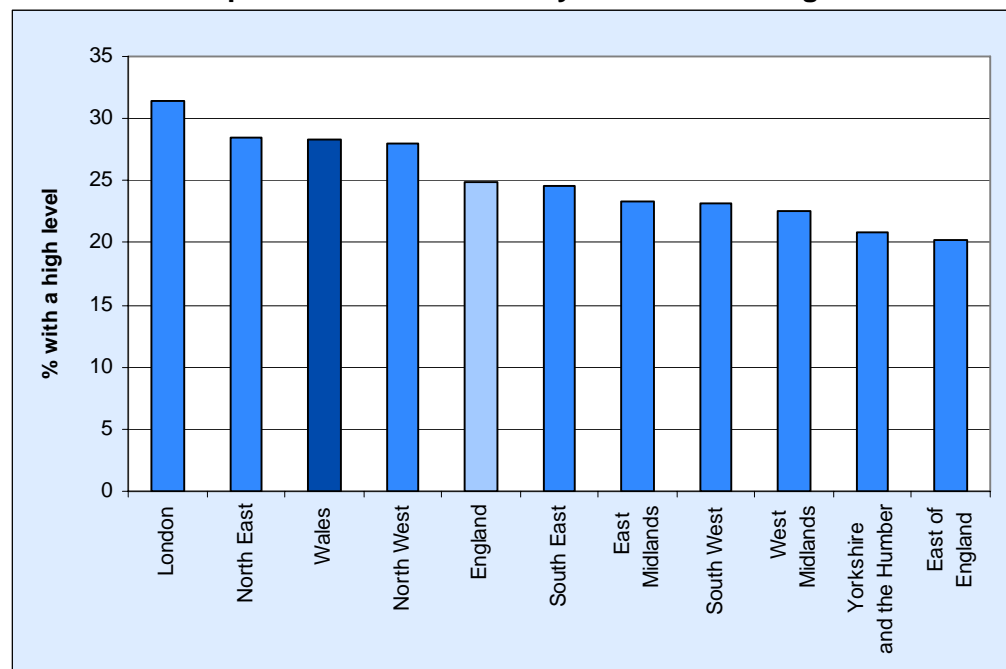
Source: Home Office

Chart 9: Perceptions of drug use or dealing in England and Wales, 2007-08



Source: Home Office

Chart 10: Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour in England and Wales, 2007-08



Source: Home Office

South Wales had the highest percentage of respondents perceiving high levels of overall anti-social behaviour and of both components with available data, followed by Gwent. Dyfed-Powys had the lowest percentage for overall perceptions and for both components with available data.

Table 5 (cont.): Perceptions of crime in Wales, 2007-08

| | High level of perceived anti-social behaviour | | Types of behaviour perceived to be a fairly or very big problem | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | Drug use or dealing | Drunk or rowdy behaviour | Teenagers hanging around | Vandalism/ graffiti/other deliberate damage | Noisy neighbours or loud parties | Rubbish or litter | Abandoned or burnt-out cars |
| | % | Change | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Wales | 18 | | 32 | 28 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Dyfed-Powys | 9 | | 25 | 18 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Gwent | 22 | | 34 | 30 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| North Wales | 13 | | 31 | 24 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| South Wales | 23 | | 35 | 34 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |

Source: Home Office

British Crime Survey: Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

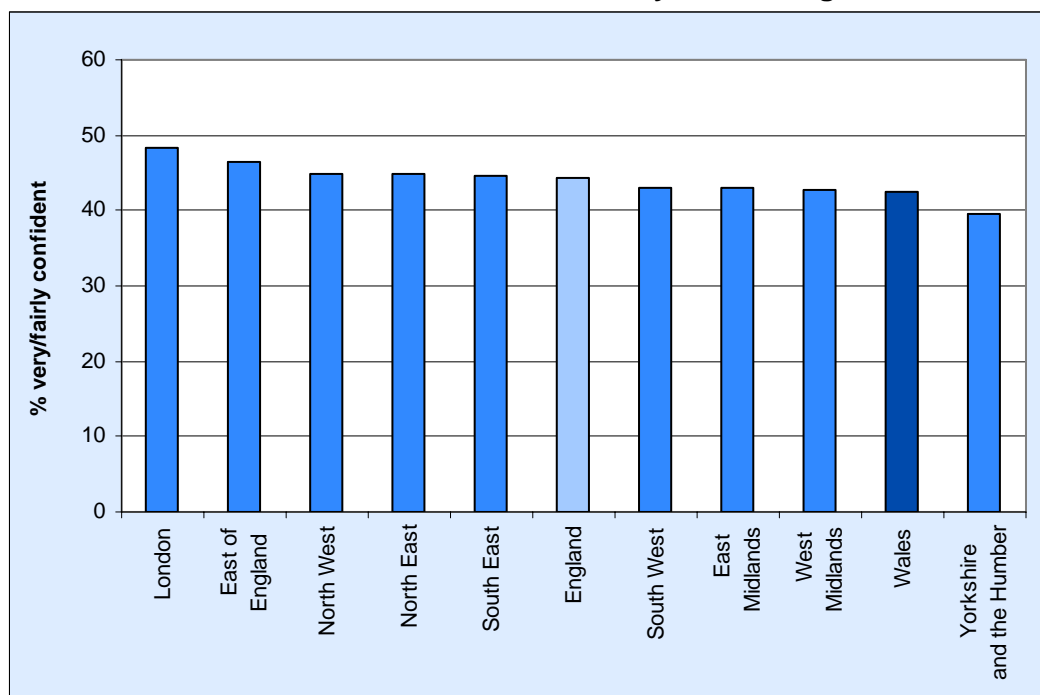
Respondents in Wales had lower levels of confidence in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) than the English Government Office Regions. Wales ranked 9 out of 10 for confidence that the CJS is effective in bringing people to justice, 10 out of 10 for confidence in local police, 7 out of 10 for confidence that police understand local concerns and 8 out of 10 for confidence that police are dealing with local concerns. Confidence in Wales was lower than England as a whole across all 4 components.

Table 6: Confidence in the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales, 2007-08

| | CJS effective in bringing people to justice | | Confidence in local police | | Police understand local concerns | | Police deal with local concerns | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Percentage very/fairly confident | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 | Percentage excellent/good job | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 | Percentage agree | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 | Percentage agree | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 |
| England | 44 | Up | 53 | Up | 62 | Up | 51 | Up |
| North East | 45 | Up | 55 | | 68 | Up | 58 | Up |
| North West | 45 | Up | 52 | | 62 | Up | 50 | |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 40 | | 49 | | 61 | | 47 | |
| East Midlands | 43 | Up | 48 | | 62 | Up | 48 | |
| West Midlands | 43 | Up | 50 | | 61 | | 51 | Up |
| East of England | 46 | Up | 55 | | 65 | | 53 | |
| London | 48 | | 55 | | 58 | | 52 | |
| South East | 45 | Up | 55 | | 63 | | 52 | Up |
| South West | 43 | | 54 | | 66 | Up | 52 | Up |
| Wales | 42 | | 48 | | 62 | | 49 | |

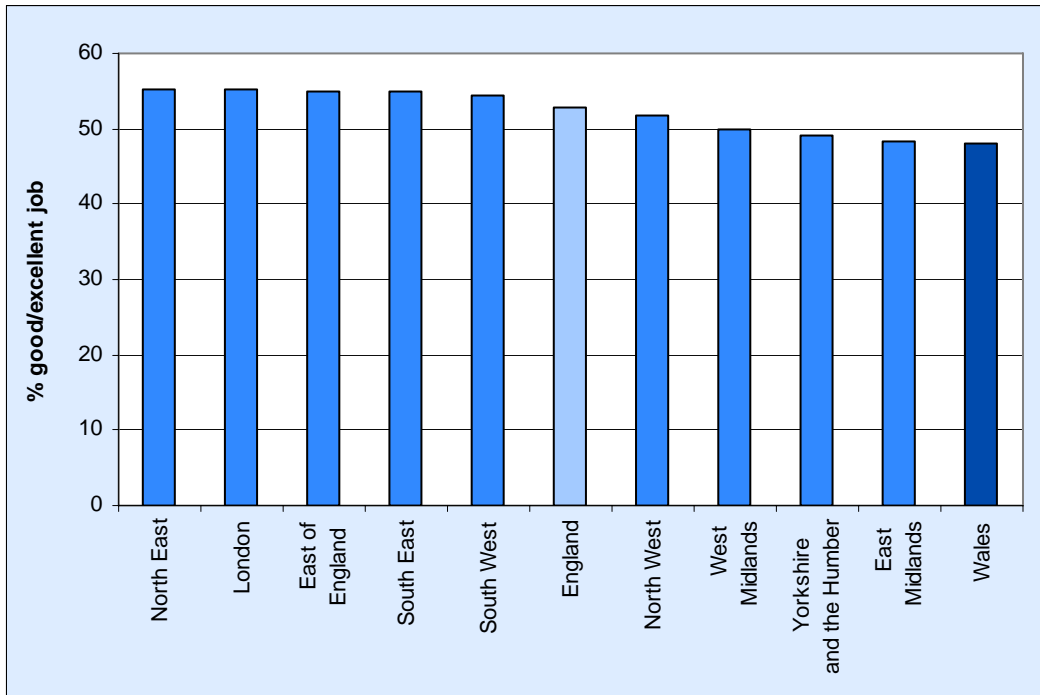
Source: Home Office

Chart 11: Confidence in the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales, 2007-08



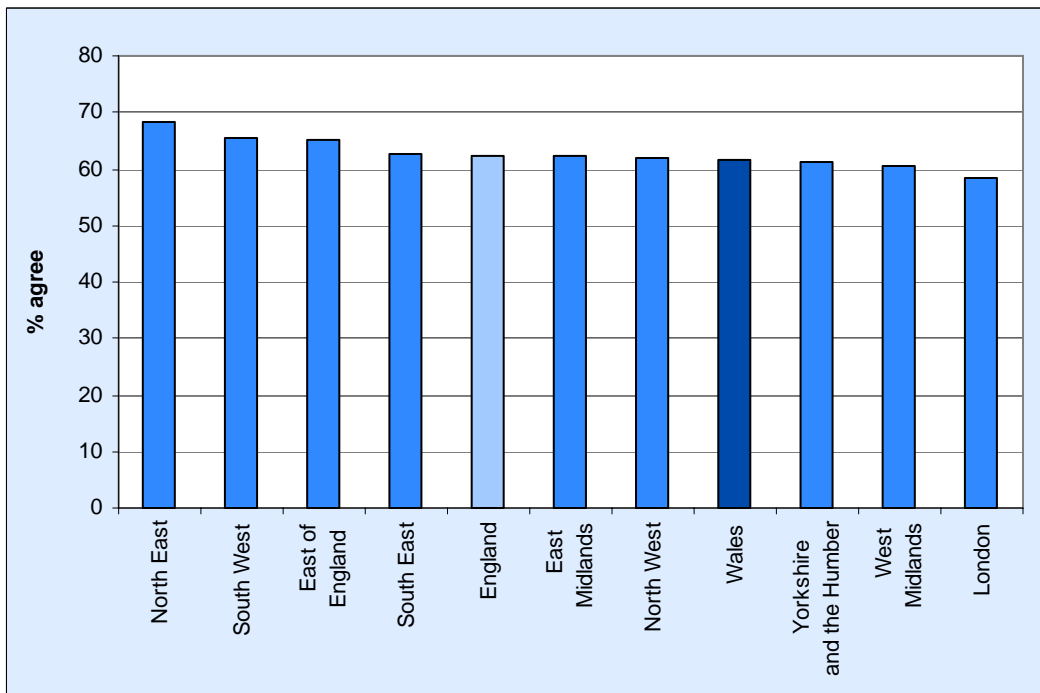
Source: Home Office

Chart 12: Confidence in local police in England and Wales, 2007-08



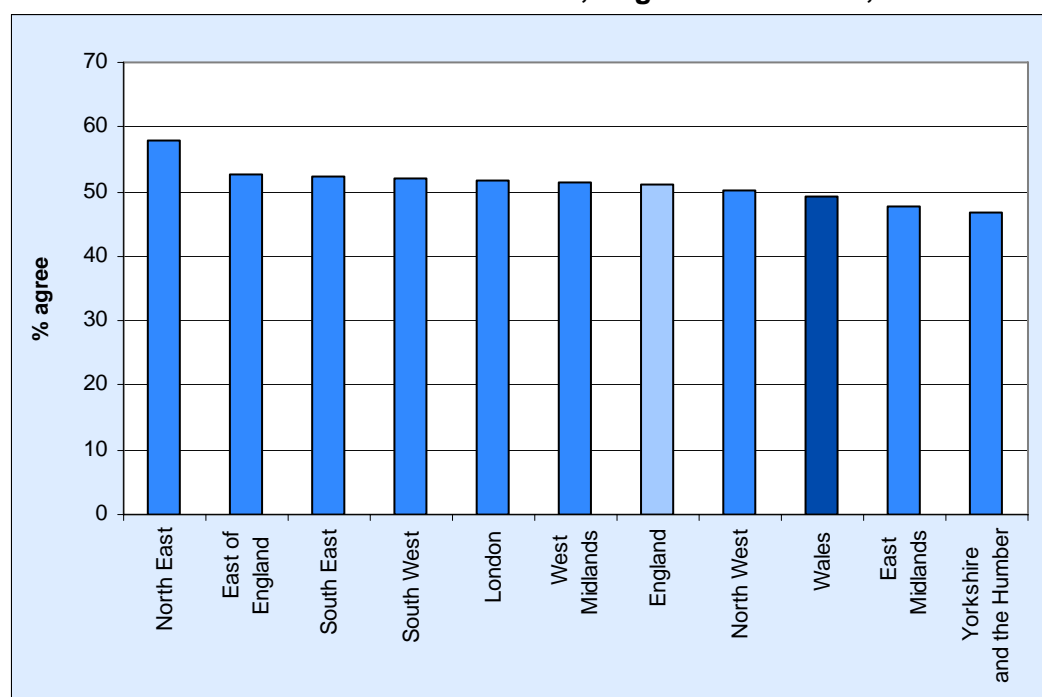
Source: Home Office

Chart 13: Police understand local concerns, England and Wales, 2007-08



Source: Home Office

Chart 14: Police deal with local concerns, England and Wales, 2007-08



Source: Home Office

Dyfed-Powys had the highest confidence levels across all 4 categories and had a statistically significant increase from the previous year in the proportion of respondents very or fairly confident that the Criminal Justice System is effective in bringing people to justice. Respondents in Gwent had the lowest levels of confidence in all 4 categories.

Table 6 (cont.): Confidence in the Criminal Justice System in Wales, 2007-08

| | CJS effective in bringing people to justice | | Confidence in local police | | Police understand local concerns | | Police deal with local concerns | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Percentage very/fairly confident | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 | Percentage excellent/good job | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 | Percentage agree | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 | Percentage agree | Change 2006-07 to 2007-08 |
| Wales | 42 | | 48 | | 62 | | 49 | |
| Dyfed-Powys | 50 | Up | 56 | | 72 | | 59 | |
| Gwent | 35 | | 39 | | 57 | | 42 | |
| North Wales | 43 | | 47 | | 63 | | 51 | |
| South Wales | 43 | | 49 | | 58 | | 47 | |

Source: Home Office

A new set of questions was included in the British Crime Survey from October 2007 relating to levels of confidence in the police working with local agencies to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime. The table below shows the percentage of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed that 'The police and local council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in this area' for the year to September 2008.

Respondents in South Wales had the lowest confidence, followed by respondents in Gwent. Both South Wales and Gwent had confidence levels that were statistically significantly lower than England and Wales as a whole.

Table 7: Confidence in police and local councils in dealing with ASB and crime, 2007-08

| | Percentage agree/ strongly agree | Statistically significantly different from England and Wales |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wales | 40.9 | .. |
| Dyfed-Powys | 43.8 | |
| Gwent | 39.3 | Lower |
| North Wales | 44.7 | |
| South Wales | 38.7 | Lower |
| England and Wales | 46.0 | . |

Key quality information

Data source

Recorded crime and British Crime Survey data for England and Wales were obtained from the Home Office, [Crime in England and Wales 2007/08](#), Perceptions of anti-social behaviour: Findings from the 2007/08 British Crime Survey Supplementary Volume 1 to Crime in England and Wales 2007/08 and Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2007/08 Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2007/08. Drug trafficking data was provided by the Home Office.

Prison population data for England and Wales were obtained from the Ministry of Justice, [Population in Custody Monthly Tables](#), England & Wales, August 2007. Data for police officer strength for England and Wales were taken from the Home Office, [Police Service Strength](#), England and Wales, 31 March 2007.

Further details on data quality and comparability can be obtained from Eurostat, [Crime and Criminal Justice - Comparisons page](#) and the Home Office, Crime in England and Wales 2007/08.

Symbols used

Missing value and statistical significance symbols used in the bulletin are as outlined below.

- .. The data item is not available
- . The data item is not applicable
- The data item is not exactly zero, but estimated as zero or less than half the final digit shown
- * The data item is disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication

Up / Down Denotes a statistically significant change at the 5 per cent level compared with the previous year.