

OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

LEAD CHIEF OFFICER: Chief Executive

TITLE: Evaluation of the 2015 'Your Policing - Your Voice' Consultation on the Police and Crime Plan Priorities


DATE: 19th November 2015

TIMING: In line with planning cycle and review of Police and Crime Plan priorities.

PURPOSE: To inform Police and Crime Plan priorities


1.	<p><u>RECOMMENDATION</u></p> <p>To note the evaluation report at Annex A to inform the review of the Police and Crime Plan priorities for 2016/17.</p>
2.	<p><u>INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND</u></p> <p>The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent (PCC) has a statutory duty to develop a Police and Crime Plan to provide the strategic direction for Gwent Police. There is a Government expectation that this is carried out in consultation with the public.</p> <p>The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) published an E-consultation on the PCC website called 'Your Policing – Your Voice' from 1st June 2015 to 21st August 2015, which asked the residents of Gwent for their views on the following, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rating how important the existing police and crime priorities were to them• Identifying which emerging local crime trends were most important to them• Identifying which emerging national crime trends were of most concern to them <p>The consultation asked 5 questions which included 1 free text option to garner public opinion on what matters most to the public in relation to their policing service.</p>
3.	<p><u>ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION</u></p> <p>The number of responses was confirmed to provide a representative sample of the population of Gwent and provided an indication of public feeling regarding the questions. The sample size of 600 has been worked out using a 4% standard error and a 95% confidence level for a 50:50 variability for the Gwent population of 576,000 (Census 2011).</p> <p>The consultation evaluation highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That the current Police and Crime Plan priorities were valid with all priorities scoring over 93% when the 'very important' and 'fairly

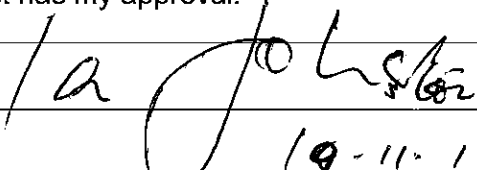
	<p>important' categories were counted together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respondents identified child sex exploitation (49%) and acquisitive crime (25.63%) as the two local emerging crimes that they wished to be prioritised by the Force. • Respondents identified 3 national issues, as identified in the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR), to be of most priority to them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Terrorism and radicalisation (27.28%) ❖ Serious organised crime (25.52%) ❖ Child sex exploitation (23.50%) • Other types of police and crime matters identified by respondents as important to them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Traffic violations (55 respondents) – speeding, illegal parking, ASB use of vehicles, drink driving. ❖ The need for more visible policing (42) ❖ Tackling ASB (25) ❖ Drug dealing and use of drugs (22)
4.	<p><u>NEXT STEPS</u></p> <p>The overall response to the consultation show that respondents are satisfied that the current priorities contained in the Police and Crime Plan are relevant and do not require any amendment.</p> <p>The emerging crime types identified as important will be addressed as part of the Gwent Police Force's Operational Delivery Plan which will be finalised in the Spring 2016.</p> <p>The priority areas identified as emerging from the SPR are covered in the existing plan and will be considered as part of the Force delivery Plan 2016.</p>
5.	<p><u>FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</u></p> <p>There are no financial considerations linked to this report.</p>
6.	<p><u>PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS</u></p> <p>There are no personnel considerations linked to this report.</p>
7.	<p><u>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</u></p> <p>The consultation provided an evidence base for the annual revision of the Police and Crime Plan priorities.</p>
8.	<p><u>EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS</u></p> <p>This report has been considered against the general duty to promote equality, as stipulated under the Strategic Equality Plan and has been assessed not to</p>


	<p>discriminate against any particular group.</p> <p>Consideration has been given to requirements of the Articles contained in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998 in preparing this report.</p>
9.	<p><u>RISK</u></p> <p>The consultation activity ensures that the revision of the Police and Crime Plan priorities are robust and that communities in Gwent had an opportunity to comment.</p>
10.	<p><u>PUBLIC INTEREST</u></p> <p>This report is of public interest and will be accessible on the Gwent OPCC website via a link.</p>
11.	<p><u>CONTACT OFFICER</u></p> <p>Neil Taylor - Head of Planning, Performance and Partnerships</p>
12.	<p><u>ANNEXES</u></p> <p>Annex A</p>  <p>2015 Priorities Consultation Evaluation</p>

For OPCC use only

Consultation:	Tick to confirm (if applicable)
Financial The Chief Finance Officer has been consulted on this proposal.	✓
OPCC The Chief Executive has reviewed the request and is satisfied that it is correct and consistent with the PCC's plans and priorities.	✓
Legal The legal team have been consulted on this proposal.	N/A
Equalities The Equalities Officer has been consulted on this proposal.	N/A

Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive: I have been consulted about the proposal and can confirm that financial, legal, equalities etc... advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate report to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent.
Signature: 
Date: 19/11/15

Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent I confirm that I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct. The above request has my approval.
Signature: 
Date: 19-11-15



Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent

Evaluation of the 2015 'Your Policing - Your Voice' Consultation on the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

Background

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent (PCC) has a statutory duty to develop a Police and Crime Plan to provide the strategic direction for Gwent Police. There is a Government expectation that this is carried out in consultation with the public.

Introduction

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) published an E-consultation on the PCC website called 'Your Policing – Your Voice' from 1st June 2015 to 21st August 2015, which asked the communities of Gwent for their views on the following, by:

- Rating how important the existing police and crime priorities were to them
- Identifying which emerging local crime trends were most important to them
- Identifying which emerging national crime trends were of most concern to them

The consultation asked 5 questions which included 1 free text option to garner public opinion on what matters most to the public in relation to their policing service. This report puts forward the analysis of the findings of the E-consultation.

Consultation

A comprehensive communications programme was put in place prior to and during the 12 weeks that the 'Your Policing – Your Voice' E-consultation was run. It was proactively promoted and circulated to a wide network of partner agencies including the third sector community. The OPCC also engaged with a number of local community groups, including minority groups to promote the consultation and a focus group was held with the regional youth forum. The table below captures the activities undertaken to promote and widely circulate the consultation.

Media Platform	OPCC Output
PCC Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Media promotion of consultation was on website for 3 months• Fortnightly reminders of timescale to complete consultation
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communications Manager promoted consultation• Media announcements (in press including full page spread in South Wales Argus)• Sent to all stakeholders in the media contacts database• Sent to all partner organisations for wider circulation
OWL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promoted on OWL 3 times

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 50,000 households signed up to OWL
Facebook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 posts with the web link to consultation • 569 people reached
Twitter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 47 Tweets • 37,177 impressions made (audience reached) • 68 re-tweets • 12 people favourite our tweets •
Other media platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulated via Newport Open (Local Authority email newsletter) • Promoted on Monmouth Made Open (Local Authority community website)

The total number of people providing at least some level of response was 845. There were 639 fully completed questionnaires and 206 incomplete responses. Therefore, not all responses contained a full data set of answers, but those questions that have been answered have been included in the analysis. The number of responses have been confirmed to provide a representative sample of the population of Gwent and provided an indication of public feeling regarding the questions. The sample size of 600 has been worked out using a 4% standard error and a 95% confidence level for a 50:50 variability for the Gwent population of 576,000 (Census 2011).

The response rate has been a little disappointing considering how well the consultation was promoted and publicised. It should be noted that over the last two years there has been a plethora of consultations regarding budget cuts and the reduction of public services. This has likely informed what is recognised as 'consultation fatigue' where people are tired of answering surveys regarding public services. It could also be argued that with the continuing policy and effects of 'austerity measures' the public may feel that they are not able to fully influence the decision making processes in the way they would like to and therefore choose to abstain.

Historically, uncompleted questionnaires have tended to be those where the respondents have not completed the demographic section. This was evidenced by the consultation in 2014 which had a disappointing response that did not achieve a statistically significant sample size. This informed an experimental approach to this year's, 'Your Policing – Your Voice' 2015 consultation where it was decided to streamline the question set and published without including the demographic questions.

The aim was to reduce the number of questions respondents had to answer with a view to achieve more completed responses. This was believed possible as it was a retest of the validity of the current Police and Crime Plan priorities and a litmus test of what emerging policing matters the public seemed most concerned about.

This approach contributed to a greatly increased 639 completed responses out of 845 total responses in 2015 compared to 354 completed responses out of 1,346 responses in 2014.

Analysis of the Responses to the Consultation

Question 1: Requested the respondent's postcode.

Of the 845 responses there were 520 responses with the post code completed, 90 of these were outside of the Gwent area, 3 postcodes were incomplete, leaving 427 postcodes for analysis (50.88%).

Fig: 1 Breakdown of the population by Local Authorities in the Gwent area

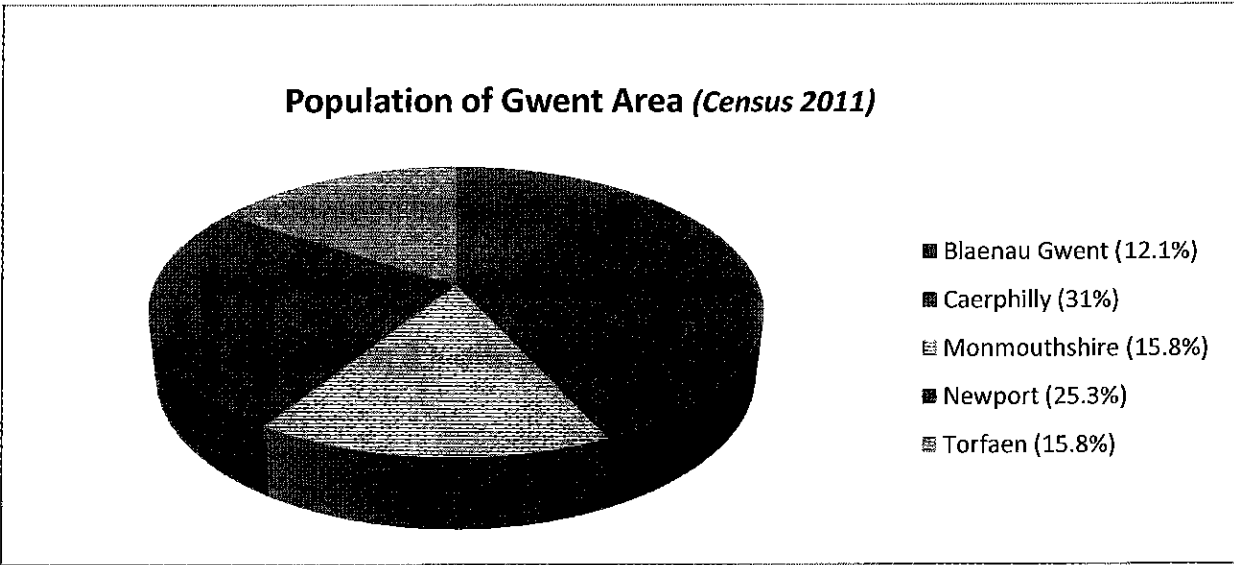
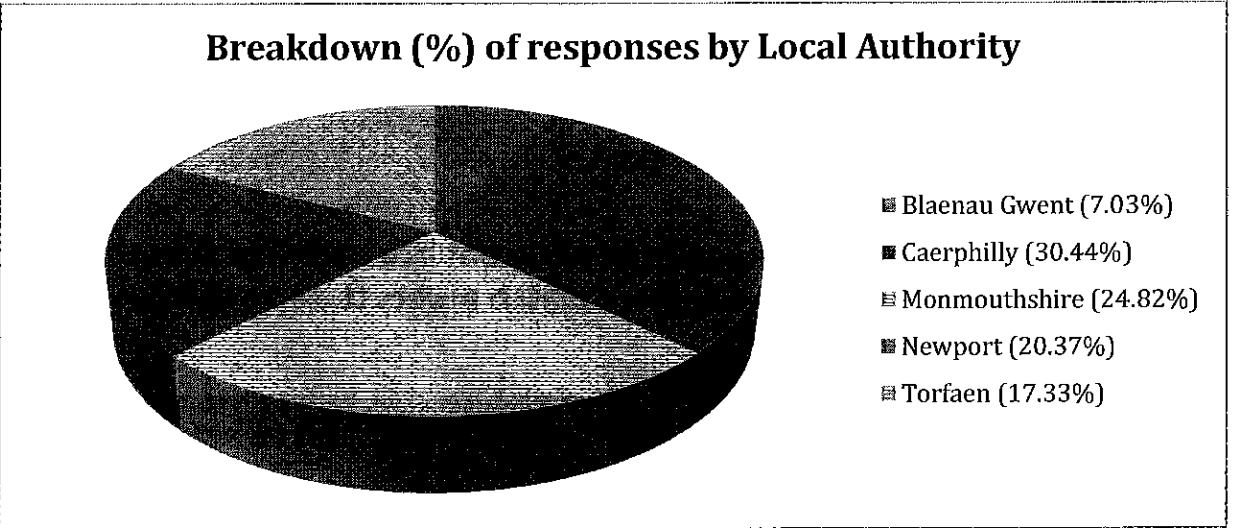


Fig.2: Breakdown of the postcodes into Local Authority areas



Comparing Fig.1 and Fig 2 identified some level of corroboration between the demographic breakdown of the Gwent area into Local Authorities and the percentage of people who completed the consultation questionnaire. The two outliers were Blaenau Gwent with a smaller share of respondents and Caerphilly with a larger proportion of respondents. An observation might highlight a contributing factor to the low number of responses in Blaenau Gwent would be that it is an area of high

deprivation with less proactive social capital. Interestingly, the OPCC received a good response from Monmouthshire which was likely informed by the Monmouthshire Council circulating the consultation on their community website.

Question 2: Please tell me how you rate each of my current police and crime priorities?

The 5 priorities outlined in the Police and Crime Plan provided the focus of delivery for the police service across the Gwent area. The PCC wished to assess whether the current priorities were still relevant to their communities and if there were other priorities that should be considered. The current Plan priorities are as follows:

1. The people of Gwent are satisfied that the police provide a service which meets their requirements.
2. To prevent and reduce crime.
3. To take more effective action to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB).
4. To protect people from serious harm.
5. To make the best use of resources and provide value for money.

This question requested respondents to rate the current 5 priorities on a scale of:

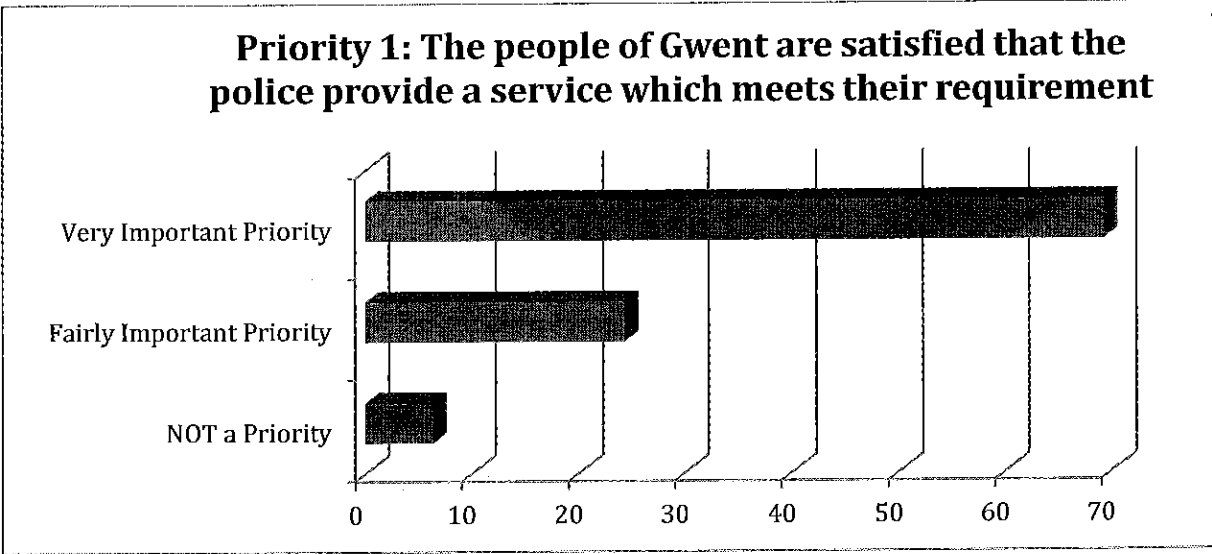
- NOT a priority for me
- FAIRLY important priority for me
- VERY important priority for me

Priority 1

There were 629 responses (74.43% of all possible responders provided a response to this question). Of those responding:

- NOT a priority for me = 40 (6.36%)
- FAIRLY important priority for me = 153 (24.32%)
- VERY important priority for me = 436 (69.32%)

Fig. 3: Responses to Question 2 – Priority 1

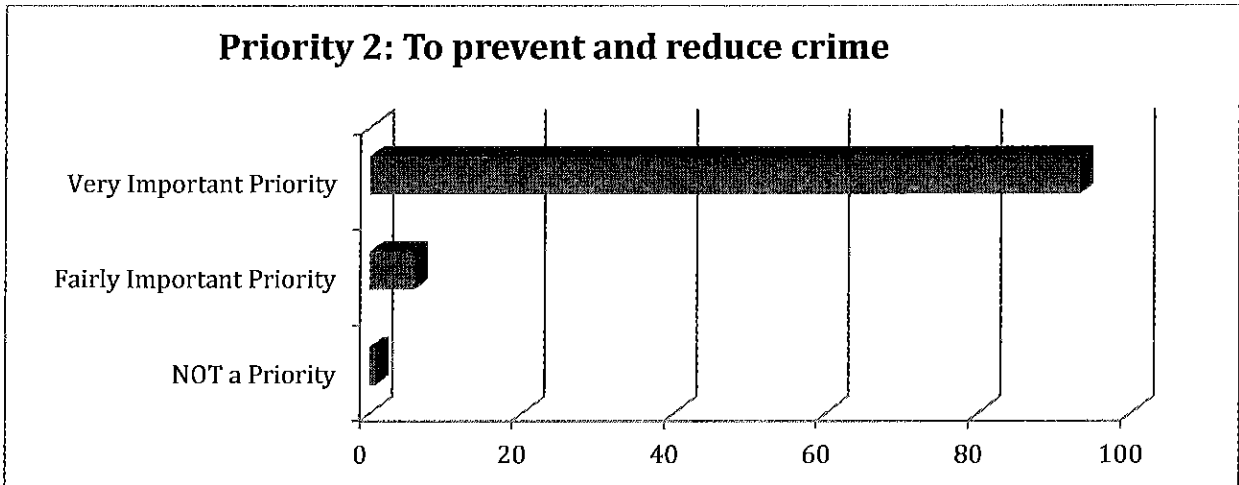


Priority 2

There were a total of 631 responses to this question (74.67% of all possible responders provided a response to this question). Of those responding:

- NOT a priority for me = 5 (0.79%)
- FAIRLY important priority for me = 37 (5.87%)
- VERY important priority for me = 589 (93.34%)

Fig. 4: Responses to Question 2 – Priority 2

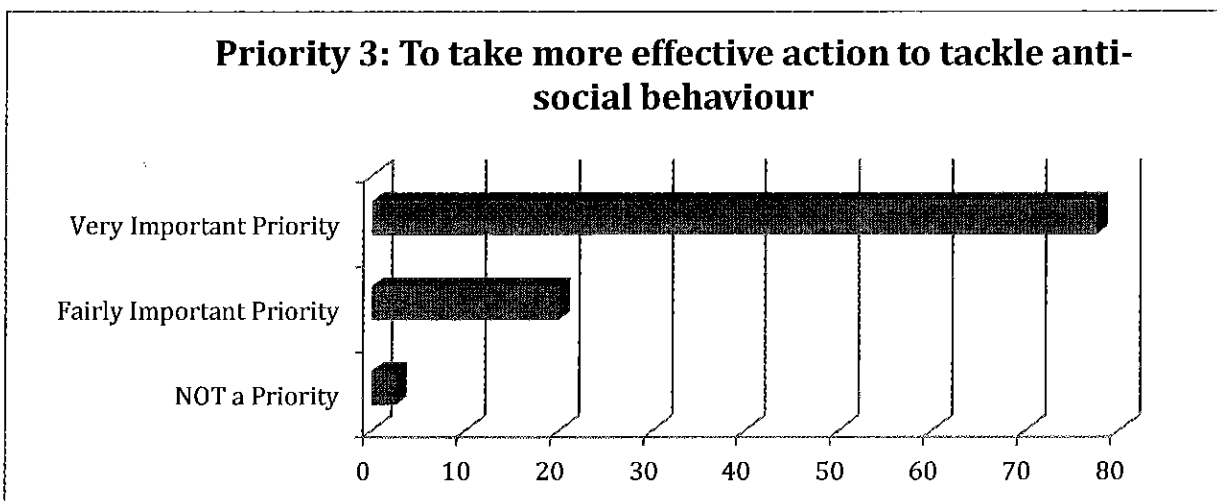


Priority 3

There were a total of 632 responses to this question (74.79% of all possible responders provided a response to this question). Of those responding:

- NOT a priority for me = 16 (2.53%)
- FAIRLY important priority for me = 126 (19.94%)
- VERY important priority for me = 490 (77.53%)

Fig 5: Responses to Question 2 – Priority 3

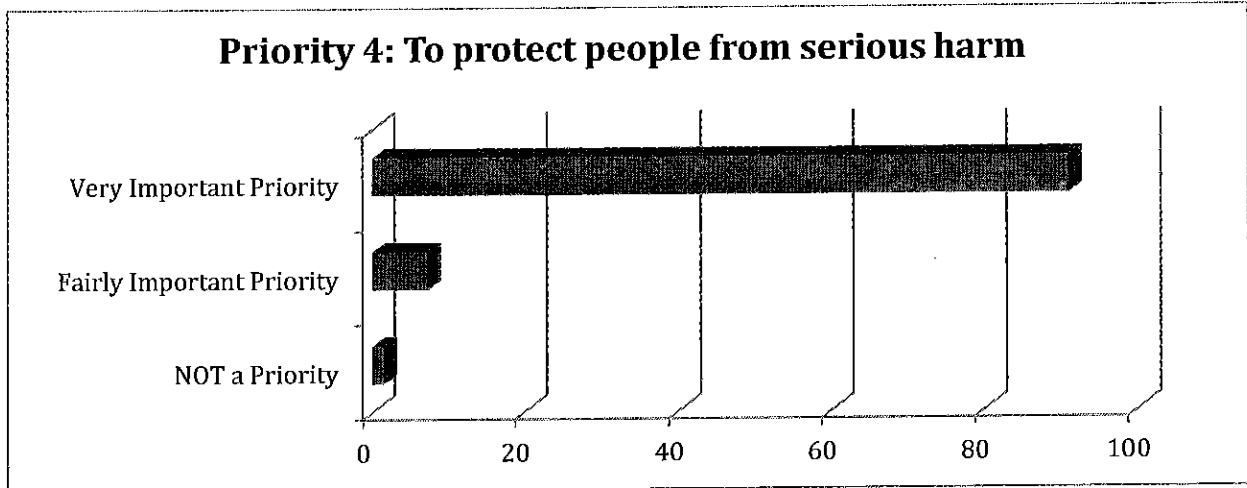


Priority 4

There were a total of 628 responses to this question (74.31% of all possible responders provided a response to this question). Of those responding:

- NOT a priority for me = 10 (1.59%)
- FAIRLY important priority for me = 46 (7.33%)
- VERY important priority for me = 572 (91.08%)

Fig 6: Responses to Question 2 – Priority 4

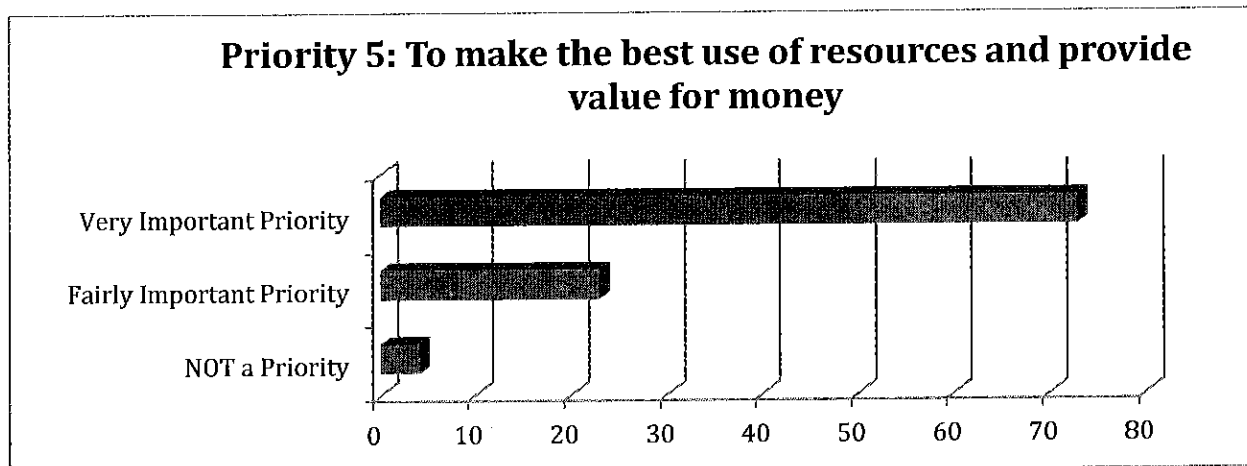


Priority 5

There was a total of 632 responses to this question (74.79% of all possible responders provided a response to this question). Of those responding:

- NOT a priority for me = 26 (4.12%)
- FAIRLY important priority for me = 145 (22.94%)
- VERY important priority for me = 461 (72.94%)

Fig 7: Responses to Question 2 – Priority 5



The combined high ratings of 'Very Important Priority' (VIP) and a 'Fairly Important Priority' (FIP) provided evidence that the majority of respondents believed the current Police and Crime Plan priorities continue to be relevant to the communities of Gwent. This applied at both the Local Authority and Gwent wide level.

Fig. 8: Breakdown of the total responses on Question 2

Breakdown of respondents rating of the current Police and Crime Plan priorities (2015)					
	Priority	Total no. of respondents	VIP (No. of respondents)	FIP (No. of respondents)	Combined VIP & FIP (%)
P.1	Deliver the best quality of service	629	436	153	93.64%
P.2	Reduce and prevent crime	631	589	37	99.21%
P.3	Take more effective action to reduce anti-social behaviour	632	490	126	97.46%
P.4	Protect people from serious harm	628	572	46	98.40%
P.5	Make the best use of resources and provide value for money	632	461	145	95.88%

(VIP – Very Important Priority, FIP – Fairly Important Priority)

The above figures clearly highlight the respondent's belief that the current Police and Crime Plan priorities were valid with all priorities scoring over 93% when the 'very important' and 'fairly important' categories were counted together.

Question 3: Please can you choose the TWO emerging local issues you believe to be the most important to you.

The Police and Crime Plan has to consider a number of areas including the locally emerging crime trends, as identified below, which are impacting on policing and partner agencies, (these include Crown Prosecution Service, Her Majesty's Court and Tribunals Service, National probation Service Local Authorities and Health). The emerging issues have to be considered in future planning and revisions of the Police and Crime Plan.

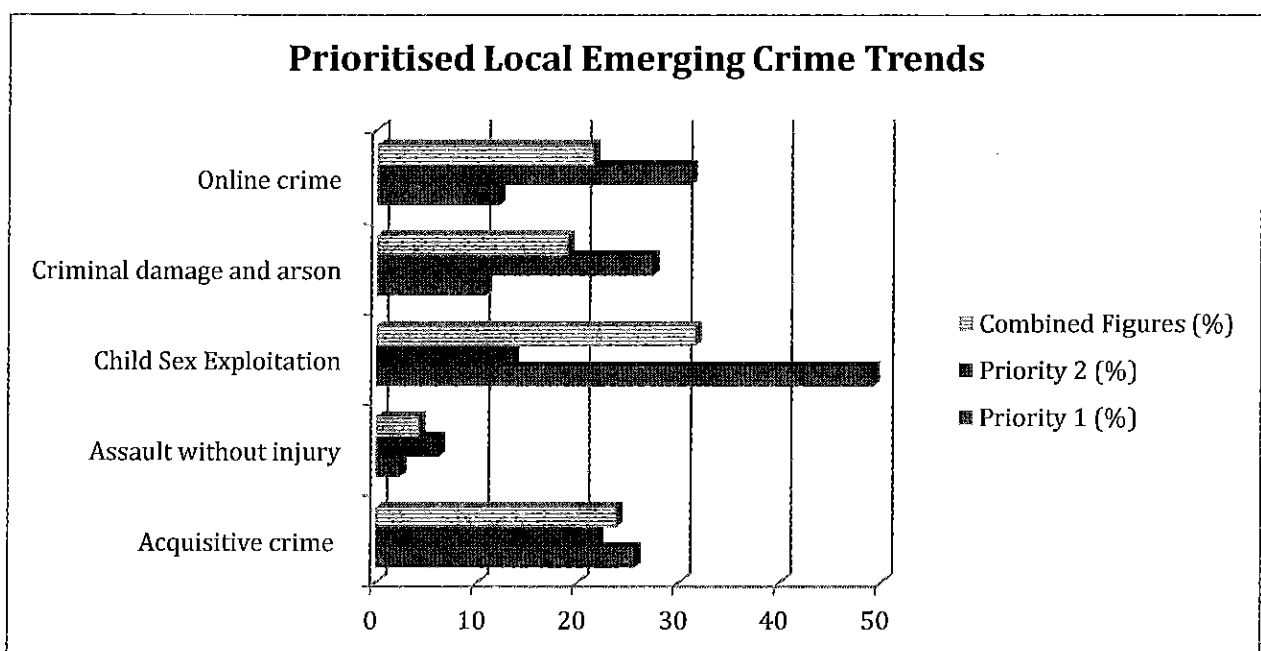
The following 5 options were identified as the local emerging crime trends (2014/15) and respondents were asked to identify their 1st and 2nd priorities out of the list:

- Acquisitive crime
- Assault without injury
- Criminal damage and arson
- Child Sex Exploitation and Safeguarding
- Online crime

There were 632 respondents that identified a 1st priority and 615 respondents identified a 2nd priority from the list of local emerging crime themes in the Gwent area during 2014/15. The table below captures the recorded figures and percentages for each category of emerging local crime trends.

Local Emerging Crimes (Gwent Area 2014/15)	1st Priority	2nd Priority
Acquisitive crime	162 (25.63%)	135 (21.95%)
Assault without injury	15 (2.37%)	38 (6.19%)
Criminal damage and arson	311 (49.2%)	83 (13.48%)
Child Sex Exploitation and Safeguarding	68 (10.77%)	168 (27.32%)
Online crime	76 (12.03%)	191 (31.06%)

Fig. 9: Responses to Question 3 – Prioritised emerging crime themes



The above graph clearly indicates that the majority of respondents (49.2%) felt that child sex exploitation was the most important local priority for them with respondents identifying their second highest local priority as acquisitive crime (25.63%).

The highest 2nd priorities identified were online crime (31.06%), criminal damage and arson (27.32%) and acquisitive crime (21.95%).

Interestingly, when the priority 1 and priority 2 figures for each category are combined the 3 highest rated local emerging crime themes were:

1. Child sex exploitation (31.59%)
2. Acquisitive crime (23.81%)
3. Online crime (21.41%).

Question 4: Please can you choose the TWO emerging national issues (UK) you believe to be the most important to you.

There are a number of emerging national themes which the Home Office that Central Government have set out in the Strategic Policing Requirement to which all Police Forces and PCCs in the UK must have regard to in assessing, the local capabilities required to address national threats. This often requires collaborative working between forces, sharing intelligence and working in partnership to address the identified national threats. The PCC must have regard to the Strategic Planning Requirement when setting and reviewing the Police and Crime Plan.

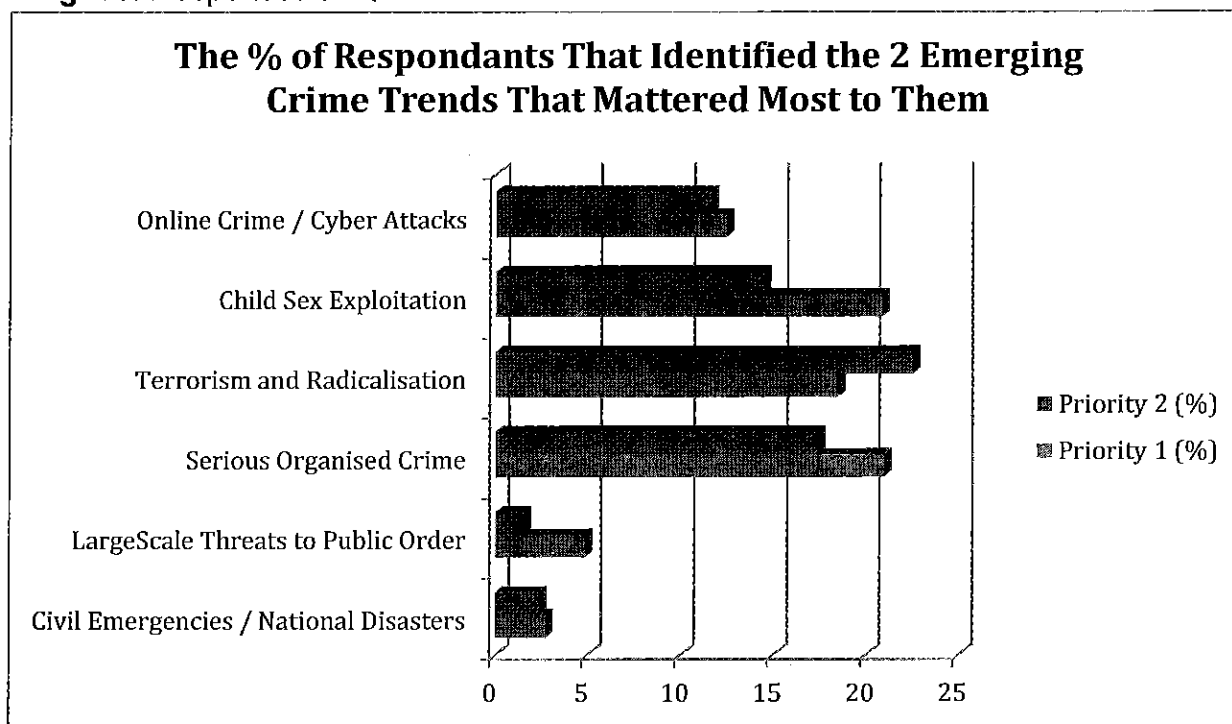
The Strategic Policing Requirement identifies the following national threats:

- Online crime
- Child Sex Exploitation and Safeguarding
- Terrorism and radicalisation
- Serious organised crime
- Large scale threats to public order / safety
- Civil emergencies

This question received 634 out of 845 responses and the following chart captures how the respondents identified their primary concerns regarding the emerging national crime trends.

National Emerging Crimes (Gwent Area 2014/15)	1st Priority	2nd Priority
Online crime / cyber attacks	98 (15.45%)	105 (16.83%)
Child Sex Exploitation (organised)	176 (27.76%)	122 (19.55%)
Terrorism and Radicalisation	190 (29.97%)	156 (25%)
Serious organised crime	147 (23.18%)	177 (28.37%)
Large scale threats to public order	13 (2.05%)	41 (6.57%)
Civil emergencies / national disasters	10 (1.58%)	23 (3.68%)

Fig. 10: Responses to Question 4



The above graph (Fig.10) indicates that there are 3 main areas of policing that are primarily important to respondents. The highest ranking Priority 1 issue was terrorism and radicalisation (29.58%). An observation would suggest that this response could be attributed to the current political situation in Syria and the ensuing refugee and asylum seekers crisis in Europe.

The second highest ranking Priority 1 was organised child sex exploitation (27.93%).

Serious organised crime (23%) was the third highest ranking Priority 1 issue which has also been reflected in some of the free text comments made under Question 5. Significantly, there were a number of comments recorded that highlighted resident's concerns regarding the drug dealing in their community.

Lesser importance was placed on online crime and cyber-attacks (15.34%), with significantly less again identifying large scale threats to public order (2.03%) and civil emergencies (1.56%) as a priority.

The highest ranking Priority 2 issues were: serious organised crime (28.37%); counter terrorism (25%); and child sex exploitation and safeguarding (19.55%).

Interestingly, when we added the total of respondent's choices for Priority 1 and Priority 2 by category it identified the total number of votes for each category and the results are in the graph below (Fig.11)

Fig. 11

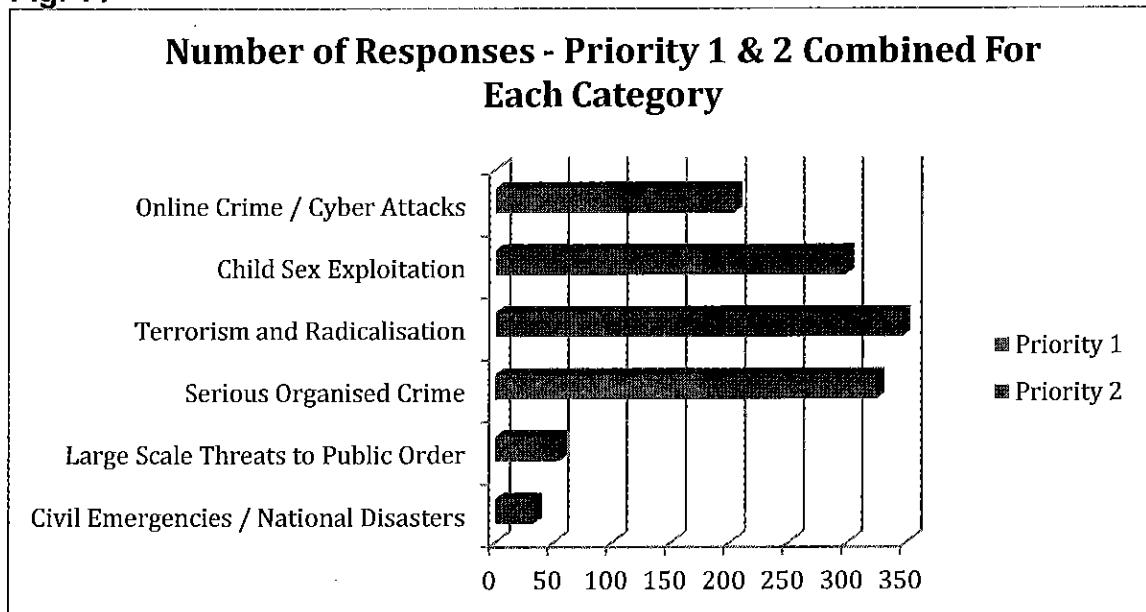


Fig. 11 clearly shows that when the 1st and 2nd priorities are combined for each category it was identified that the 3 national policing matters that matters most to the respondents in the Gwent Force area are:

1. Terrorism and Radicalisation (346 votes – 27.28%)
2. Serious Organised Crime (324 votes – 25.52%)
3. Child Sex Exploitation (298 votes – 23.50%)

By asking the respondents to identify the emerging national crime trends that are important to them it highlights the national issues which are of most concern to the public and communities across the Gwent area. This information would likely inform future corporate communications and public reassurance exercises.

Question 5: Are there other types of police and crime matters, not identified above, that are important to you and should be considered in future planning?

A free text box was provided to capture resident's feedback. Some 220+ typed responses were given by responders to this question.

The largest number of responses were made about the following issues (in descending order):

1. Traffic violations (55) – speeding, illegal parking, ASB use of vehicles, drink driving.
2. The need for more visible policemen on the beat who engage with their communities, this was also linked to crime prevention. (42)
3. Tackling ASB (25) – most responses mentioned young people and alcohol.
4. Drug dealing and the use of illegal drugs and the related ASB. (22)
5. Rural crime (11).
6. Off road vehicles – in the countryside and their use on the highway (9).
7. Concerns were raised about reduced budgets impacting on local policing service (9).
8. Protecting the elderly against cold calling and fraud (7).

9. The need to improve 101 contact response times (7)
10. More crime prevention required (8)
11. Serious assaults (5)
12. Hate crime (5)
13. Burglaries (5)
14. Tackling serious organised crime (4)

The remainder of the responses included commentary on tackling domestic violence, scrap collectors, animal cruelty, sexual offences and getting rid of the PCC. Many respondents raised a wide range of concerns regarding protecting vulnerable people in their communities which included the elderly and those with mental health issues and learning difficulties.

A small number stated that the consultation was meaningless and also that the priorities identified were core activities that the police were expected to deliver and highlighted the need for positive communications to the public regarding shrinking resources and the evolving policing service in Gwent.

Costs

The decision was taken to launch a web based E-consultation with the option for residents to request hard copies if required. The consultation was developed in house and therefore the cost would equate to officer's time spent and was produced for no additional cost. No hard copies or translations were requested and therefore no additional costs incurred.

Conclusion

The overall response to the consultation show that respondents are satisfied that the current priorities contained in the Police and Crime Plan are relevant and do not require any amendment.

The emerging crime types identified as important will be addressed as part of the Gwent Police Force's Operational Delivery Plan which will be finalised in the Spring 2016.

The priority areas identified as emerging from the SPR are covered in the existing plan and will be considered as part of the Force delivery Plan 2016.