Crime Survey for England and Wales

Technical Report 2021/22

Volume One

Contents

1.   Background

1.1   Introduction to the Crime Survey for England and Wales

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) is a well-established study and one of the largest social research surveys conducted in England and Wales. The survey was first conducted in 1982 and ran at roughly two-yearly intervals until 2001, when it became a continuous survey[1]. Prior to this change, respondents were asked about their crime-related experiences in the previous calendar year; but when the CSEW changed to a continuous survey, respondents were asked about crime in the 12 months prior to interview (more information on the time periods covered can be found in section 2.4 of the user guide[2]).

Prior to April 2012, the survey was known as the British Crime Survey (BCS) and conducted on behalf of the Home Office. From April 2012 responsibility for the survey transferred to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and it became known as the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). Since 2001, Kantar Public has been the sole contractor for the survey.

In March 2020, face-to-face interviewing across England and Wales was suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CSEW was therefore suspended on 17th March 2020 and face-to-face interviewing did not resume until 4th October 2021. The CSEW was temporarily replaced during this period by the telephone-operated crime survey (TCSEW) which was in operation between 20th May 2020 and 31st March 2022.

1.2   Background to the Crime Survey for England and Wales

The CSEW is primarily a survey of victimisation in which respondents are asked about their experiences of both household crimes (e.g., burglary, vehicle crime) and personal crimes (e.g., robbery, snatch theft). Household crimes may have happened to anyone in the household, while personal crimes are only counted if they relate to the individual being interviewed. The traditional reference period for all interviews prior to 2020-21 relates to incidents that have happened in the last 12 months before the date of interview. Although there have been changes to the design of the survey over time, the wording of the screener questions that are asked to elicit respondents' experiences of victimisation have been consistent over the lifetime of the survey. In 2015-16 an additional set of screener questions was added to measure fraud and cybercrime.

Respondents are asked about their experience of crime, irrespective of whether they reported these incidents to the police. As such, the CSEW provides a record of peoples' experiences of crime which is unaffected by variations in reporting behaviour of victims or variations in police practices of recording crime. The CSEW and police recorded figures are two complementary series, which together provide a better picture of crime than can be obtained from either series alone.

Since the survey became continuous in 2001 there have been a few significant changes to the design of the survey. Where changes have been incorporated these have been described in detail in the relevant technical reports. The most significant changes prior to 2020-21 include:

– Between 2004-05 and 2011-12, the core sample size was increased from 37,000 to 46,000, with a target of at least 1,000 interviews in each Police Force Area (PFA).

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[1] Previous sweeps of the British Crime Surveys were carried out in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000.

[2] User guide to crime statistics for England and Wales:
https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/methodologies/userguidetocrimestatisticsforenglandandwales#crime-survey-for-england-and-wales-csew

- Long-standing boost samples of Black and Asian respondents (3,000 sample boost per year) and 16 to 24 year olds (2,000 sample boost per year) were dropped in 2006-07 and 2008-09 respectively.

- In 2009-10, after an extensive development period, the survey was extended to cover young people aged 10 to 15 with a target sample size of 4,000 per year (reduced to 3,000 from 2012-13 onwards)[3]. The first results for this age group were published in June 2010[4] as experimental statistics and estimates of victimisation among children have traditionally been presented alongside the adult crime statistics.

- In 2012-13 the core adult sample size was reduced from 46,000 to 35,000. In the same year a new sampling approach was adopted based around a three-year un-clustered sample design.

- In 2015-16 the questionnaire was updated to include measures of fraud and cybercrime following an extensive development phase, including a large-scale field test. A methodological note about the development of the fraud measures and the field trial was published in 2015 and the questions were put on the survey from October 2015[5].

In 2019-20 fieldwork was suspended on 17th March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This had little impact overall on the 2019-20 survey but the early closure of fieldwork did result in a slight drop in response rate and interview numbers for the year. The 2020-21 survey was replaced with the TCSEW while face-to-face interviewing was suspended.

1.3 Introduction to the Telephone Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW)

When it became clear that Covid-19 would necessitate the indefinite suspension of all face-to-face fieldwork across the UK, work began to move the survey to a telephone approach (TCSEW) to enable ONS to continue to publish national estimates of crime. The first telephone interviews were conducted on the 20th May 2020.

Details of the changes that this necessitated are covered in subsequent chapters, but the key changes are summarised below:

- It was clear that the switch to telephone would require a shorter average interview length both to help maximise the overall response rate and reduce respondent burden. The self-completion modules on drugs and intimate personal violence were removed as these were considered too sensitive to ask over the telephone. The rest of the questionnaire was streamlined to include only six modules – five existing modules and a new, Covid-19 specific module. The aim was to have an average interview length of 30 minutes compared with an average of 50 minutes on the face-to-face survey. This is discussed in more detail in Chapter 3.

- While most modules remained the same during 2021-22, the Covid and Demographics modules were more fluid, with both being updated as the impact of the pandemic changed across the year. Whereas questionnaire changes on the CSEW happened quarterly, the TCSEW was set up to enable monthly changes as and when needed.

- The face-to-face random sample design was set aside in favour of a re-contact sample based on those who had previously taken part in the face-to-face survey between May 2018

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[3] A feasibility study was carried out before the survey was extended to this age group. See Pickering, K., Smith, P., Bryson, C. and Farmer, C. (2008) British Crime Survey: options for extending the coverage to children and people living in communal establishments. Home Office Research Report 06. London: Home Office.

[4] Millard, B. and Flatley, J. (2010) Experimental statistics on victimisation of children aged 10 to 15: Findings from the British Crime Survey for the year ending December 2009. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/10.

[5] CSEW Fraud and Cyber-crime Development: Field trial: https://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/crime-statistics-methodology/methodological-notes/methodological-note---csew-fraud-and-cyber-crime-development--field-trial---october-2015.pdf

and February 2020 and had expressed a willingness to be re-contacted again. This is discussed in more detail in Chapter 2.

  – Given that the available re-contact sample was finite, it was recognised that the sample would be insufficient to sustain the TCSEW throughout 2020-21 (and during the subsequent extension into 2021-22). It was therefore agreed that all respondents who completed the initial telephone survey (and were willing to take part again) would be re-contacted at intervals of approximately three months, thereby creating a panel design somewhat similar to the Labour Force Survey[6].

  – In follow-up interviews, respondents were asked about incidents that had happened since their last telephone interview, rather than the normal last 12 months. This is discussed in more detail in Chapter 3.

  – Given the survey design it was agreed that the survey would not include any survey of 10-15 year olds, which has been a standard part of the CSEW since 2009-2010. It was also decided that the TCSEW would be a survey of adults aged 18 or over rather than of those aged 16 or over as is the case of the CSEW. Again, this is discussed in more detail in Chapter 2.

1.4   TCSEW 2021-22 and the return of CSEW

Although the TCSEW was initially designed to last for 9 months, the impact of the pandemic lasted longer than anticipated. The TCSEW fieldwork ran for the full duration of the 2021-22 financial year. The final TCSEW interviews were conducted on 31st March 2022.

Although the initial design was only set up for a maximum of three waves in 2020-21, the design was extended throughout 2021-22, to encompass a maximum of 7 waves overall by the end of March 2022[7], although given the phased nature of the sample design, some participants had only completed four interviews at this point. This is discussed in more detail in Chapter 3.

In parallel with the TCSEW, face-to-face interviewing for the CSEW re-started in October 2021, allowing for six months of comparative data to be collected prior to the start of the full reporting year for CSEW in 2022-23.

However, this Technical Report will only cover TCSEW; a Technical Summary for CSEW in 2021-22 is available as a separate document[8].

1.5   Outputs from the CSEW

Following the move of the processing and publication of crime statistics to ONS from the Home Office, the standard quarterly releases were extended to include more long-term trends and other data sources.

In addition to the regular quarterly publication, ONS publish additional thematic publications and articles on particular aspects of crime. Recent examples of thematic reports and articles based on CSEW data include:

  • Domestic abuse in England and Wales: November 2021

  • Sexual offences in England and Wales overview: year ending March 2020

  • Online bullying in England and Wales: year ending March 2020

  • Child abuse in England and Wales: year ending March 2020

  • Drug misuse in England and Wales: year ending March 2021

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[6]https://www.ons.gov.uk/surveys/informationforhouseholdsandindividuals/householdandindividualsurveys/labourforcesurvey

[7] Maximum of three between May 2020 and March 2021 and a maximum of four between April 2021 and March 2022.

[8] CSEW Technical Note (YE March 2022):
https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/methodologies/crimeandjusticemethodology

The publications mentioned above are intended only to illustrate the types of reports and findings that are produced from the CSEW. Full details of all publications associated with the CSEW, and crime statistics more generally, can be found on the ONS website[9].

As well as published reports, anonymised CSEW data is made available through the UK Data Archive at the University of Essex[10] and through the ONS Secure Research Service[11]. The CSEW is a complex study with data organised at different levels (households, individuals, and incidents) and it includes numerous sub-samples who are asked specific questions. Accordingly, considerable effort and expertise is required to analyse the data and to interpret it in a valid manner. Some of the analysis routines that play a key role in the published estimates are implemented after the data have been supplied to the ONS and so are not documented in this report. Further information on how to use the data is available from the UK Data Service[12].

ONS also produces a User guide to crime statistics that includes additional information to understand CSEW data and outputs[13].

1.6   Outputs from the TCSEW

While the switch to telephone-based interviewing ensured that experiences of both household and personal crimes were still being captured during the pandemic, these estimates cannot be directly compared with those previously published from the face-to-face CSEW[14].

Furthermore, because of the change in data collection mode, and the time needed to instigate the revised approach, there is a break in the CSEW/ TCSEW data time series to reflect the lack of interviewing between March-May 2020. ONS also produces a User guide to crime statistics for England and Wales: measuring crime during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that includes additional information to understand TCSEW data and outputs.

1.7   Structure of the Technical Report

This report documents the technical aspects of the 2021-22 TCSEW. The analysis in this report relates to the total TCSEW sample that was issued in the financial year 2021-22, irrespective of when interviews took place. The distinction between issued sample and achieved sample is explained in more detail in Chapters 4 and 5 of this report. Despite the fundamental differences between the TCSEW approach and the more traditional face-to-face survey, the basic structure of this technical report will mirror previous years.

As such, the sample design is set out in Chapter 2. Data collection is the major task for the organisation commissioned to conduct the TCSEW and forms the central part of this report. Chapter 3 covers the content and development of the questionnaire, while Chapter 4 details our fieldwork procedure (including response rates, documents and quality control) and Welsh fieldwork. Chapter 5 discusses response rate and reasons for non-response in the core sample. Chapter 6 gives details of the tasks that are involved in preparing the data for analysis, including the coding and offence classification and Chapter 7 covers the preparation and delivery of the TCSEW data files. Chapter 8 outlines the weighting required for analysis of the data. Chapter 9 provides the results of some checks on the profile of the TCSEW achieved sample against estimates for the population that the TCSEW aims to represent.

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[9] https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice

[10] https://www.data-archive.ac.uk/

[11] https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/statistics/requestingstatistics/approvedresearcherscheme/

[12] https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/

[13]https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/methodologies/userguidetocrimestatisticsforenglandandwales

[14] An assessment into the comparability of estimates produced from the face-to-face CSEW and TCSEW: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/methodologies/comparabilitybetweenthetelephoneoperatedcrimesurveyforenglandandwalesandthefacetofacecrimesurveyforenglandandwales

2.   Survey design

2.1   Introduction

In May 2020, the CSEW was replaced with the TCSEW, a simpler variant based on telephone interviews rather than face-to-face interviews. The original design for the TCSEW was intended to cover the nine month period May 2020 through January 2021 inclusive. However, in late 2020, ONS made the decision to extend the TCSEW to the end of March 2022. This technical report covers the period April 2021 through to March 2022.

2.2   Populations of inference

The TCSEW populations of inference are (i) private residential households in England and Wales, and (ii) adults aged 18+ living in these households.

The CSEW also covered 10-17 year olds but this group was omitted from the TCSEW target population for reasons of practicality. The TCSEW sample frame - CSEW respondents who had given permission to be recontacted (see 2.3) – did not include any 10-15 year olds and also (quite naturally) under-represented people who would still be aged only 16 or 17 at the start of the TCSEW data collection period.

In addition, because the TCSEW ran for much longer than originally anticipated, the sample frame 'aged' to such an extent that 18 and 19 year olds also became under-represented, especially in the period covered by this technical report (April 2021 through to March 2022).

2.3   Sample frame

The sample frame comprised all CSEW respondents from May 2018 through February 2020 inclusive who had given permission to be recontacted by Kantar on behalf of ONS. This permission to recontact the respondent was valid for 24 months so nobody interviewed before May 2018 could be included in the sample frame. This rule also affected *when* some CSEW respondents could be issued for the TCSEW. CSEW respondents from May 2018 could only be issued in May 2020; CSEW respondents from June 2018 had to be issued by June 2020 at the latest; and so on.

Some CSEW respondents had been aged 16 or 17 at the time of interview but the majority of these would be aged 18+ by the time of issue for TCSEW. Consequently, they were not excluded from the frame, although any that were discovered to be aged 16 or 17 when interviewed for the TCSEW were given a TCSEW survey weight of zero.

In total, the sample frame comprised 42,702 individuals from an original respondent set of 63,139. This original respondent set is called the Reference Sample and is a critical tool for weighting TCSEW data.

2.4   Survey design

The TCSEW utilised a panel survey design similar to that used for the Labour Force Survey, albeit for reasons of sample conservation rather than to benefit measurement.

Three months after the first interview (W1), each TCSEW respondent was eligible for a second interview (W2). Three months after that interview, each respondent was eligible for a third interview (W3). Anyone who responded to W1 but did not respond to W2 was eligible for a W3 interview six months after the W1 interview. For cost efficiency reasons, non-respondents to W1 were not issued for W2, W3 or any subsequent waves.

Because the initial plan was to cover only the period May 2020 through January 2021, the maximum number of interviews was expected to be three. In the event, the plan was extended to cover through to March 2022. Consequently, the maximum number of interviews was revised upwards from three to seven, and (eventually) the minimum interval between interviews was reduced from three months to two and a half months.

2.5   Sample issue design

The sample frame was divided into nine differently sized *replicates* of the whole. One replicate was issued to the field for the first time each month from May 2020 through to January 2021.

For each replicate, a three-month fieldwork period was planned, with the expectation that 70% of interviews would be achieved in month 1, 20% in month 2, and 10% in month 3[15]. The relative conversion rates for W1, W2 and W3 were also estimated: W1 = 40%; W2|W1 = 70%; W3|W1 = 57%.

Based on these assumptions, the size of each replicate was set to *minimise the expected variation in the number of interviews between calendar months.* Table 2.1 shows the intended issued sample size for each replicate.

Table 2.1 TCSEW Intended issued sample sizes per replicate

Replicate: issue month	Issued sample size (intended)
1: May 2020	12,219
2: June 2020	8,728
3: July 2020	7,982
4: August 2020	2,707
5: September 2020	2,606
6: October 2020	2,533
7: November 2020	2,092
8: December 2020	1,955
9: January 2021	1,880
Total	**42,702**

To divide the sample frame into replicates, it was first stratified by (i) CSEW interview month (May 2018 through February 2020), (ii) NUTS1 region, (iii) a six category sex/age variable (male 16-29, male 30-59, male 60+, female 16-29, female 30-59, female 60+), and finally (iv) CSEW victimisation status (non-victim, victim of non-fraud crime, victim of fraud only).

Each case in each stratum was then allocated to a replicate (TCSEW issue month) using a systematic random sampling method that accounted for (i) the different intended size of each replicate, and (ii) the issue date constraints affecting CSEW respondents from May 2018 through December 2018.

2.6   Revisions to the sample design

Shortly after replicate 2 was issued to the field (June 2020), ONS requested that several thousand unissued CSEW respondents be redirected from the TCSEW to the Covid Infection Survey (CIS).

In total, 8,402 cases were systematically sampled for the CIS from across replicates 3 to 9. These cases were sampled from each replicate to minimise the variation in expected interview numbers between the calendar months July 2020 through January 2021.

Of the 8,402 cases sampled for the CIS, 4,305 were eligible for use in the CIS (agreed to be recontacted by a different organisation than Kantar). The remaining 4,097 cases were initially

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[15] This fieldwork period was reduced from three months to two months from the August 2020 (W1) issue onwards (the third month had been delivering less than the anticipated 10%).

excluded from both the CIS and the TCSEW but were restored to the TCSEW sample frame in time for the issue of replicate 4 (August 2020). As before, this allocation was implemented to minimise the expected variation in the number of interviews per remaining calendar month.

Table 2.2 shows the actual issued sample sizes for each replicate after revisions. In total, 38,397 CSEW respondents were issued for the TCSEW.

Table 2.2   TCSEW Actual issued sample sizes

Replicate: issue month	Number of cases in frame (+ initial allocation)
1: May 2020	12,219
2: June 2020	8,728
3: July 2020	6,985 (7,982)
4: August 2020	1,957 (2,707)
5: September 2020	1,928 (2,606)
6: October 2020	2,289 (2,533)
7: November 2020	1,579 (2,092)
8: December 2020	1,459 (1,955)
9: January 2021	1,253 (1,880)
Total	38,397 (42,702)

January 2021 was the last month when cases were issued for W1. During the period covered by this technical report (April 2021 through to March 2022), only those who had already completed a W1 interview were eligible for issue (for W2, W3, W4 etc.).

3. Questionnaire content and development

3.1 Structure and coverage of the adult questionnaire

As discussed in the opening chapters, the TCSEW relies on a wave formation, with respondents taking part in a maximum of three waves between May 2020 and March 2021 and a maximum of four waves between April 2021 and March 2022.

The phased release of sample in 2020 meant that six waves of fieldwork were active at various stages of 2021-22, for example:

- A participant who completed wave 1 in May 2020, had the potential opportunity to complete waves 4-7 during 2021-22

- A participant who completed wave 1 in September 2020 had the potential opportunity to complete waves 3-6 during 2021-22

- A participant who completed wave 1 in January 2021, had the potential opportunity to complete waves 2-5 during 2021-22

As such, some participants had completed Wave 7 when the TCSEW closed in March 2022, whereas others were still to complete their Wave 5 interview at this time.

While the basic structure of the questionnaire was consistent across all waves, there were some structural differences between wave 1 and subsequent waves. Additionally, the content of the questionnaire varied throughout the year, in part to reflect the impact that the pandemic was having at specific periods of the year, such as the easing of lockdowns and the various rules that were associated with these.

With this in mind, this chapter looks at the questionnaire content of wave 1 and subsequent waves separately, as well as looking at key changes in the questionnaire that took place up to and including March 2022. Although wave 1 ended during 2020-21, we have included the original wave 1 information to help contextualise the summaries of later waves.

3.2 Overview of the TCSEW questionnaire

The TCSEW questionnaire was a cut-down version of the original CSEW version.

Only five of the existing modules were retained, although all of these were modified to some extent to reflect the switch from face-to-face, in-home interviewing to telephone. All self-completion modules were removed, as were any modules asked only of random-sub samples.

The abbreviated 2021-22 TCSEW questionnaire therefore consisted of the following modules:

– Household box

– Screener questionnaire

– Victimisation module for non-fraud incidents identified at the screeners (up to a maximum of six)

– Victimisation module for fraud incidents identified at the screeners (up to a maximum of six, including the non-fraud incidents)

– Covid module, including questions related to the impact of Covid on children aged 10-15

– Demographics module

The basic structure of the core 2021-22 questionnaire is shown in Table 3.1. The complete 2021-22 questionnaire is documented in Appendix L of Volume 2.

The complete 2020-21 questionnaire is documented in Appendix H of Volume 2 of the 2020-21 Technical Report[16].

The remainder of this chapter outlines the broad content of each module of the 2021-22 questionnaire.

Table 3.1 Modules of the 2021-22 TCSEW questionnaire and the sub-set of respondents who were asked each module

Questionnaire module	Core sample
Household grid	All
Screener questions	All
Victimisation module	All victims of non-fraud
Fraud victimisation module	All victims of fraud
Covid	All
Covid & Children	All parents with at least one 10-15 year old in the household
Demographics	All

Almost every question in the survey included 'Don't know' and 'Refused' options that the interviewer could use. At most questions these options did not appear as part of the code frame, to try to ensure that interviewers did not overuse them. This largely replicated how these codes were presented in the face-to-face survey.

In the questionnaire in Appendix L of Volume 2, 'Don't know' and 'Refused' codes are only shown if they were explicit response categories and so actually appeared as an option on the screen.

3.3 Year 2, First Interview

One significant change in 2021-22 was the inclusion of a 'Year 2, First Interview' flag.

This was used for a number of questions that had been asked in an earlier wave (predominantly in wave 1), to check how, if at all, the response to these questions had changed since the initial response.

This flag was used to varying degrees in the Household grid, the Covid module and in the Demographics module.

In some cases, the repeated question was used as a check to ensure that the original information was still valid, such as re-asking the participant for the details of who lived in the household, whereas for others they were used to understand how behaviours had changed during the various lockdowns, such as drink and drugs use in the Demographics module. A full list of the questions using the 'Year 2, First Interview' flag is shown in the questionnaire in Appendix L of Volume 2.

The flag was active in the Year 2 quarter that best matched their Year 1 interview quarter. As such, in certain circumstances, this meant that the flag was active earlier than the 12 month anniversary of their first TCSEW interview. For example, if the first TCSEW interview took place

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[16]https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/methodologies/crimeandjusticemethodology/202021csewtechnicalreportvolume2v1.pdf

in June 2020, then the flag was active from April 2021 onwards as this was the comparable quarter in 2021 (April-June).

Once the flag was triggered it remained active until the next interview was completed, even if the interview itself fell outside of the original quarter. For example, if the first interview took place in June 2020 and the flag was active from April 2021 onwards, the flag would still have been triggered even if the follow up interview took place in August 2021.

3.4 Household grid

3.4.1 Wave 1

Basic socio-demographic details (age, sex and martial status) were collected in the household grid for every adult in the household and the age and sex of all children in the household under 16 years old were also collected. Additionally, some basic information was collected on length of time at the address and vehicle ownership.

3.4.2 Subsequent waves (Waves 2-7 as appropriate)

While the basic structure of the household grid was consistent with wave 1 at subsequent waves, it was recognised that most household characteristics were unlikely to have changed in the intervening period.

As such, updated household information was only collected if the respondent confirmed that their circumstances had changed since the date of the last interview, although as noted in Section 3.3, the information was re-collected for everyone when the 'Year 2, First Interview' flag was triggered.

3.5 Traditional (non-fraud) screener questions

3.5.1 Wave 1

All respondents were asked whether they had experienced certain types of non-fraud crimes or incidents within a specified reference period, namely the last 12 months from the date of interview.

Questions were designed to ensure that all incidents of crime within the scope of the TCSEW, including relatively minor ones, were mentioned. The screener questions deliberately avoided using terms such as 'burglary' or 'robbery' which have a precise definition that respondents might not know or not fully understand the precise meaning. The wording of these screener questions has been kept consistent since the CSEW began to ensure comparability across years, apart from the minor updating of some terminology. The wording also remained broadly consistent on the TCSEW, although a small number of questions were modified to mitigate for the lack of showcards. The only screener question that was not asked as part of the TCSEW was the sexual assault screener as it was considered too sensitive to be asked over the phone.

One significant change was made to the wording of the threat screener question on the TCSEW compared with the CSEW. Whereas previously the question asked whether anyone had *'threatened you in any way'* the revised questions asked whether anyone had *'threatened, harassed or intimidated you in any way'*. This change was not connected to the change in mode but instead was due to ongoing work by ONS to consider how well the survey captures harassment. It was decided that given the natural break in the time series, and possible increased interest in levels of harassment during the pandemic, this would be an opportune time to introduce a slightly different question wording to try and capture more detail on harassment and intimidation which was not previously captured. Additional questions on harassment were also added to the victimisation module as part of this investigation.

Depending upon individual circumstances, a maximum of 24 screener questions were asked which can be grouped into four main categories:

– All respondents who owned vehicles or bicycles were asked about their experience of vehicle-related crimes (e.g., theft of vehicles, theft from vehicles, damage to vehicles, bicycle theft);

- All respondents were asked about experience of property-related crimes in their current residence (e.g., whether the property was broken into, whether anything was stolen from the property, whether the property was damaged);

- All respondents who had moved in the last 12 months were also asked about their experience of property-related crimes at their previous residence(s); and

- All respondents were asked about experience of personal crimes (e.g., whether any personal property was stolen, whether any personal property was damaged, whether they had been a victim of violence or threats)

The questions were designed to ensure that the respondent does not mention the same incident more than once. As a check, at the end of the screener questions, the interviewer is shown a list of all incidents recorded and asked to check with the respondent that all incidents have been recorded and nothing has been counted twice. If there is any evidence of double counting, the respondent has an opportunity to correct the information before proceeding.

Within the screener questions there is a crucial distinction between **household** incidents and **personal** incidents.

All vehicle-related and property-related crimes are counted as household incidents. Respondents are asked whether anyone currently residing in their household has experienced any relevant incidents within the reference period. A typical example of a household incident is criminal damage to a car. It is assumed that the respondent will be able to recall these incidents and provide information even in cases where he/she was not the owner or user of the car.

Personal incidents refer to all crimes against the individual and so only relate to things that have happened to the respondent personally, but not to other people in the household. This is often a difficult concept for respondents to understand as their natural inclination is to tell the interviewer about incidents affecting other members of their household. An example of a personal incident would be an assault. An assault against other household members (no matter how serious) is not recorded, unless the respondent was also assaulted as part of the same incident.

3.5.2 Subsequent waves (Waves 2-7 as appropriate)

The screener questions asked in subsequent waves were identical apart from the reference period covered. Unlike wave 1, the screener questions in the follow-up interviews asked about the time that had elapsed since the last interview rather than the last 12 months. This was a minimum of three months but could be longer (potentially up to six months) depending on when the follow-up interview took place. However, this time period was reduced to 2½ months in the last few weeks of fieldwork to ensure that participants who were due to complete a further interview in early April 2022 were not excluded from the final wave of fieldwork.

3.6 Fraud screener questions

3.6.1 Wave 1

All respondents were asked whether they had experienced certain types of fraud crimes or incidents within a specified reference period, namely the last 12 months from the date of interview. The fraud screener questions were asked to all respondents and were administered in the same way as the traditional non-fraud screeners.

The six main topic areas covered by the fraud screeners were:

- Incidents which occurred as a direct result of a previous non-fraud incident

- Personal information or account details being used to obtain money, or buy goods or services without permission

- Being tricked or deceived out of money or goods

- Attempts to trick or deceive the respondent out of money or goods

- Theft of personal information or details held on the respondent's computer or in on-line accounts

- Computer or other internet-enabled device being infected or interfered with by a virus

As with the non-fraud screener questions, the wording remained consistent during the transition to telephone interviewing, although a small number of questions had to be modified to overcome the inability to rely on showcards. The most significant change was in relation to the screener about incidents which occurred as a direct result of a non-fraud incident which involved a show card on the face-to-face survey. For the telephone survey this single screener question was split into five separate questions as it was felt the original format could not be replicated on the telephone as a single question.

3.6.2   Subsequent waves (waves 2-7 as appropriate)

Again, the fraud screener questions asked in subsequent waves were identical to wave 1 apart from the time period covered. Unlike wave 1, the fraud screener questions in the follow-up interviews asked about the time that had elapsed since the last interview rather than the last 12 months. This was a minimum of 2 ½ months (in the last few weeks of fieldwork) but could be longer (potentially up to six months) depending on exactly when the follow-up interview took place (please see 3.5.2 for more details).

3.7   Victimisation modules (All waves)

All incidents identified at the screener questions (up to a maximum of six) were followed through in more detail in the victimisation module. Incidents are covered in a specific priority order which has been consistent since the start of the CSEW and was maintained in the move to the TCSEW. However, to accommodate the shorter interview length the number of questions asked in the victimisation module was significantly reduced for the telephone survey compared with the face-to-face survey. Priority was given to those questions which were considered critical for classifying offences.

3.7.1   Identification and ordering of incidents for victimisation modules

In 2021-2022, 90% of all adult respondents interviewed did not report any incidents of crime [17], and therefore did not complete any victimisation modules as part of the interview.

Where a respondent had experienced one or more incidents in the reference period, the questionnaire script automatically identified the order in which the modules were to be asked. Fraud crimes were given a lower priority than the existing non-fraud crime types. The automatic selection meant that the interviewer had no discretion about the selection or order of the modules[18]. The priority ordering used by the script was as follows:

- **According to the type of crime.** Non-fraud victimisation modules were asked first, in reverse order to the screener questions. Broadly speaking this means that all personal incidents were asked before property-related incidents, which were asked before vehicle-related incidents. Fraud victimisation modules were asked but in the same order as the fraud screener questions. Overall, across both non-fraud and fraud crimes a maximum of six victimisation modules were completed, with non-fraud incidents taking priority.

- **Chronologically within each type of crime.** If a respondent reported more than one incident of the same type of crime, modules were asked about the most recent incident first and worked backwards chronologically.

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[17] Respondents could be interviewed up to four times in this time period.

[18] In the case of the incidents of domestic violence, the interviewer had an option to suspend the victimisation module, as this might make the respondents feel uncomfortable or endanger the respondent in some situations.

In the 2021-22 survey, a total of 3,712 victimisation modules were completed by 3,123 individual victims, with 10.0% of all respondents interviewed reporting at least one incident (see Table 3.2).

Table 3.2 Core sample respondents who completed victimisation modules, 2021-2022 TCSEW

	N	% of all respondents interviewed	% of victims
Non victims	28,081	90.0	
Victims[19]	3,123	10.0	
No. of victim modules completed			
1	2,687	8.6	86.0
2	339	1.1	10.9
3	65	0.2	2.1
4	17	0.1	0.5
5	6	0.0	0.2
6	9	0.0	0.3
Total	**3,712**		
Bases:		*31,204*	*3,123*

3.7.2 Defining a series of incidents

Most incidents reported represent one-off crimes or single incidents. However, in a minority of cases a respondent may have been victimised a number of times in succession. At each screener question where a respondent reported an incident, they were asked how many incidents of the given type had occurred during the reference period. If more than one incident was reported, the respondent was asked whether they thought that these incidents represented a 'series' or not. A series was defined as "the same thing, done under the same circumstances and probably by the same people". Where this was the case, only one victimisation module was completed in relation to the most recent incident in the series. Again, this was done to minimise respondent burden.

In fraud cases the definition of a series is more complex, as the survey is intended to replicate the way in which the police would record fraud incidents as close as possible. The key measures for identifying a series with fraud offences is whether all the incidents are identified at the same time, and whether the victim responded in the same way. This is designed to ensure that cases

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[19] Victims refers to the number of respondents who started at least one victimisation module. This is slightly different to the number of respondents who reported at least one incident at the screener questions (n=3,174). This is due to respondent drop out after the screener questions or victimisation modules being skipped under certain circumstances.

of fraud involving multiple transactions on a single account are counted as a single incident rather than multiple incidents. For example, if someone discovers four separate transactions on their bank account these will be recorded as a single incident rather than four separate incidents or a series. However, if they later discover more transactions on their account then this would be recorded as a separate incident or as the second incident in a series.

There are two practical advantages to the approach of only asking about the most recent incident where a series of similar incidents has occurred. First, since some (although not all) incidents classified as a series can be petty or minor incidents (e.g. vandalism) it avoids the need to ask the same questions to a respondent several times over. And second, it avoids using up the limit of six victimisation modules on incidents which may be fairly trivial, while missing out potentially more serious incidents.

In 2021-22, 88% of all victimisation modules related to single incidents and 12% related to a series of incidents. This split between single and series incidents was broadly the same compared to the 2020-21 TCSEW and previous CSEW surveys.

In the rare cases where a respondent has experienced a mixture of single incidents and a series of incidents the interview program has a complex routine which handles the sequence of individual and series incidents and allows the priority ordering of the victimisation modules to be decided.

In terms of estimating the victimisation rates, series incidents receive a weight corresponding to the number of incidents in the series that fall within the reference period, subject to a maximum limit that is specific to the offence code group (see section 8.5). This is a relatively recent change to how the data is weighted as previously all offence types were capped at a limit of five.

3.7.3 Content of victimisation module

The victimisation module collects the key information needed to classify each incident to a particular offence type, which is the basis for calculating the prevalence and incidence rates. It contains three types of information:

– **The exact month(s) in which the incident or series of incidents occurred**. In a few cases, respondents may have reported an incident which later turns out to have been outside the reference period. In such cases, the victimisation module is simply by-passed. If respondents in wave 1 were unsure about the exact month in which something happened, they were asked to narrow it down to a specific quarter. For incidents that were part of a series in wave 1, respondents were asked how many incidents occurred in each quarter and the month in which the most recent incident had occurred. However, wave 2-7 participants were only shown a series of months when looking to establish when the incidents occurred (not the quarters). The exact number of months shown depended on the time since the last interview but would always begin with the month before the last interview. For example, if the W2 interview was in April 2021 and W3 interview was in August 2021, then all months from March 2021 to August 2021 (inclusive) would be shown.

– **An open-ended description of the incident where the respondent describes exactly what happened in their own words**. The open-ended description is vital to the accurate coding of offences that takes place in the office (see Chapter 6 of Volume 1 in the 2021-22 Technical Report for further details). Short, ambiguous or inconsistent descriptions can often make offence coding difficult. In fraud victimisation modules a second open-ended description is included to collect information about the action the respondent took following the fraud or attempted fraud, as this is a key aspect of the fraud offence coding. At the end of each victimisation module, the original open-ended description that the interviewer had entered at the start is reshown to the interviewer along with the answers to some of the key pre-coded questions. By presenting this information on a single screen, interviewers have the chance to confirm with respondents that the information is correct and consistent. If the respondent and/or interviewer wish to add or clarify any information they can do this.

– **A series of key questions used to establish important characteristics about the incident.** These include where and when the incident took place; whether anything was stolen or damaged and, if so, what; the costs of things stolen or damaged; any details of the offenders (if known); whether force or violence was used and, if so, the nature of the force used and any injuries sustained; and whether the police were informed or not. While many of the questions in the fraud victimisation module reflect the non-fraud module there are also other questions which are more relevant for these specific types of crime.

3.8   Reference dates

3.8.1   Wave 1

In the questionnaire script, reference dates were automatically calculated based on the date of interview and appropriate text substitution was used to ensure that the questions always referred to the correct reference period.

3.8.2   Subsequent waves (waves 2-7 as appropriate)

As with wave 1, the questionnaire script reference dates were automatically calculated based on the date of the last interview and the date of the follow-up interview (e.g., between the wave 1 interview date and the wave 2 interview date) and appropriate text substitution was used to ensure that the questions always referred to the correct reference period.

Because the reference period varied by respondent, the date-related questions in the victimisation module had different text to reflect this changing reference period. Thus, for example, if the third interview was 20th June 2021, a wave 4 interview conducted on 10th October 2021 would cover the month prior to the previous interview (May 2021), up to and including the current month (October 2021). This meant that in practice the script consisted of a longer period of time than strictly needed, i.e., for the previous example May 2021 and the 1-19th June 2021. This is again taken into account when the victimisation rates are estimated.

Respondents were asked in which month the incident happened, and at these questions the code frame presented to the interviewer always displayed the months counting back from the date of the last interview plus the month prior to the last interview. In this way it was possible to establish a rolling 12-month period by utilising part of the date from the original wave 3 interview combined with the wave 4 information.

As a result of the much shorter reference dates, respondents in waves 2-7 were not asked for the quarter of the year an incident happened if they did not know the exact month.

Where respondents reported a series of incidents since the last interview, they were asked how many incidents happened in each month rather than in each quarter.

Having established our core (Wave 1) universe, it was agreed that Wave 1 respondents who did not complete Wave 2 would still be invited to take part in one further wave (i.e., re-invited at the start of Wave 3). For any respondents who fell into this category, the reference dates were automatically re-calculated to be based on their first interview and the wave 3 interview date. Thus, if their first interview was 31st May 2020 and they skipped their second interview, but completed when next invited in December 2020, this interview covered the month prior to the last interview (April 2020), up to and including the current month (December 2020) to ensure the 'catch-up' interview covered the full period since the last interview.

This logic was maintained throughout 2021-22, such that a participant who skipped a wave would be invited to partake in the follow-up wave, for example if they completed wave 4 but skipped wave 5, they would be re-invited at wave 6. However, if a participant skipped two consecutive waves, for example, they completed wave 3 but skipped waves 4 and 5, they were not invited to take part in the next wave (wave 6).

3.9   Covid module

The Covid module was the only new module and was designed to be more fluid than the other modules. As such, while other modules remained relatively consistent throughout 2021-22, the

Covid module was updated on multiple occasions throughout the year. A full breakdown of the changes are included in Appendix L of Volume 2 of the Technical report.

Topics covered in the module at the outset of 2021-22 included:

– Criminal Justice System
– Worry about crime
– Anti-social behaviour
– Harassment
– Reporting crimes/ lockdown breaches
– Perception and satisfaction of the police response to Covid
– Awareness of police response to crime and anti-social behaviour
– Children and Covid (see next section)

The topics were reviewed monthly and modified where relevant to reflect the changing needs of TCSEW and to reflect the fact that as circumstances changed then some questions became less relevant. Similarly, some questions were modified so that they were only asked once a year, rather than being included in every subsequent interview using the 'Year 2, First Interview' flag.

The main additions during 2021-22 were the inclusion of a section on phishing and a section on trust in the police, both of which were introduced in November 2021.

3.10   Covid module – questions about children aged 10-15

Having agreed that the interviews with 10-15 year olds would not be part of the TCSEW, a small number of questions were asked of parents/ guardians who had children aged 10-15 in the household. These questions looked at awareness of what the child was doing online and the child's online experiences, as well as awareness of what the child was doing when they went out by themselves.

Where multiple children aged 10-15 were in residence, children were selected based on most recent birthday or chosen at random in the case of multiple births.

Again, the questions were modified to reflect the changing needs over the course of the year, with a sub-set of questions only being asked once using the 'Year 2, First Interview' flag.

3.11   Demographics

This section collected additional information on the respondent.

Question topics included at the start of 2021-22:

– health and disability
– employment details
– housing tenure
– well-being
– alcohol (asked of those aged 18-74 only)
– drugs (asked of those aged 18-74 only)
– mental health

The CSEW includes questions about drug use in the self-completion module of the survey, which is intended to encourage honest answers, however, disclosure issues still exist around willingness to report drug use. The TCSEW did not include a self-completion module, therefore a sub-set of questions were included in the main survey led by the interviewer. This would potentially exacerbate disclosure issues, where an unknown proportion of respondents may not report their behaviour honestly.

As a result, the TCSEW is likely to underestimate the level of drug misuse in England and Wales.

3.12 Question development and testing

In most survey years, question testing is a standard component of the CSEW questionnaire development process. This usually takes the form of cognitive testing conducted via face-to-face interviews. However, given the unprecedented nature of the changes forced upon the survey, no such development work was feasible before the switch to telephone. Instead, the modified questionnaire was reviewed by multiple (internal) teams, with various feedback loops in place at the time of launch to review the updated questionnaire. As a result of the extensive pre-testing of the questionnaire very little feedback was received post-launch, although a small number of questions were modified in the first few days of fieldwork, following initial feedback from the interviewers. This feedback loop was maintained throughout fieldwork as/ when additional questions were introduced to the survey.

4.   Fieldwork

This chapter documents all aspects of the data collection process, focusing on fieldwork procedures, the management of fieldwork across the survey year, quality control procedures and aspects of how the interview was conducted.

4.1   Briefing of interviewers

Previously on the CSEW a certain number of new interviewers are brought onto the CSEW interviewer panel each year either to replace those who have left the panel or to boost the overall size of the panel. For the TCSEW it was decided only to use interviewers who were already on the CSEW interviewer panel and who had previously worked as face-to-face interviewers on the survey, in some cases for many years.

In previous years, interviewers already working on the survey have attended a half-day face to face refresher briefing annually. This half-day refresher briefing was replaced in 2020/21 by a remote two and a half hour briefing which took place over Microsoft Teams. In 2020/21, five of these briefings took place and were attended by a total of 83 interviewers before they began to work on the wave 1 sample. The purpose of these briefings was to give interviewers an overview of the changes made to the survey to accommodate the switch of mode from CAPI to CATI. Interviewers were also briefed on the differences between face-to-face and telephone interviewing and given tips on best practice for telephone interviewing.

Most interviewers had previously been briefed in 2020/21, however one additional briefing in 2021/22 took place on 18th June 2021. There were also debriefs at the start of the month if there were any amendments to the survey content. These would have been completed by a Team Leader and all interviewers working would have attended.

4.2   Supervision and quality control

Several methods were used to ensure the quality and validity of the data collection operation.

Each individual shift (lasting 3.5 hours) was assigned a dedicated Team Leader or Senior Interviewer to supervise and oversee quality control during the shift. At the start of each shift, the Team Leader or Senior Interviewer would organise a communications call to confirm that all interviewers were logged in, and to provide any additional briefing instructions which interviewers would require. Interviewers were also informed on this call which wave of sample they were being allocated to for that shift.

During each shift, a chat group on Microsoft Teams was made available to all interviewers. In this chat group interviewers were able to ask any questions or queries that came up during the course of the shift, and these could be immediately addressed by the Team Leader or Senior Interviewer.

As is standard on all telephone projects, a certain proportion of interviews are listened to for quality control purposes[20]. On the 2021/22 TCSEW, 7% of all interviews were listened to for at least 75% of the interview in order to meet standard quality control requirements (amounting to approximately 2,233 surveys). Beyond this standard requirement, further quality control measures were put in place for the TCSEW specifically, with a supervisor within the telephone unit responsible for quality control listening to at least one completed survey per interviewer each week. As a result of this additional quality control process, the quality of every interviewer's work was checked frequently throughout the year.

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[20] Both live interviews and recordings are listened to.

4.3   Fieldwork dates and fieldwork management

In the 2020/21 survey, the sample was first grouped into three linked waves which were released in batches each month. This was continued in the 2021/22 survey, where there were four additional linked waves.

The wave 2 and wave 3 issued sample were initially released in the 2020/21 survey and continued to be released in the 2021/22 survey alongside waves 4, 5, 6 and 7. For each wave, the issued sample was released in the following months:

- Wave 2: April 2021 to May 2021[21]
- Wave 3: April 2021 to September 2021
- Wave 4: April 2021 to November 2021
- Wave 5: July 2021 to March 2022
- Wave 6: November 2021 to March 2022
- Wave 7: February 2022 to March 2022

All issued sample for each wave was released in two batches per month and remained open for approximately two months. The exception to this were batches released after January 2022, these only remained open until March 2022[22].

Table 4.1 shows the total sample for each wave for the 2021/22 survey.

Table 4.1   Total issued sample by wave for TCSEW 2021-2022

Wave	No. of total issued sample (2021/22)
Wave 2	1,022
Wave 3	4,496
Wave 4	11,868
Wave 5	9,739
Wave 6	7,138
Wave 7	1,935

Over the course of the whole year willingness to be re-contacted remained high. Table 4.2 outlines willingness to be recontacted across each wave of the survey.

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[21] Please note: the figures for waves 2 and 3 are based on sample that was fully issued in 21/22 and does not include sample that was released in 20/21 but still active in 21/22.

[22] Waves 5, 6 and 7 still had active sample at the end of fieldwork in March 2022.

Table 4.2   Willingness to be recontacted by wave for TCSEW 2021-2022

Wave	Willingness to be re-contacted (2021-22)
Wave 2	98%
Wave 3	97%
Wave 4	98%
Wave 5	98%
Wave 6	99%
Wave 7	99%

How sample was worked in the field differed from the face-to-face survey in several ways. First, the TCSEW sample was not interviewer specific: that is each interviewer did not have their own assignment of sample which they worked through to a final outcome. Rather, sample was managed through an automatic dialler, with each piece of sample being allocated to the next available interviewer. The dialler was able to prioritise some batches of sample over others. Another difference compared to the face-to-face survey was that no sample was re-issued. Rather, sample stayed live for the full fieldwork period with the time between calls being automatically set based on previous outcomes. This meant that the maximum amount of time for a batch of sample to remain in field was around two months.

4.4   Advance letter

All selected respondents were sent a letter from the Office for National Statistics in advance of an interviewer calling them to administer the survey. This explained a little about the survey, why they had been selected and informed them that an interviewer from Kantar would be calling in the next few weeks. The letter also provided a telephone number and an email address for people to contact to find out more about the survey, to make an appointment for an interviewer to call, or to opt out of the survey.

As well as an advance letter, an advance email was also sent to those respondents with an email address included in the sample. This email was also sent from the Office for National Statistics and it covered similar information to that provided in the letter. It also included a direct link through which respondents could email the team at Kantar Public to find out more about the survey.

Both the advance letters and advance emails varied slightly by wave. The most notable difference between waves was that, for those respondents being offered an unconditional incentive this was included with their advance letter or email (depending on whether it was a postal or online voucher).

In Wave 4, respondents were also sent an additional letter and email[23] from the Office for National Statistics to thank respondents for their continued support and participation in the survey so far. Respondents also received an e-newsletter that highlighted how the information from the Crime Survey had been used.

Examples of the letters and emails can be found in Appendix A-J of Volume 2.

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[23] Where an email address had previously been provided

Respondents living in Wales received a bilingual version of the advance letters and emails. The bilingual versions of the letters and emails included the same information as the English versions but displayed this in both English and Welsh. Again, examples of the Welsh advance letters and emails can be found in Appendix A-J of Volume 2.

4.5   Respondent website

A website with information about the survey was set up, with the style and content of information updated regularly. Respondents could be directed to this website by the interviewer and the website was also referenced in all respondent-facing survey materials.

Information displayed on this website included what the survey is about and what types of questions are asked, survey results, confidentiality and data security, as well as a section on frequently asked questions. The website is available in both English and Welsh.

The URL for the website is: http://www.crimesurvey.co.uk

4.6   Incentives

Since 2005, a booklet of six first class stamps has been sent with the advance letter as a 'thank you' to people for taking part in the survey and this was the case for Wave 1 of the 2020/21 survey.

Due to the re-contact nature of the survey in 2020/21 and 2021/22, additional incentives were offered to encourage respondents to continue to participate in future waves. At wave 1 in 2020/21, alongside the book of six stamps which was sent with the advance letter, respondents were also offered a £10 incentive conditional on their completion of the survey. This £10 incentive was a voucher which could be provided by post or by email and respondents were given a choice between Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Marks & Spencer, John Lewis/ Waitrose and Amazon as providers.

At wave 2 and all subsequent waves, an unconditional £10 incentive was given to all respondents, this was included either in their advance letter or advance email depending on how they had requested their incentive upon completion of their wave 1 survey. The voucher sent as part of the wave 2 advance materials was for the same provider requested by the respondent upon completion of their wave 1 survey.

For those respondents who completed a wave 2 survey, another unconditional £10 incentive was sent in their advance letter for wave 3. For those respondents who did not complete a survey at wave 2, the wave 3 advance letter included a book of stamps and the offer of a £10 incentive conditional on their completing the wave 3 survey. This was continued at waves 4, 5, 6 and 7.

4.7   Presence of others during the interview

During the interviewer briefing sessions emphasis was placed on the importance of trying, wherever possible, to conduct the interview in private. This generally helped to make the interview run more smoothly but was also felt likely to encourage respondents to mention certain incidents or events, which they might be embarrassed or unwilling to talk about in front of others. However, given that the survey was conducted by telephone there was clearly a limitation on what interviewers could do. Interviewers were instructed to flag to respondents at the outset that they may want to be alone for some, or all, of the questionnaire. Interviewers were also reminded to restate this prior to asking certain sensitive questions.

Privacy during the interview is a particular concern for respondents who had been attacked, hurt, harassed, or intimidated (answering Yes at DELIBVIO, THREVIOL2, HHLDVIOL). Where respondents had experienced such incidents in the last 12 months[24], interviewers asked respondents whether they were happy to be asked more detailed questions about the incident. If the respondent said no, interviewers had the option of suspending the victim form. This procedure

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[24] Or since the last interview in the case of subsequent interviews

meant that the interviewer could complete the rest of the questionnaire, rather than having to abandon the whole interview. During 2021/22, a total of 43 victimisation modules were suspended by interviewers for this reason. The proportion of suspended victimisation modules was lower than 2020/21 but similar to levels seen on the face-to-face survey in previous years.

4.8   Length of interview

Timing stamps were placed throughout the questionnaire to allow timing of individual sections. In a small number of cases, the time stamps were invalid due to technical issues or interviews conducted over multiple days although valid times were available for over 95% of interviews.

Wave 4 interviews took longer to complete on average (mean: 29 minutes, median: 27 minutes) compared with wave 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 interviews (mean: 23-24 minutes, median: 20-22 minutes). At wave 4, 70% of interviews took 30 minutes or less to complete, compared with an average of 85% at all other waves. At wave 4, 6% of interviews lasted over 45 minutes, compared to 3% at the other waves. This was linked to the fact that a number of the questions were only asked once in the second year of fieldwork and that for the majority of participants these were asked in their wave 4 interview (comparable to the quarter in which they completed their wave 1 interview in 2020-21).

The main influence on core interview length was whether the respondent had been a victim of crime. The average interview length for victims of crime was 43 minutes compared with 24 minutes for non-victims.

The average length of interview by number of victimisation modules completed is shown in Table 4.3. Not unexpectedly, interview length was strongly related to the number of victimisation modules completed, with those completing four or more modules (1% of victims) having an average interview length of around 73 minutes.

Table 4.3   Average (mean) time of interview by number of victimisation modules, 2021/22 TCSEW

Number of victimisation modules	Average time (minutes)						
	Total	**Wave 2**	**Wave 3**	**Wave 4**	**Wave 5**	**Wave 6**	**Wave 7**
Non victims	**24**	**22**	**21**	**27**	**22**	**22**	**22**
All victims	**43**	**41**	**41**	**46**	**41**	**41**	**39**
1	40	40	38	44	39	38	38
2	55	51	57	59	49	56	48
3	67	n/a	69	60	67	73	50
4 or more	73	84	69	74	71	74	n/a
All adult respondents	**25**	**24**	**23**	**29**	**24**	**24**	**23**

5. Response rates

5.1   Wave 2: survey response rate and non-response

The full response and non-response breakdown for the 2021-22 Wave 2 sample is shown in Table 5.1[25].

For Wave 2, 3.6% of issued cases were identified as not being an eligible case (known as deadwood). The most common type of deadwood was dead/ invalid number, which accounted for 3.2% of all issued cases.

Interviewers made contact with either the selected respondent or another responsible adult in the household at 94.5% of eligible addresses, meaning a non-contact rate of 5.5%. The most common reason for non-contact (2.8% of eligible cases) was where the respondent had set up a caller ID block or call barring system.

For eligible cases where contact was made, the most common reason for not getting an interview was due to a respondent refusal, which accounted for 3.8% of all eligible cases. Proxy refusals (someone refusing on behalf of the named respondent) were less common (0.3%).

Almost 1 in 6 eligible cases (16.9%) were categorised as unproductive for other reasons including broken appointments, dialler error[26] and people who were ill/ in hospital during the period of the survey.

Overall, 2,453 Wave 2 interviews were achieved in 2021-22, representing a response rate of 83.1%. The overall sample conversion rate (achieved interviews/issued sample) was 80.1%.

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[25] Response rates are based only on wave 2 sample which was open (in field) from 1st April 2021 onwards. 13,677 wave 2 addresses were issued (and closed) by the end of March 2021.

[26] Dialler Error refers to calls that fail due to dial tone irregularities

Table 5.1   Wave 2 sample response rate and non-response outcomes, 2021-22 TCSEW

	N	% of issued	% of eligible
TOTAL ISSUED ADDRESSES	3,062	100	
Deadwood			
Business number	3	0.1	
Dead / Invalid number	98	3.2	
Modem/ Fax number	0	0.0	
Respondent has moved	5	0.2	
Respondent unknown at number	5	0.2	
TOTAL DEADWOOD	**111**	**3.6**	
TOTAL ELIGIBLE ADDRESSES	**2,951**	**96.4**	**100**
Non-contact			
Caller ID Block/ Call Barring Message	82	2.7	2.8
General call back (not arranged with respondent)	20	0.7	0.7
No answer/ Answer Machine/ Number Busy	60	2.0	2.0
Total non-contact	*162*	*5.3*	*5.5*
Refusal			
Office refusal	11	0.4	0.4
Respondent refusal	113	3.7	3.8
Proxy refusal	9	0.3	0.3
Quit mid interview, refused to finish	0	0.0	0.0
Total refusal	*133*	*4.3*	*4.5*
Other unproductive			
Broken Appointment	161	5.3	5.5
Dialler Error[27]	23	0.8	0.8
Inadequate English	3	0.1	0.1
Physically or mentally unable	4	0.1	0.1
Respondent has died	5	0.2	0.2
Respondent too ill/ in hospital	5	0.2	0.2
Other unsuccessful	2	0.1	0.1
Total other unsuccessful	*203*	*6.6*	*6.9*
TOTAL UNPRODUCTIVE	**498**	**16.3**	**16.9**
TOTAL INTERVIEWS	**2,453**	**80.1**	**83.1**

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[27] Dialler Error refers to calls that fail due to dial tone irregularities

5.1.1 Wave 2 response rates by Government Office Region

Table 5.2 shows the different response rates and reasons for non-response achieved by region for 2021-22 Wave 2. This shows that across regions the response rate ranged from 78.9% in London to 85.5% in the West Midlands.

Table 5.2   Wave 2 sample response rates and non-response by Government Office Region, 2021-22 TCSEW

	North East	North West	Yorkshire & The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West	Wales
Percentage of eligible addresses (%):										
Non-contact	3.6	4.7	7.5	8.6	5.2	4.9	5.6	5.1	4.7	5.0
Refusal	7.3	7.3	4.4	2.7	2.8	2.9	4.5	5.1	5.0	4.7
Other unproductive	6.4	6.0	7.1	6.6	6.6	8.1	10.9	5.8	5.5	6.4
Achieved interview	82.7	82.0	81.0	82.1	85.5	84.2	78.9	84.1	84.8	83.9

5.1.2 Wave 2 response rate by Police Force Area

Table 5.3 overleaf shows the number of Wave 2 interviews achieved in each PFA and the response rates.

Table 5.3   Wave 2 sample achieved interviews and response rates by PFA, 2021-22 TCSEW

PFA	Achieved	Response rate
	N	*%*
Avon & Somerset	57	85.1
Bedfordshire	47	85.5
Cambridgeshire	46	86.8
Cheshire	40	80.0
Cleveland	38	90.5
Cumbria	61	89.7
Derbyshire	48	81.4
Devon & Cornwall	101	82.8
Dorset	46	88.5
Durham	23	71.9
Dyfed Powys	67	81.7
Essex	72	80.9
Gloucestershire	53	88.3
Greater Manchester	67	74.4
Gwent	71	85.5
Hampshire	81	85.3
Hertfordshire	45	76.3
Humberside	48	81.4
Kent	67	84.8
Lancashire	44	81.5
Leicestershire	31	75.6
Lincolnshire	50	84.7
Merseyside	48	87.3
Metropolitan and City of London	210	78.9
Norfolk	63	90.0
North Wales	48	85.7
North Yorkshire	42	82.4
Northamptonshire	39	81.3
Northumbria	30	83.3
Nottinghamshire	43	86.0
South Wales	64	83.1
South Yorkshire	39	75.0
Staffordshire	43	81.1
Suffolk	51	86.4
Surrey	63	86.3
Sussex	48	75.0
Thames Valley	90	86.5
Warwickshire	54	88.5
West Mercia	54	85.7
West Midlands	97	85.8
West Yorkshire	75	83.3
Wiltshire	49	81.7

5.2 Wave 3: survey response rate and non-response

The full response and non-response breakdown for the 2021-22 Wave 3 sample is shown in Table 5.4[28]. For Wave 3, 3.8% of issued cases were identified as not being an eligible case (known as deadwood). The most common type of deadwood was dead/ invalid number, which accounted for 3.6% of all issued cases.

Interviewers made contact with either the selected respondent or a responsible adult at 92.8% of eligible addresses, meaning a non-contact rate of 7.2%. The most common reason for non-contact (3.3% of eligible cases) was where the respondent had set up a caller ID block or call barring system.

For eligible cases where contact was made, the most common reason for not getting an interview was due to broken appointment, which accounted for 3.9% of all eligible cases. Respondent refusals accounted for 2.9% of all eligible cases, while proxy refusals (someone refusing on behalf of the named respondent) were less common (0.1%).

Overall, 8,633 Wave 3 interviews were achieved in 2021-22, representing a response rate of 84.3% and a conversion rate of 81.1%.

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[28] Response rates are based only on wave 3 sample which was open (in field) from 1st April 2021 onwards. 3,666 wave 3 addresses were issued (and closed) by the end of March 2021.

Table 5.4   **Wave 3 sample response rate and non-response outcomes, 2021-22 TCSEW**

	N	*% of issued*	*% of eligible*
TOTAL ISSUED ADDRESSES	10,648	100	
Deadwood			
Business number	4	0.0	
Dead / Invalid number	383	3.6	
Modem/ Fax number	3	0.0	
Respondent has moved	11	0.1	
Respondent unknown at number	7	0.1	
TOTAL DEADWOOD	**408**	**3.8**	
TOTAL ELIGIBLE ADDRESSES	**10,240**	**96.2**	**100**
Non-contact			
Caller ID Block/ Call Barring Message	340	3.2	3.3
General call back (not arranged with respondent)	95	0.9	0.9
No answer/ Answer Machine/ Number Busy	306	2.9	3.0
Total non-contact	*741*	*7.0*	*7.2*
Refusal			
Office refusal	50	0.5	0.5
Respondent refusal	292	2.8	2.9
Proxy refusal	12	0.1	0.1
Quit mid interview, refused to finish	2	0.0	0.0
Total refusal	*356*	*3.3*	*3.5*
Other unproductive			
Broken Appointment	396	3.7	3.9
Dialler Error[29]	62	0.6	0.6
Inadequate English	3	0.0	0.0
Physically or mentally unable	18	0.2	0.2
Respondent has died	16	0.2	0.2
Respondent too ill/ in hospital	11	0.1	0.1
Other unsuccessful	4	0.0	0.0
Total other unsuccessful	*510*	*4.8*	*5.0*
TOTAL UNPRODUCTIVE	**1,607**	**15.1**	**15.7**
TOTAL INTERVIEWS	**8,633**	**81.1**	**84.3**

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[29] Dialler Error refers to calls that fail due to dial tone irregularities

5.2.1 Wave 3 response rates by Government Office Region

Table 5.5 shows the different response rates and reasons for non-response achieved by region for 2021-22 Wave 3. This shows that across regions the response rate ranged from 85.7% in the East Midlands to 80.2% in the North East.

Table 5.5   Wave 3 sample response rates and non-response by Government Office Region, 2021-22 TCSEW

	North East	North West	Yorkshire & The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West	Wales
Percentage of eligible addresses (%):										
Non-contact	9.9	7.9	7.8	7.3	7.7	7.8	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.7
Refusal	4.4	3.5	3.2	2.2	3.6	3.2	3.6	4.2	3.6	3.4
Other unproductive	5.4	5.8	3.5	4.8	5.2	4.8	6.6	3.9	4.7	6.1
Achieved interview	80.2	82.8	85.5	85.7	83.4	84.1	83.6	85.6	85.3	83.8

5.2.2 Wave 3 response rate by Police Force Area

Table 5.6 overleaf shows the number of Wave 3 interviews achieved in each PFA and the response rates.

Table 5.6   Wave 3 sample achieved interviews and response rates by PFA, 2021-22 TCSEW

PFA	Achieved	Response rate
	N	*%*
Avon & Somerset	193	82.5
Bedfordshire	162	81.0
Cambridgeshire	193	86.9
Cheshire	145	82.9
Cleveland	114	82.6
Cumbria	158	87.3
Derbyshire	171	85.9
Devon & Cornwall	293	87.7
Dorset	189	88.3
Durham	91	79.1
Dyfed Powys	206	85.5
Essex	243	82.4
Gloucestershire	154	84.6
Greater Manchester	307	80.8
Gwent	177	84.7
Hampshire	267	85.0
Hertfordshire	172	87.8
Humberside	175	83.3
Kent	220	83.7
Lancashire	164	82.8
Leicestershire	150	88.2
Lincolnshire	170	86.7
Merseyside	196	82.7
Metropolitan and City of London	770	83.6
Norfolk	196	80.3
North Wales	178	84.8
North Yorkshire	191	91.0
Northamptonshire	168	88.4
Northumbria	120	78.9
Nottinghamshire	148	79.1
South Wales	170	80.2
South Yorkshire	168	85.3
Staffordshire	132	86.8
Suffolk	203	87.1
Surrey	224	90.7
Sussex	193	84.6
Thames Valley	345	84.8
Warwickshire	176	81.9
West Mercia	181	85.4
West Midlands	277	81.7
West Yorkshire	308	83.7
Wiltshire	175	82.2

5.3   Wave 4: survey response rate and non-response

The full response and non-response breakdown for the 2021-22 Wave 4 sample is shown in Table 5.7.

For Wave 4 2.6% of issued cases were identified as not being an eligible case (known as deadwood). The most common type of deadwood was dead/ invalid number, which accounted for 2.4% of all issued cases.

Interviewers made contact with either the selected respondent or a responsible adult at 90.2% of eligible addresses, meaning a non-contact rate of 9.8%. The most common (8.0% of eligible cases) was where the caller had set up a caller ID block or call barring system.

For eligible cases where contact was made, the most common reason for not getting an interview was due to broken appointment, which accounted for 2.8% of all eligible cases. Respondent refusals accounted for 1.8% of all eligible cases, while proxy refusals (someone refusing on behalf of the named respondent) were less common (0.2%).

Overall, 9,809 Wave 4 interviews were achieved in 2021-22, representing a response rate of 84.4%% and a conversion rate of 82.2%.

Table 5.7   Wave 4 sample response rate and non-response outcomes, 2021-22 TCSEW

	N	*% of issued*	*% of eligible*
TOTAL ISSUED ADDRESSES	11,932	100	
Deadwood			
Business number	6	0.1	
Dead / Invalid number	281	2.4	
Modem/ Fax number	5	0.0	
Respondent has moved	6	0.1	
Respondent unknown at number	16	0.1	
TOTAL DEADWOOD	**314**	**2.6**	
TOTAL ELIGIBLE ADDRESSES	**11,618**	**97.4**	**100**
Non-contact			
Caller ID Block/ Call Barring Message	924	7.7	8.0
General call back (not arranged with respondent)	82	0.7	0.7
No answer/ Answer Machine/ Number Busy	132	1.1	1.1
Total non-contact	*1,138*	*9.5*	*9.8*
Refusal			
Office refusal	64	0.5	0.6
Respondent refusal	207	1.7	1.8
Proxy refusal	23	0.2	0.2
Quit mid interview, refused to finish	3	0.0	0.0
Total refusal	*297*	*2.5*	*2.6*
Other unproductive			
Broken Appointment	327	2.7	2.8
Dialler Error[30]	3	0.0	0.0
Inadequate English	2	0.0	0.0
Physically or mentally unable	14	0.1	0.1
Respondent has died	11	0.1	0.1
Respondent too ill/ in hospital	15	0.1	0.1
Other unsuccessful	2	0.0	0.0
Total other unsuccessful	*374*	*3.1*	*3.2*
TOTAL UNPRODUCTIVE	**1,809**	**15.2**	**15.6**
TOTAL INTERVIEWS	**9,809**	**82.2**	**84.4**

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[30] Dialler Error refers to calls that fail due to dial tone irregularities

5.3.1 Wave 4 response rates by Government Office Region

Table 5.8 shows the different response rates and reasons for non-response achieved by region for 2021-22 Wave 4. This shows that across regions the response rate ranged from 87.5% in Wales to 80.2% in London.

Table 5.8   Wave 4 sample response rates and non-response by Government Office Region, 2021-22 TCSEW

	North East	North West	Yorkshire & The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West	Wales
Percentage of eligible addresses (%):										
Non-contact	10.3	11.5	8.9	10.6	10.6	9.3	12.2	9.3	8.3	7.2
Refusal	2.3	2.6	1.7	2.3	2.4	2.6	3.2	2.7	2.7	3.0
Other unproductive	3.3	3.5	2.7	3.1	3.7	3.5	4.4	3.2	2.5	2.3
Achieved interview	84.1	82.3	86.8	83.9	83.3	84.6	80.2	84.8	86.5	87.5

5.3.2 Wave 4 response rate by Police Force Area

Table 5.9 overleaf shows the number of Wave 4 interviews achieved in each PFA and the response rates.

Table 5.9   Wave 4 sample achieved interviews and response rates by PFA, 2021-22 TCSEW

PFA	Achieved	Response rate
	N	*%*
Avon & Somerset	237	87.1
Bedfordshire	185	83.3
Cambridgeshire	205	84.0
Cheshire	167	80.3
Cleveland	129	84.3
Cumbria	191	88.4
Derbyshire	192	84.6
Devon & Cornwall	337	86.0
Dorset	232	86.9
Durham	124	84.4
Dyfed Powys	230	89.1
Essex	278	82.7
Gloucestershire	178	85.6
Greater Manchester	346	82.2
Gwent	191	84.9
Hampshire	300	86.2
Hertfordshire	201	86.6
Humberside	195	86.7
Kent	262	85.9
Lancashire	188	79.7
Leicestershire	186	85.3
Lincolnshire	194	84.7
Merseyside	222	81.6
Metropolitan and City of London	836	80.2
Norfolk	233	84.7
North Wales	189	85.5
North Yorkshire	209	86.4
Northamptonshire	186	83.0
Northumbria	149	83.7
Nottinghamshire	181	81.9
South Wales	189	90.4
South Yorkshire	189	87.5
Staffordshire	148	85.5
Suffolk	234	86.7
Surrey	246	85.1
Sussex	219	82.3
Thames Valley	373	84.4
Warwickshire	210	84.0
West Mercia	199	83.3
West Midlands	298	81.6
West Yorkshire	353	86.7
Wiltshire	198	86.8

5.4   Wave 5: survey response rate and non-response

The full response and non-response breakdown for the 2021-22 Wave 5 sample is shown in Table 5.10.

For Wave 5, 3.2% of issued cases were identified as not being an eligible case (known as deadwood). The most common type of deadwood was dead/ invalid number, which accounted for 3.1% of all issued cases.

Interviewers made contact with either the selected respondent or a responsible adult at 97.3% of eligible addresses, meaning a non-contact rate of 2.7%. The most common (1.1% of eligible cases) was where the contact was consistently going to answer phone or there was no answer.

For eligible cases where contact was made, the most common reason for not getting an interview was due to broken appointment, which accounted for 3.0% of all eligible cases. Respondent refusals accounted for 1.8% of all eligible cases, while proxy refusals (someone refusing on behalf of the named respondent) were less common (0.1%)

Overall, 8,665 Wave 5 interviews were achieved in 2021-22, representing a response rate of 91.6% and a conversion rate of 88.7%.

Table 5.10   Wave 5 sample response rate and non-response outcomes, 2021-22 TCSEW

	N	% of issued	% of eligible
TOTAL ISSUED ADDRESSES	9,771	100	
Deadwood			
Business number	2	0.0	
Dead / Invalid number	303	3.1	
Modem/ Fax number	3	0.0	
Respondent has moved	2	0.0	
Respondent unknown at number	2	0.0	
TOTAL DEADWOOD	**312**	**3.2**	
TOTAL ELIGIBLE ADDRESSES	**9,459**	**96.8**	**100**
Non-contact			
Caller ID Block/ Call Barring Message	50	0.5	0.5
General call back (not arranged with respondent)	97	1.0	1.0
No answer/ Answer Machine/ Number Busy	107	1.1	1.1
Total non-contact	***254***	***2.6***	***2.7***
Refusal			
Office refusal	32	0.3	0.3
Respondent refusal	167	1.7	1.8
Proxy refusal	8	0.1	0.1
Quit mid interview, refused to finish	0	0.0	0.0
Total refusal	***207***	***2.1***	***2.2***
Other unproductive			
Broken Appointment	286	2.9	3.0
Dialler Error[31]	0	0.0	0.0
Inadequate English	1	0.0	0.0
Physically or mentally unable	13	0.1	0.1
Respondent has died	11	0.1	0.1
Respondent too ill/ in hospital	17	0.2	0.2
Other unsuccessful	5	0.1	0.1
Total other unsuccessful	***333***	***3.4***	***3.5***
TOTAL UNPRODUCTIVE	**794**	8.1	8.4
TOTAL INTERVIEWS	**8,665**	88.7	91.6

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[31] Dialler Error refers to calls that fail due to dial tone irregularities

5.4.1 Wave 5 response rates by Government Office Region

Table 5.11 shows the different response rates and reasons for non-response achieved by region for 2021-22 Wave 5. This shows that across regions the response rate ranged from 93.2% in the South West to 89.7% in London.

Table 5.11   Wave 5 sample response rates and non-response by Government Office Region, 2021-22 TCSEW

	North East	North West	Yorkshire & The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West	Wales
Percentage of eligible addresses (%):										
Non-contact	3.6	2.9	2.5	2.2	3.1	2.4	2.9	2.9	1.9	3.4
Refusal	0.8	1.8	1.6	2.5	1.7	2.3	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.1
Other unproductive	4.1	4.2	3.5	3.7	4.2	2.8	4.7	3.0	2.3	4.1
Achieved interview	91.5	91.2	92.4	91.5	91.0	92.5	89.7	91.5	93.2	90.4

5.4.2 Wave 5 response rate by Police Force Area

Table 5.12 overleaf shows the number of Wave 5 interviews achieved in each PFA and the response rates.

Table 5.12   Wave 5 sample achieved interviews and response rates by PFA, 2021-22 TCSEW

PFA	Achieved	Response rate
	N	*%*
Avon & Somerset	200	89.7
Bedfordshire	176	95.7
Cambridgeshire	183	93.4
Cheshire	150	90.4
Cleveland	115	92.0
Cumbria	173	94.5
Derbyshire	168	90.3
Devon & Cornwall	298	93.7
Dorset	216	94.3
Durham	111	91.0
Dyfed Powys	201	91.4
Essex	252	91.6
Gloucestershire	157	94.0
Greater Manchester	308	91.7
Gwent	158	87.3
Hampshire	260	90.3
Hertfordshire	179	89.9
Humberside	172	92.5
Kent	220	87.3
Lancashire	168	91.3
Leicestershire	164	91.6
Lincolnshire	173	91.5
Merseyside	183	88.0
Metropolitan and City of London	723	89.7
Norfolk	209	92.1
North Wales	167	92.8
North Yorkshire	187	93.0
Northamptonshire	162	91.0
Northumbria	128	91.4
Nottinghamshire	163	93.1
South Wales	159	89.8
South Yorkshire	170	92.9
Staffordshire	130	92.9
Suffolk	214	93.0
Surrey	217	92.3
Sussex	204	94.4
Thames Valley	338	93.1
Warwickshire	179	91.8
West Mercia	175	91.1
West Midlands	255	89.5
West Yorkshire	318	91.6
Wiltshire	182	94.3

5.5   Wave 6: survey response rate and non-response

The full response and non-response breakdown for the 2021-22 Wave 6 sample is shown in Table 5.13.

For Wave 6, 3.4% of issued cases were identified as not being an eligible case (known as deadwood). The most common type of deadwood was dead/ invalid number, which accounted for 3.3% of all issued cases.

Interviewers made contact with either the selected respondent or a responsible adult at 96.9% of eligible addresses, meaning a non-contact rate of 3.1%. The most common (1.5% of eligible cases) was in relation to a general call back (not arranged with the respondent).

For eligible cases where contact was made, the most common reason for not getting an interview was due to broken appointment, which accounted for 5.3% of all eligible cases. Respondent refusals accounted for 1.6% of all eligible cases.

Overall, 6,192 Wave 6 interviews were achieved in 2021-22, representing a response rate of 89.5% and a conversion rate of 86.4%.

Table 5.13   Wave 6 sample response rate and non-response outcomes, 2021-22 TCSEW

	N	% of issued	% of eligible
TOTAL ISSUED ADDRESSES	**7,166**	100	
Deadwood			
Business number	0	0.0	
Dead / Invalid number	238	3.3	
Modem/ Fax number	1	0.0	
Respondent has moved	4	0.1	
Respondent unknown at number	1	0.0	
TOTAL DEADWOOD	**244**	**3.4**	
TOTAL ELIGIBLE ADDRESSES	**6,922**	**96.6**	**100**
Non-contact			
Caller ID Block/ Call Barring Message	14	0.2	0.2
General call back (not arranged with respondent)	101	1.4	1.5
No answer/ Answer Machine/ Number Busy	97	1.4	1.4
Total non-contact	*212*	*3.0*	*3.1*
Refusal			
Office refusal	28	0.4	0.4
Respondent refusal	108	1.5	1.6
Proxy refusal	0	0.0	0.0
Quit mid interview, refused to finish	2	0.0	0.0
Total refusal	*138*	*1.9*	*2.0*
Other unproductive			
Broken Appointment	366	5.1	5.3
Dialler Error[32]	0	0.0	0.0
Inadequate English	0	0.0	0.0
Physically or mentally unable	2	0.0	0.0
Respondent has died	5	0.1	0.1
Respondent too ill/ in hospital	6	0.1	0.1
Other unsuccessful	1	0.0	0.0
Total other unsuccessful	*380*	*5.3*	*5.5*
TOTAL UNPRODUCTIVE	**730**	**10.2**	**10.5**
TOTAL INTERVIEWS	**6,192**	**86.4**	**89.5**

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[32] Dialler Error refers to calls that fail due to dial tone irregularities

5.5.1 Wave 6 response rates by Government Office Region

Table 5.14 shows the different response rates and reasons for non-response achieved by region for 2021-22 Wave 6. This shows that across regions the response rate ranged from 91.4% in the North West to 85.9% in London.

Table 5.14   Wave 6 sample response rates and non-response by Government Office Region, 2021-22 TCSEW

	North East	North West	Yorkshire & The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West	Wales
Percentage of eligible addresses (%):										
Non-contact	4.9	2.5	2.6	4.5	3.1	2.4	3.8	2.5	3.4	2.5
Refusal	1.4	1.6	2.0	1.5	1.9	2.6	2.1	1.6	2.1	3.0
Other unproductive	5.9	4.5	4.2	4.4	5.3	6.4	8.2	6.0	4.3	6.5
Achieved interview	87.8	91.4	91.2	89.6	89.8	88.6	85.9	89.9	90.2	88.0

5.5.2 Wave 6 response rate by Police Force Area

Table 5.15 overleaf shows the number of Wave 6 interviews achieved in each PFA and the response rates.

Table 5.15   Wave 6 sample achieved interviews and response rates by PFA, 2021-22 TCSEW

PFA	Achieved	Response rate
	N	*%*
Avon & Somerset	146	89.0
Bedfordshire	117	87.3
Cambridgeshire	123	87.9
Cheshire	113	89.7
Cleveland	81	87.1
Cumbria	123	94.6
Derbyshire	117	89.3
Devon & Cornwall	198	91.7
Dorset	155	90.1
Durham	82	91.1
Dyfed Powys	142	89.9
Essex	178	90.4
Gloucestershire	112	91.1
Greater Manchester	234	90.7
Gwent	99	89.2
Hampshire	200	93.9
Hertfordshire	126	85.7
Humberside	128	92.8
Kent	163	91.6
Lancashire	127	90.1
Leicestershire	134	92.4
Lincolnshire	125	88.0
Merseyside	138	92.6
Metropolitan and City of London	492	85.9
Norfolk	139	87.4
North Wales	116	89.2
North Yorkshire	140	92.1
Northamptonshire	115	88.5
Northumbria	90	85.7
Nottinghamshire	123	89.8
South Wales	105	83.3
South Yorkshire	132	93.0
Staffordshire	89	87.3
Suffolk	160	91.4
Surrey	144	84.2
Sussex	148	89.2
Thames Valley	242	89.6
Warwickshire	131	89.7
West Mercia	127	89.4
West Midlands	183	91.5
West Yorkshire	230	88.8
Wiltshire	125	88.7

5.6   Wave 7: survey response rate and non-response

The full response and non-response breakdown for the 2021-22 Wave 7 sample is shown in Table 5.16.

For Wave 7, 0.2% of issued cases were identified as not being an eligible case (known as deadwood). The most common type of deadwood was dead/ invalid number, which accounted for all issued cases.

Interviewers made contact with either the selected respondent or a responsible adult at 95.5% of eligible addresses, meaning a non-contact rate of 4.5%. The most common (2.3% of eligible cases) was in relation to a general call back (not arranged with the respondent)

For eligible cases where contact was made, the most common reason for not getting an interview was due to broken appointment, which accounted for 11.6% of all eligible cases. Respondent refusals accounted for 2.8% of all eligible cases

Overall, 1,560 Wave 7 interviews were achieved in 2021-22, representing a response rate of 80.4% and a conversion rate of 80.2%.

Table 5.16   Wave 7 sample response rate and non-response outcomes, 2021-22 TCSEW

	N	*% of issued*	*% of eligible*
TOTAL ISSUED ADDRESSES	**1,944**	100	
Deadwood			
Business number	0	0.0	
Dead / Invalid number	4	0.2	
Modem/ Fax number	0	0.0	
Respondent has moved	0	0.0	
Respondent unknown at number	0	0.0	
TOTAL DEADWOOD	**4**	**0.2**	
TOTAL ELIGIBLE ADDRESSES	**1,940**	**99.8**	**100**
Non-contact			
Caller ID Block/ Call Barring Message	1	0.1	0.1
General call back (not arranged with respondent)	44	2.3	2.3
No answer/ Answer Machine/ Number Busy	42	2.2	2.2
Total non-contact	*87*	*4.5*	*4.5*
Refusal			
Office refusal	9	0.5	0.5
Respondent refusal	55	2.8	2.8
Proxy refusal	0	0.0	0.0
Quit mid interview, refused to finish	0	0.0	0.0
Total refusal	*64*	*3.3*	*3.3*
Other unproductive			
Broken Appointment	225	11.6	11.6
Dialler Error[33]	0	0.0	0.0
Inadequate English	0	0.0	0.0
Physically or mentally unable	1	0.1	0.1
Respondent has died	1	0.1	0.1
Respondent too ill/ in hospital	2	0.1	0.1
Other unsuccessful	0	0.0	0.0
Total other unsuccessful	*229*	*11.8*	*11.8*
TOTAL UNPRODUCTIVE	**380**	**19.5**	**19.6**
TOTAL INTERVIEWS	**1,560**	**80.2**	**80.4**

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[33] Dialler Error refers to calls that fail due to dial tone irregularities

5.6.1 Wave 7 response rates by Government Office Region

Table 5.17 shows the different response rates and reasons for non-response achieved by region for 2021-22 Wave 7. This shows that across regions the response rate ranged from 83.2% in London to 77.3% in the East Midlands.

Table 5.17 Wave 7 sample response rates and non-response by Government Office Region, 2021-22 TCSEW

	North East	North West	Yorkshire & The Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West	Wales
Percentage of eligible addresses (%):										
Non-contact	2.2	3.3	4.3	8.8	5.5	4.0	6.8	2.9	4.1	2.8
Refusal	5.4	1.7	3.2	3.1	3.7	4.0	0.6	4.3	3.7	3.7
Other unproductive	13.0	13.4	12.2	10.8	9.1	11.8	9.3	13.6	10.3	14.8
Achieved interview	79.3	81.6	80.3	77.3	81.7	80.1	83.2	79.3	81.8	78.7

5.6.2 Wave 7 response rate by Police Force Area

Table 5.18 overleaf shows the number of Wave 7 interviews achieved in each PFA and the response rates.

Table 5.18   Wave 7 sample achieved interviews and response rates by PFA, 2021-22 TCSEW

PFA	Achieved	Response rate
	N	*%*
Avon & Somerset	49	84.5
Bedfordshire	21	63.6
Cambridgeshire	26	81.3
Cheshire	29	72.5
Cleveland	24	96.0
Cumbria	26	72.2
Derbyshire	28	87.5
Devon & Cornwall	53	84.1
Dorset	38	82.6
Durham	25	69.4
Dyfed Powys	28	82.4
Essex	55	83.3
Gloucestershire	25	71.4
Greater Manchester	68	86.1
Gwent	16	72.7
Hampshire	56	83.6
Hertfordshire	32	80.0
Humberside	28	80.0
Kent	46	83.6
Lancashire	34	81.0
Leicestershire	34	79.1
Lincolnshire	23	65.7
Merseyside	38	90.5
Metropolitan and City of London	134	83.2
Norfolk	36	83.7
North Wales	24	80.0
North Yorkshire	32	86.5
Northamptonshire	30	85.7
Northumbria	24	77.4
Nottinghamshire	35	71.4
South Wales	17	77.3
South Yorkshire	34	85.0
Staffordshire	22	73.3
Suffolk	48	82.8
Surrey	34	72.3
Sussex	36	80.0
Thames Valley	50	75.8
Warwickshire	32	78.0
West Mercia	32	88.9
West Midlands	48	84.2
West Yorkshire	57	75.0
Wiltshire	33	82.5

6.   Offence Coding

This chapter outlines the offence coding process that takes place on the survey. Although changes were made to the victimisation module for the TCSEW compared with the CSEW the aim was to retain all the questions that were critical for offence classification. As such the offence coding processes carried out on the TCSEW were largely consistent with the CSEW.

6.1   History of offence classification on the CSEW

The CSEW Offence Coding System, which was originally developed in 1982 as part of the first Crime Survey, is designed to replicate as far as possible how incidents are classified by the police. The survey counts crime according to the victim's account of events, rather than requiring criminal intent to be proven. This is reflected in how the police record crimes under the National Crime Recording Standard using the Counting Rules[34]. It should be noted, however, that the Counting Rules evolve and change over time, and while efforts are made to reflect these changes in the survey, there are always likely to be some discrepancies between the two systems.

To classify offences, detailed information is collected about the incidents reported by respondents in the victimisation modules. Once the data is returned to the office, all victimisation modules are reviewed by specially trained coders to determine whether what has been reported represents a crime or not and, if so, what offence code should be assigned to the crime.

Apart from some minor changes, the code frame and the instructions to coders on the core survey (see Volume 2 for a copy of the Coding Manual) have remained largely unchanged since 1982. The current operational procedures used for assigning codes have been in place since 2001. In 2010 the coding process was updated to include the coding of offences against 10 to 15 year olds, while in 2015 it was updated to include the classification of fraud and cyber offences. Neither of these changes affected the way in which non-fraud incidents affecting adults were coded.

The coding manual itself is reviewed annually. Most updates are minor modifications to account for new scenarios that evolve over time and to reflect changes in the Counting Rules. However, in October 2018, a more significant update was incorporated to change the classification of offences related to identity theft. Prior to the change these incidents were recorded as computer misuse offences due to unauthorised access to the victim's personal details. After the change was applied these offences were recorded as 'other fraud' offences, reflecting the fraudulent use of a victim's details to apply for a loan or another type of credit agreement.

Despite the changes that were being applied to the TCSEW the approach to offence coding remained consistent with the CSEW.

The current Offence Coding System consists of the following steps:

–   For each victimisation module a summary (called an RTF) is produced drawing together the key information from the module into a single easy reference document. This allows the coders to review each incident as a whole and make a judgement on the most appropriate code to allocate based on the totality of the information.

–   In addition to these summaries, the coders use a specially developed computer assisted questionnaire to help them arrive at a final offence code for each incident.

–   As well as recording an offence code for all fraud crimes, coders record whether the offence meets the criteria for being a cybercrime or not.

–   A supervisor checks any codes that the original coder is uncertain about. Additionally, 5% of codes where the coder is certain of the outcome are also checked by a supervisor as a

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[34] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877783/count-general-apr-2020.pdf

further quality check. These are systematically selected from all cases that have been coded (i.e. every n*th* case) in a particular period.

– A further quality check is carried out by a team at the Office for National Statistics who examine:

- o Any codes that Kantar is uncertain about.
- o Certain types of incident that are automatically referred (e.g. arson).
- o A proportion (minimum of 5%) of certain codes, as part of a general quality control check. Again, these cases are systematically selected from all cases that have been coded.

The result of this process is that every victimisation module has a final offence code assigned to it. Although the coding rules are broadly similar, separate instructions exist for the coding of traditional (non-fraud) incidents and fraud and computer misuse incidents.

A flow chart of the Offence Coding process is shown in Figure 6.1 and the offence coding system is explained in more detail below.

Figure 6.1 TCSEW Offence Coding Flowchart

Interview conducted → Sample extracted for coding → Summary RTF created

Case reviewed by coder

Coder outcome
— Certain → Supervisor validation?
— Uncertain → Supervisor review

Supervisor validation?
— No → ONS validation?
— Yes → Supervisor review

Automatic referral

Supervisor review → Supervisor outcome
— Certain → ONS validation?
— Uncertain → ONS review

ONS validation?
— No → ONS review
— Yes → ONS review

ONS review → ONS outcome
— Changed → Supervisor review
— Unchanged → Final offence code applied

Supervisor review → Change queried?
— No
— Yes → Referred back to ONS

Referred back to ONS → Agreement on final code reached

Final offence code applied

6.2 The offence coding task

Coders are provided with a summary sheet (called an RTF) of the key variables from each victimisation module and this information forms the basis of the coding. This summary sheet includes the open-ended description collected during the interview, as well as some of the key pre-coded questions in the survey which feed into the classifying of offences. It is important that the coders can consider all the information in its totality because sometimes the information collected may not be entirely clear or some of the information may appear contradictory or inconsistent. While a lot of emphasis is placed on the training and briefing of interviewers about collecting comprehensive and accurate data, inevitably there are cases where coders must make judgements about which bits of information to prioritise.

To assist with their task, coders use a specially designed computer assisted questionnaire to carry out the coding. This questionnaire consists of several different modules each of which relate to a high-level offence category (assault, burglary, theft, criminal damage, fraud, etc.). For each case coders must select an offence module to start with. Once in a module the questionnaire programme asks the coders a series of questions about the incident, and they are able to use the information from the RTF to record an answer. The questionnaire is structured like a flow chart to take account of the major rules that apply to offence coding (such as the priority of codes). By answering the sequence of questions based on the information provided in the victimisation module, the coder either reaches an offence code or is directed to another module to repeat the process.

The coders are also provided with a coding manual. The manual contains all the rules that govern offence coding plus further guidance by using specific examples. The manual also provides flow-charts that show how the coding questionnaire works, so that coders can see how they reach a particular offence code on the basis of the answers that they input. The coding manual is kept updated both in terms of major changes to the survey (such as the incorporation of coding guidelines for the 10 to 15 year olds survey in 2010 and the incorporation of fraud and cybercrimes in 2015), as well as being updated to add additional detail and guidance based on the experience of the coders and other feedback.

The current Offence Coding Manual can be found in Appendix M in Volume 2 of the 2021-22 Technical Report.

Once a coder arrives at an offence code using all the resources outlined above, they also record whether they are certain or uncertain that it is the right code. Any case where the coder is uncertain is automatically referred to a supervisor for checking. In addition, supervisors check a minimum of 5% of codes which coders are certain about as part of the quality assurance process.

6.3 Quality assurance by ONS coders

All cases where coders are uncertain about the correct code to assign are automatically referred to ONS. In addition to this, a minimum of 5% of all codes which coders are certain about are selected to be sent to ONS for quality control checking. These are selected in a systematic fashion by selecting every n*th* case in each two-week period.

All quality assurance checks carried out by researchers at ONS take place through an online offence coding portal. Victimisation modules to be checked by ONS staff are uploaded to the portal every week. The offence coding portal contains the unique serial number of each victimisation module, the code that the coder (and supervisor if applicable) has given the incident, how certain the coder (and supervisor) is about the code, and any notes that the coder has added about why they are uncertain. The RTF summary document providing the key variables from the victimisation module are also available from the portal for ONS staff.

Researchers at ONS review each of the victimisation modules sent to them via the portal and add any comments they have on each case. For all cases they either accept the code given by the coder or suggest a different code. These codes then appear on the offence coding portal so that the coders can see the changes that have been made. Apart from making the process more efficient the portal also ensures a complete audit trail for every case.

Once all cases have been reviewed by ONS staff the coding team at Kantar review all cases where a code has been changed. Particular attention is paid to cases where ONS has changed a code that Kantar coders had marked as "certain". If the Kantar coders disagree with the ONS coding decision, it is flagged up in the coding portal to both Kantar researchers and ONS researchers for further consideration and discussion. This approach of iterative review is continued until everyone is agreed on the final outcome code.

As part of the 2021-22 survey, a total of 683 cases were sent to ONS for checking, which represented about 18% of all adult victimisation modules (both traditional and fraud cases). Overall, 382 traditional (non-fraud) cases were sent for checking (10% of all cases) and 301 fraud cases were sent (8% of all cases).

6.3.1 Traditional (non-fraud) cases referred to ONS

Of the 382 traditional (non-fraud) modules sent to ONS:

– 45 cases were automatically referred. This covers cases of aggravated burglary, duplicate cases and cases where the victimisation module was invalid;

– 54 cases were sent because the Kantar coders were uncertain about the code; all uncertain codes are automatically referred;

– 192 cases were sent as part of the systematic quality control check; and

– 91 cases were related victimisation modules. To ensure that those checking offence codes have complete information, all the victimisation modules related to an individual respondent are sent to ONS, rather than just the single module under consideration.

Of the 382 non-fraud modules referred to ONS, only 6 cases initially had their code changed by ONS, representing almost 2% of all cases sent. In all cases where ONS changed a code that Kantar coders or supervisors had been certain about, the change was reviewed by a coding supervisor and if there was still disagreement over the final code it was referred back to ONS for further review based on providing additional information on the reasons for reaching a particular code. At the end of this iterative process, 5 codes were changed from the code originally allocated by the coder or supervisor.

6.3.2 Fraud cases referred to ONS

Of the 301 fraud cases sent to ONS for checking as part of the 2021-22 survey:

– 37 cases were automatically referred to ONS. This covers duplicate cases and cases where the victimisation module was invalid;

– 108 cases were where the Kantar coders were uncertain about the code; all uncertain codes are automatically referred;

– 126 cases were sent as part of the systematic quality control check; and

– 30 cases were related victimisation modules.

Of the 301 fraud modules sent to ONS, 3 cases initially had their code changed by ONS staff, representing less than 1% of all cases sent. However, following further review and discussion 2 cases were changed from the original code.

6.4 Final Offence Code

Unlike the CSEW, the TCSEW SPSS data sets were delivered to the ONS on a monthly basis. until July 2021. After July 2021, data files were delivered after every quarter. These include all the offence codes that have been given to each victimisation module at each stage of the coding process. This ensures an audit trail exists for each case. The final offence code is derived using a priority ordering system, whereby the ONS code takes priority over the supervisor code, which takes priority over the original code assigned by the coder. The variables on the data file are:

(T)VOFFENCE	Code assigned by the original coder
(T)SOFFENCE	Code assigned by the supervisor (if coded)
(T)FINLOFFC	Code assigned by the ONS team (if coded)
(T)OFFENCE	Final offence code

6.5 Checks on final offence code

Once the SPSS data sets are run some further consistency checks are applied to the final offence codes, checking the offence codes against key pre-coded variables in the victimisation module. The purpose of this is to highlight cases where some of the pre-coded data seems potentially anomalous with the final offence code. Such anomalies can arise because occasionally the information reported by the respondent is not consistent, or even seems contradictory. In particular, there can be inconsistencies between the verbatim description of the incident and subsequent pre-coded questions. While interviewers are carefully briefed to try and be aware of such inconsistencies arising during the interview it is inevitable that some will be missed. Consistency checks within the actual questionnaire script to try and pick up anomalies are not possible when a verbatim description is involved.

The consistency checks carried out are as follows:

– Assaults where no force or violence is recorded as having been used
– Burglary where entry to the property is recorded as being authorised
– Car thefts where no car is recorded as being stolen, or where the police were not informed
– Sexual assaults where there is no sexual element to the assault recorded
– Snatch thefts where the item stolen is not recorded as being held or carried
– Other thefts where the item stolen is recorded as being held or carried
– Wounding where no injury is recorded as being sustained
– In scope offences where the offender is perceived by the victim to be mentally ill
– Thefts where nothing is recorded as having been stolen
– Vandalism where no damage is recorded
– Threats where no threat is recorded

Further checks were added in 2015-16 to check the consistency of the fraud coding:

– Computer virus reported where the offence is not classified as a computer virus
– Computer virus where no virus is reported
– Unauthorised access to personal information with loss of money reported
– Fraud with no loss but a loss has been reported
– Checks that the respondent has been correctly identified as a specific intended victim
– Cyber flag checks if inconsistent reporting is evident:
  o Computer virus but no cyber element is reported
  o Classified as a cybercrime but no cyber element is reported
  o Not classified as a cybercrime but a cyber element is reported.

All cases that fail these checks are examined individually by a researcher and, if changes are required the revised code is reviewed by a coding supervisor. Where clear anomalies in the data do exist, it is up to the judgment of the researchers to decide which bits of information should be prioritised in arriving at the final agreed offence code. In such cases, greater credence tends to be given to a good verbatim description of the incident over the answers to specific pre-coded questions where, for example, anomalies may be a result of interviewer mis-keying, or respondent misreporting.

Experience of running these checks shows that most flagged cases do have the correct offence codes, but a few may be amended each month as a result of these additional checks.

6.6   Other coding

In addition to the offence coding, coders also looked at all questions where an "other –specify" had been given as an answer. The aim of this exercise, commonly known as back coding, is to see whether the answer given can actually be coded into one of the original pre-coded response options. This coding is done in Ascribe, a Windows based coding package.

Coders are provided with the code frames used in the questionnaire as a starting point for coding each year. Since most of the questions have been used in previous years of the survey, the code frames are already well developed and there is little need to add new codes to the frames. However, if the coding supervisor feels an extra code is needed, this is flagged up to researchers who approved any changes before they are implemented.

As with the offence coding a minimum of 5% of all cases are checked by supervisors as part of the standard quality assurance process.

7. Data outputs

7.1 Overview

The main outputs provided to ONS on the TCSEW were SPSS data files that were delivered on a monthly basis one month after the end of each fieldwork month until July 2021. After July 2021, data files were delivered after every quarter. Two data files were provided each delivery: The Non-Victim File and the Victim File.

The **Non-Victim File (NVF)** is produced at the level of the individual interview and contains all questionnaire data and associated variables, except for information that is collected in the victimisation modules. Because of the TCSEW wave formation a single respondent can have multiple interviews from different waves in this file. Data for both victims and non-victims are included on the Non-Victim File.

The **Victim File (VF)** is produced at the level of the individual incident and contains all the data collected in the victimisation modules. Thus, an individual respondent who reported three crimes and completed three victimisation modules would have three separate records in the Victim File. Because of the TCSEW wave formation, reported incidents from a single respondent could be from different reference periods based on the interview wave. All generated victimisation modules were included on the file, including cases where the module either had been suspended or where the reference period was out of scope. For example, all TCSEW victim forms were included even those from 2020-21. Although such records contain no information and are not used for analysis, it is useful to keep these on the file to monitor the number of modules that fall into these categories.

7.2 Delivery of data output

During the 2021-22 survey, seven data files (April 2021 to March 2022) were supplied to ONS, April to July 2021 were delivered on a monthly basis, August 2021 to March 2022 were delivered on a quarterly basis. Given the clear distinction between the CSEW and the TCSEW, data was supplied on a cumulative basis, meaning each new data delivery was updated by adding the newest interview data.

In addition to the achieved sample, a data file of the entire 2021-22 issued sample was supplied to ONS. This contained information on every issued respondent such as the final outcome, number of calls, call pattern and geo-demographic variables at each wave of the survey.

For April to July interviews, data was delivered a month after the end of each monthly fieldwork period. For August to March interviews, data was delivered after quarter, so August to September 2021 achieved interviews were delivered in October 2021, October to December 2021 achieved interviews were delivered in January 2022 and January to March 2022 achieved interviews were delivered in April 2022. Each data delivery included interviews that were achieved in each period, rather than those that were issued in that period.

7.3 Content of SPSS data file

The SPSS data files delivered to the Office for National Statistics contain various types of variables. The main types of variables contained on the files are:

– Questionnaire variables (NVF and VF).

– Geo-demographic variables (NVF only). All interviews had a set of pre-specified geo-demographic variables attached to them.

– Coding variables (VF). On the Victim File, a full set of offence codes are attached as outlined in Chapter 6.

– Derived variables (NVF and VF). Many derived variables are also added to the file. These consisted primarily of two types: flag variables and classificatory variables

- o Flag variables (NVF and VF) that identify, for example, the date of interview, the month of issue, date of previous interview, whether a partial or full interview, whether a victim or non-victim, etc. On the Victim File, flag variables include whether the record was a long or short victimisation module, whether it was a series or a single incident, and whether it was inside or outside the reference period.
    - o Classificatory variables (NVF only) derived from the data. These included standard classifications such as ONS harmonised variables, banded age groups, ethnic groups etc.
  - – Weighting variables (NVF only). These are at an individual and household level.
  - – Wave information (NVF and VF)

Both the Non-Victim and Victim files include variables that identify the wave of interview and any interview waves that have been missed by the respondent.

7.4   Case identifier

The case identifier is designed to meet the requirements of a continuous survey.

On the Non-Victim File, where each individual case or record represents an interview, the unique interview identifier (TNVFID) is a 10-digit number constructed as shown below

	Column position	Values
Year of issue	1-2	1-99
Area point number	3-6	1000-9999
Address number	7-8	1-99
Screen number[35]	9	0 or 8
Wave number	10	1-7

To identify a single respondent across their multiple interviews the respondent identifier (TSERIAL) is a 6-digit number constructed as shown below.

	Column position	Values
Area point number	1-4	1000-9999
Address number	5-6	1-99

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[35] Screen numbers are used to identify the type of sample. '0' indicates a core sample case.

On the Victim File, where each individual case or record represents a victimisation module, the unique case identifier (TVFID) is a 11-digit number, which is identical to TNVFID with the addition of the victimisation module number.

	Column position	Values
Year of issue	1-2	1-99
Area point number	3-6	1000-9999
Address number	7-8	1-99
Screen number	9	0 or 8
Wave number	10	1-7
Victimisation module number	11	1-6

7.5   Naming conventions

In creating the 2020-22 data files attention was paid to ensuring as much consistency as possible between the face-to-face survey and the telephone survey. Variable names on the TCSEW data files were kept the same as the previous CSEW wherever possible, but with the addition of a 'T' at the start of each variable to signify the switch in survey mode. While it is not the intention that data from the TCSEW and CSEW should even be combined it still made sense to ensure that equivalent variables from the two datasets could be easily linked by users.

One specific requirement arising from the panel approach was that data from one survey wave needed to be combined with data from one or more later waves during the course of the year. This meant it was especially important to systematically document and account for changes to questions over the course of the survey year to avoid confusion among users. For example, small changes to a question from one month to the next (such as adding an extra code to the code frame) could lead to data from different waves being wrongly merged because they appear similar even although they are not. To avoid such situations, the variable names on the 2020-22 data file were changed as and when any changes were made during the year.

Any variables that were changed during the period April 2021 to March 2022 are outlined in Table 7.1, overleaf:

Table 7.1   Changes in variables during 2021-22

Module	April 2021 variable	March 2021 variable	Reason for change
Covid-19 Module	Tcvharwhy2a - v	Tcvharwhya - t	Change to code frame
Covid-19 Module	TworkcovB	Tworkcov	Change to question wording
Module	**May 2021 variable**	**April 2021 variable**	**Reason for change**
Covid-19 Module	Tcvacton2a - j	Tcvactona - i	Change to code frame
Covid-19 Module	TcvchianxB1 - 9	Tcvchianx1 - 8	Change to question list
Module	**August - September 2021 variable**	**July 2021 variable**	**Reason for change**
Household Box	TsexB - 10	Tsex - 10	Change to code frame
Module	**October - December 2021 variable**	**August - September 2021 variable**	**Reason for change**
Household Box	Tsex - 10	Tsex - 10	Data held in variables changed to harmonised binary sex variable for all respondent
Household Box	TsexC - 10	Tsex - 10	Variables added hold responses to the 2 category sex questions
Covid-19 Module	Tcvharwhy3a - w	Tcvharwhy2a - v	Change to code frame
Module	**January - March 2022 variable**	**October - December 2021 variable**	**Reason for change**
Covid-19 Module	Tphish22a - o	Tphish2a - l	Change to code frame from coding
Core Victim File			

No Change to existing questions in Victim File during 2021-22

Table 7.2   Geo-demographic variables added to the survey in 2021-22

Variable	Comments
Tmtyp2021	Added
Tmgrp2021	Added
Twmdidc19	Added
Twincdc19	Added
Twempdc19	Added
Twedudc19	Added
Twheadc19	Added
Twaccdc19	Added
Twcridc19	Added
Twenvdc19	Added
Twhoudc19	Added

7.6   Don't Know and Refused values

The convention for Don't Know and Refusal codes used in the most recent surveys was maintained on the 2021-22 data. This meant that on the SPSS file the code for Don't Know was '9' for code frames up to 7, '99' for code frames up to 97, and so on. The code for Refused was 8, 98, and so on. Since these are standard codes used throughout the SPSS files, Don't Know and Refused codes are not labelled.

8. Weighting

8.1 Overview of weighting

There are two main reasons for computing weights for the TCSEW:

– *To compensate for unequal selection probabilities*. Because the TCSEW sample frame was derived from the CSEW of 2018-20, it shares its sample selection features with respect to households and individuals: sampling probabilities varied due to (i) the deliberate over sampling of smaller police force areas, (ii) the selection of one household at multi-occupancy addresses, and (iii) the selection of one adult in each household for the CSEW interview itself. Furthermore, as part of the TCSEW questionnaire (and like the CSEW), a single victimisation module was used to represent a series of similar incidents.

– *To compensate for unequal response probabilities*. Response probabilities varied by type of person and type of area for both the CSEW and the subsequent TCSEW. Both needed to be accounted for via weights.

The TCSEW data was weighted after the end of each new calendar quarter of fieldwork, covering interviews from the preceding twelve months: i.e., July 2020-June 2021, October 2020-September 2021, January 2021-December 2021, and April 2021-March 2022.

For the period covered by this technical report (April 2021 through March 2022), the TCSEW dataset contained 31,204 interviews from 10,698 individuals (a mean of 2.92 interviews per responding individual, up to a maximum of four).

In the primary dataset, each interview was included as a separate case (i.e., the dataset includes 31,204 cases, with several cases for most individuals).

In a secondary dataset, each individual was represented once only: by their W1 interview (if completed in the period April 2021 through March 2022) *or* by their first interview in this period. Only 9,657 of the 10,698 responding individuals qualified for this secondary dataset.

For each case in these datasets, standard questionnaire data was limited to that collected in the relevant TCSEW interview but victim form data could come from an earlier interview, whether TCSEW or CSEW. Victim form data attached to each case in each dataset always covered the last twelve complete months, regardless of the source interview.[36]

8.2 Weighting procedure, stages 1-3

The weights for each dataset *s* were produced in several stages and followed broadly the same pattern.

Stage 1 was to take the full CSEW Reference Sample (all CSEW cases from May 2018 through to February 2020, including those that were not part of the TCSEW sample frame) and, for each case, compute the mean of its 'rolling-12 month' CSEW individual-level calibration weights **C11IndivWgt**.[37] This mean weight is called the Base Weight. Applying this weight to the Reference Sample produces an individual-level dataset that is maximally representative of the CSEW target population: individuals aged 16+ living in private residential accommodation in England or Wales, over the period May 2018 through to February 2020.

Stage 2 was to estimate a logistic regression model of the probability that case *r* in the Base-Weighted Reference Sample is also present in TCSEW dataset *s*. For the primary dataset - with

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[36] The TCSEW victim form was restricted to the period since the last interview so TCSEW W1 victim forms either covered the whole of the previous twelve months (if the CSEW interview had been carried out more than twelve months before) or covered all the months since the end of the CSEW interview reference period.

[37] The majority of cases in the Reference Sample appear in four rolling-12 month datasets but the later ones appear in fewer.

multiple cases for the same respondent - the logistic regression model was extended to estimate the probability that case r appears y number of times in the dataset.

A fixed set of 66 CSEW variables (individual and household level) was included in the Reference Sample dataset and can be found in Appendix O of Volume 2. These 66 variables were used as candidate predictors for each regression model. The subset of variables used in each model was selected from this list of 66, using an iterative filtering method. Variable v was included in the model if it passed all four of the following filters:

– A bivariate chi square p value of <=0.01 for the hypothesis of zero systematic difference between members of dataset s and non-members (or between members with differing numbers of cases in dataset s), with respect to variable v

  o A Wald F p value of <=0.2 for the hypothesis that a model containing all the variables passing the first filter has no more predictive power than the same one but excluding variable v.

    ▪ A Wald F p value of <=0.1 for the hypothesis that a model containing all the variables passing the second filter has no more predictive power than the same one but excluding variable v.

      • A Wald F p value of <=0.05 for the hypothesis that a model containing all the variables passing the third filter has no more predictive power than the same one but excluding variable v.

Stage 3 was to produce an interim individual level weight for case r that was equal to the product of (i) its Reference Sample Base Weight, and (ii) one divided by the model-based prediction of the number of times case r appears in dataset s.[38] Where case r appeared multiple times in dataset s, each instance was given the same interim weight.

These interim weights were trimmed to reduce the influence of outliers. First, element (ii) was limited to no more than three times the median value. Second, the product of element (i) and the trimmed element (ii) was limited to no more than five times the median value. The trimmed weights were then scaled to sum to an estimate of the TCSEW target population (individuals aged 18+ living in private residential accommodation in England or Wales). These trimmed and scaled weights were called the stage 3 weights.

8.3   Stage 4: calibration

Kantar carried out stages 1-3 but stage 4 of the weighting procedure was carried out by ONS. Using the stage 3 weights as the baseline, ONS calibrated dataset s to sex, age and region target population totals, themselves derived from a combination of the contemporary Labour Force Survey and other sources. The method used for calibration ensured that each case in dataset s from the same individual was given the same stage 4 'calibration' weight just as each case from the same individual had been given the same stage 3 weight. Each individual level calibration weight for each dataset has a name of the form **C11Indivwgt**.

8.4   Household level weights

Kantar also produced a stage 3 household level weight for each case in dataset s. This was equal to the stage 3 individual level weight divided by the most recently recorded total number of people aged 16+ in the individual's household. These household level weights were then scaled to sum to an estimate of the target population (private residential households in England or Wales). This approach treats the household's inclusion in dataset s as dependent on the interviewed individual's inclusion in dataset s.

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[38] For a very small number of cases in some subsets, this value was imputed because one or more predictor variables in the model had missing data.

As with the individual level weights, ONS carried out stage 4 of the weighting procedure for households. Taking the stage 3 household level weights as the baseline, ONS calibrated to population totals the set of individuals aged 16+ reported to be resident in households in dataset *s*. ONS worked within the constraint that each case from the same household in dataset *s* must be given the same calibration weight. Each household level calibration weight for each dataset has a name of the form **C11HhdWgt**.

8.5   Victim form weights

Most victim forms cover one incident but some are representative of a 'series' of very similar victimisations, probably perpetrated by the same people. In both the CSEW and TCSEW, these incidents are divided up and each is allocated to a specific three month period (calendar quarter) with the respondent's help.

The base weight for each victim form was equal to either the individual level calibration weight or the household level calibration weight, depending on the type of victimisation. To obtain the final victim form weight, this base weight was multiplied by the number of incidents covered by the victim form that fell within the target reference period, subject to a maximum limit that is specific to the offence code group[39].

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[39] Although the number of incidents is capped for weighting purposes, the actual number of reported incidents in each series (uncapped) is also supplied on the data file.

Table 8.1 shows the maximum limits used for TCSEW. These limits are equal to *either* (i) the 98th percentile series incident count over the period April 2017 to Mar 2020, *or* (ii) 5, whichever is the higher value.

Table 8.1 Limits to 2021-22 victim form weights for each offence code group

Offence code group	98th percentile incident cap
INDIVIDUAL LEVEL OFFENCES	
Violence excepting sex offences, threats and robbery (codes 11,12,13,21,32,33)	10
Sex offences (codes 31,34,35)	5
Threats (codes 91,92,93,94)	9
Robbery (codes 41, 42)	5
Personal theft (codes 43,44,45)	5
Other personal theft (codes 67, 73)	5
Fraud (codes 200,201,202,203,204,205, 206,207,208,210,211,212)	5
Computer misuse (codes 320,321,322,323,324)	5
HOUSEHOLD LEVEL OFFENCES	
Burglary (codes 50,51,52,53,57,58)	5
Other household theft (codes 55,56,65)	5
Motor vehicle crime (codes 60,61,62,63,71,72)	5
Bike theft (code 64)	5
Vandalism (codes 80,81,82,83,84,85,86)	5

9. Comparing key survey variables with the population

In order to assess the representativeness of the final achieved sample this chapter compares the profile of the 2021-22 survey against population estimates for a range of socio-demographic variables. In addition to comparing the age and sex profile of the survey with the latest population estimates, comparisons are also made with data from the 2011 Census. The tables presented below show the survey profile with the appropriate design weights applied (either household or individual weight) but without the application of the calibration weighting. Comparisons are made based on the 2021-22 achieved sample (i.e., from April 2021 to March 2022) rather than on the 2021-22 issued sample.

9.1 Regional distribution of the sample

Table 9.1 shows the distribution of households by region in the 2021-22 survey compared with the 2011 Census[40]. This shows that the regional profile of the weighted sample was broadly in line with the population distribution, although London was slightly under-represented relative to the Census.

Table 9.1 Distribution of households by region in the 2021-22 survey compared with the 2011 Census

	2020-21 TCSEW (W2-W7)	2011 Census	Difference
	%	%	%
North East	4.7	4.8	-0.1
North West	12.6	12.9	-0.3
Yorkshire and The Humber	9.5	9.5	0.0
East Midlands	8.6	8.1	0.5
West Midlands	9.5	9.8	-0.3
East of England	11.3	10.4	1.1
London	11.6	14.0	-2.4
South East	15.8	15.2	0.6
South West	10.8	9.7	1.1
Wales	5.4	5.6	-0.2

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[40] All Census figures presented in the tables are sourced from http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011

9.2   Age and sex profile of the sample

Table 9.2 shows a comparison between the achieved 2021-22 core adult sample and the mid-2019 population estimates for England and Wales by sex and age. This shows that the survey slightly under-represented men and also under-represented those aged under 35.

Table 9.2 Age and sex profile of adult sample against mid-2019 population estimates

	2021-22 TCSEW	Mid-2019 population estimates	Difference
	%	%	%
Sex			
Male	47.9	49.0	-1.1
Female	52.1	51.0	1.1
Men			
16-19	0.6	5.7	-5.1
20-24	3.7	8.1	-4.4
25-34	13.4	17.1	-3.7
35-44	16.8	15.8	1.0
45-54	18.1	16.9	1.2
55-64	17.7	15.0	2.7
65-74	16.6	12.1	4.5
75-84	10.0	6.9	3.1
85 and over	3.1	2.3	0.8
Women			
16-19	0.6	5.2	-4.6
20-24	3.6	7.3	-3.7
25-34	13.8	16.2	-2.4
35-44	16.1	15.4	0.7
45-54	16.8	16.6	0.2
55-64	18.8	14.9	3.9
65-74	15.6	12.6	3.0
75-84	10.5	8.0	2.5
85 and over	4.2	3.8	0.4

9.3   Other household characteristics

Table 9.3 shows the profile of the 2021-22 survey compared with some key household characteristics from the 2011 Census. This shows that the survey over-represented two person households. Home ownership was over-represented relative to the Census and there was also a noticeable under representation of people living in flats. Those who do not own a car or van are also under-represented.

Table 9.3 Household characteristic of the core adult sample against 2011 Census

	2021-22 TCSEW	2011 Census	Difference
	%	%	%
Tenure			
Owned	69.2	64.3	4.9
Social renting	15.7	17.5	-1.8
Private renting	14.8	18.2	-3.4
Accommodation type			
Whole house or bungalow	81.7	78.6	3.1
Flat, maisonette or apartment	17.7	20.7	-3.0
Household size			
1 person household	31.6	30.2	1.4
2 person household	37.1	34.2	2.9
3 person household	13.6	15.6	-2.0
4 or more person household	17.5	19.9	-2.4
Car ownership			
No cars or vans	20.6	25.6	-5.0
1 car or van	42.3	42.2	0.1
2+ cars or vans	36.9	32.1	4.8
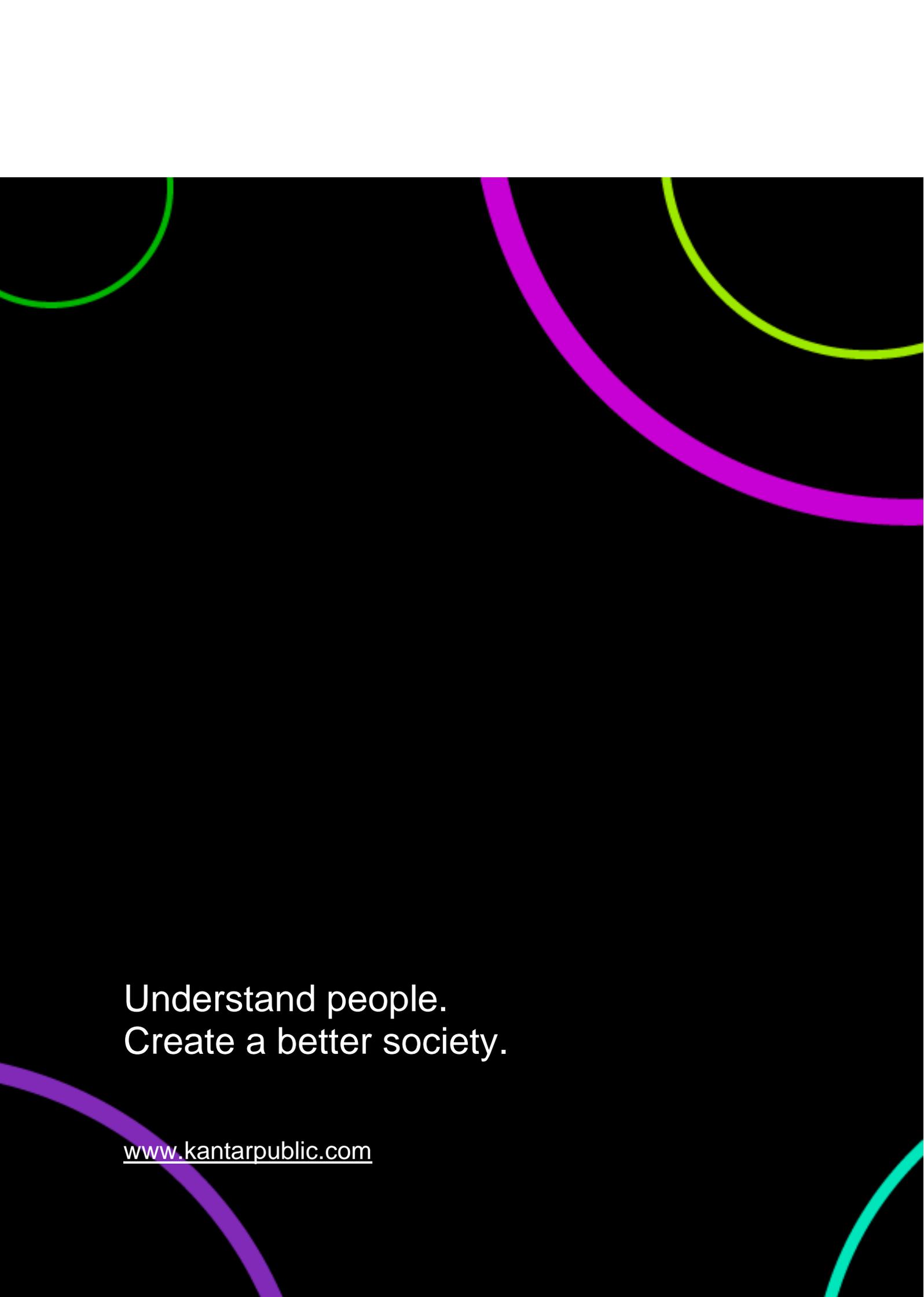
Understand people.
Create a better society.