

5 MISSIONS FOR A BETTER BRITAIN



MAKE BRITAIN'S STREETS SAFE

BY HALVING SERIOUS VIOLENT CRIME
AND RAISING CONFIDENCE IN THE
POLICE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
TO ITS HIGHEST LEVELS.



MISSION DRIVEN GOVERNMENT: MAKE BRITAIN'S STREETS SAFE

Labour has set out five national missions that we will build our manifesto around and, if elected, drive everything we do in government.

Labour will be focused on outcomes that matter: making sure people are better off, live in safe communities, and have the opportunities they need to succeed – wherever they live, and whatever their background.

These missions have been chosen because they tackle complex long term problems that involve multiple factors and require new ways of governing to meet them. Each will only be achieved through relentless focus. They require government departments working together, breaking down silos, and forging deep partnerships between local and national actors.

Labour's second mission in government will be to: **Halve serious violent crime and raise confidence in the police and criminal justice system to its highest levels, within a decade.**

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Labour believes that feeling secure is the bedrock on which opportunities are built, communities can thrive, and local economies can prosper. That sense of security has slowly eroded over the past 13 years as levels of violent crime remain too high and confidence that there will be any consequences when a crime is committed, has fallen. Too often people fear that when things go wrong, no one will come and nothing will be done.

Crime destroys lives. So does the fear of crime. This has an impact on working people, communities and local businesses, damaging social cohesion and local economies. Tackling it is an issue of social justice, with those who are vulnerable or on low incomes, being much less likely to feel safe or secure.

Serious violent crime has gone up in recent years – particularly knife crime among young people. Violence against women and girls (VAWG) remains persistently and shamefully high. Antisocial behaviour has risen in town centres as police patrols have been cut back¹. It's hard to feel positive about the future, when people see the social fabric decay around them; town centres and neighbourhoods overrun with antisocial behaviour, drugs, young people getting into trouble, graffiti and fly-tipping.

That lack of security is made far worse by failures in the policing and criminal justice system. In recent years arrests, prosecutions and convictions have all halved, even though far more crime is being reported and twice as many people say they never see the police on the beat in their area. Many crimes aren't investigated at all, more court cases are long delayed, record numbers of victims are dropping out, and more criminals are getting away with appalling and repeated crimes. Trust has fallen too, following horrific crimes committed by serving police officers and failures on standards of the kind underlined in the Casey Review.

This all matters not just because crime is so devastating, and the feeling of insecurity so damaging. It also matters because it undermines our precious British policing model of policing by consent, and also the confidence in the rule of law that underpins our democracy. That is why this is so important to our country and so important to Labour.

Communities should be able to live free from fear and insecurity, and people should feel safe whether it is around the local high street, walking home at night, using the internet or even at home. But this can only happen if the public feel confident that the police and criminal justice system will be there for them – to protect them, to support them and deliver justice for them.

¹ Record instances of criminal damage to shops, schools, leisure centres and businesses have increased by more than 30% over the past year. In the year ending September 2021, 41,550 offences of 'criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling' were recorded by police. But the latest figures show that has risen to 54,487 - 150 incidents every single day.

Achieving this mission is a huge challenge. It can't be boiled down to applying a single policy in the Home Office, or changing a small thing in the court system. It requires focus from across government, our forces, public services, and civil society to fix it.

In achieving this goal we will restore people's faith that being harmed by crime is not an inevitability. And we will restore people's confidence that if they are a victim of crime, the police will investigate it, the criminals will be caught, and the consequences will be real. The benefits of doing this will mean people are more economically engaged, happier, healthier, and more able to participate in a thriving society.

That is why Making Britain's Streets Safe is one of the five missions that will give Britain its future back.

WHAT HAS GONE WRONG?

The Conservatives have failed to tackle the causes of crime and violence, and downgraded the role of prevention

Crime prevention work has been heavily downgraded over the last 13 years, with Home Office leadership on prevention abandoned and partnerships undermined. There has been no serious cross-government effort to prevent young people being drawn into crime, or learn from where prevention is having an impact. As a result, the level of serious youth violence has remained stubbornly high², with knife crime rising by 70% since 2015. In the year ending September 2022, there were over 46,000 recorded offences involving a knife or sharp instrument in England and Wales, with young men most likely to be both the perpetrators and victims of this crime³.

With no one making any serious effort to lead young offenders away from a life of crime, or to break the cycle of criminality, many will go on to commit more crimes. Nearly one third of young offenders go on to reoffend⁴, while the average number of previous offences per offender has increased from 13 in 2010 to 19 in 2021⁵.

Action to prevent violence against women and girls has also been far too limited, with very little done to address the exposure of boys and young men to online misogyny. At the same time community-based services to prevent antisocial behaviour, addiction services and mental health support have been undermined.

Less wealthy communities see more crime and are more likely to be victims, creating disparity and inequality. With an average of 3000 incidents of antisocial behaviour recorded every day, communities feel abandoned by authorities and increasingly unsafe⁶. Older people are particularly targeted by phone and internet scammers, many operating from overseas, but the government has done nothing to tackle that epidemic of fraud.

The Conservatives have hollowed out neighbourhood policing and undermined the vital criminal justice institutions that tackle crime and stop criminals

By 2018 the government had cut 20,000 police officers. That had two direct impacts. Firstly, it led existing officers to backfill staff functions, removing many from the frontline and from visible policing within their communities. Secondly, it forced police forces to make tough decisions about prioritisation with the result that they retreated back into their immediate role in responding to incidents that were reported, rather than proactively preventing crimes from taking place at source.

Even as the Government has tried to reverse its own cuts to policing, neighbourhood policing has not been restored – and there are still thousands fewer officers and PCSOs working in dedicated neighbourhood teams. That vital community connection between the police and local people in many areas has been lost with damaging consequences both for confidence and the fight against crime.

² HM Inspectorate of Probation's 'Serious youth violence and its relationship with adverse childhood experiences', November 2021, <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2021/11/Academic-Insights-Gray-et-al.pdf>

³ Police recorded crime in England and Wales: year ending September 2022. Data table F3a & F3b, Crime in England and Wales: Other related tables - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

⁴ Youth Justice Statistics: 2021-22. 31.2% of children and young people reoffended. Youth Justice Statistics: 2021 to 2022 (accessible version) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

⁵ Proven reoffending statistics, January 2023, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/proven-reoffending-statistics-january-to-march-2021>

⁶ Police recorded crime in England and Wales: year ending September 2022, Heading 11. Anti-Social Behaviour, <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingseptember2022>

The government's mismanagement, absence of leadership and lack of resources provided to other public services such as mental health and social services has also caused a direct increase in the demand faced by police. They have, in the words of the inspectorate, been left to 'pick up the pieces'⁷. Over recent years police forces across the country have reported significant increases in demand linked to vulnerability, with police currently responding to more mental health calls than ever before. This has only further changed the policing model into one that is 'reactive' rather than 'proactive', meaning antisocial behaviour is tolerated, and public confidence is put under strain.

The Conservatives' lack of leadership has been particularly damaging over standards

Recent appalling cases including Wayne Couzens and David Carrick have exposed deep weaknesses in vetting, training, standards and misconduct systems within policing, including an unacceptable absence of basic national standards in key areas. The Casey Review has shone a light on very serious failures that need to be addressed around standards, conduct, effectiveness and discrimination - on racism, homophobia and misogyny.

This is partly due to the Conservatives' laissez-faire approach to standards. There has been a great deal of devolution in policing over the last 13 years. This is a good thing, which can encourage innovation and make local forces more responsive to local needs. To be effective, however, it requires the centre to take more responsibility on standards not less. But the Conservative government walked away from this responsibility and shifted the blame on to others. They have left a fragmented system with weak national institutions that are incapable of tackling persistent low standards – letting down both communities and police officers who are working hard each day to keep people safe.

When crimes are committed, too often no one comes, nothing is done and criminals get away without being punished

Over the last 13 years the percentage of crimes recorded that lead to someone being charged has dropped from 16.3% to 5.5%, meaning that in 2022 over 2 million crimes went unsolved.⁸ The police are dealing with clashing and competing priorities, unable to investigate and charge criminals effectively. Police do not have the tools or capabilities to be able to keep up with the changing nature of criminality. They are unable to do the groundwork to collect local intelligence, and they do not have the training or technology available to respond to new types of crime.

This can have a particularly adverse impact on violence against women and girls where reported rape and sexual offences are now at a record high – yet the charge rates are 1.6% and 3.2% respectively.⁹

Confidence in policing has dropped and policing is now lagging behind new models of crime

Visible policing remains at record lows. This has cut the connection police officers have with their communities, which consequently has reduced the trust that communities have in them. The government's lack of leadership means they've failed to ensure professional standards in policing are high enough. Recent events and appalling evidence of misconduct have also shown us the extent to which trust in policing can be shattered. Without this trust policing by consent becomes impossible.

Patterns of crime and vulnerability are changing but neither the police nor the criminal justice system have kept up. Crime has become more complex – often involving online evidence. However the Home Office and wider Government have failed to ensure that technology, workforce skills and practices are modernised.

⁷ Policing and mental health: Picking up the pieces - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) – Home (justiceinspectors.gov.uk)

⁸ Charge rate for 2010/11 can be sourced here, Crimes detected in England and Wales 2010/11 - Data tables, Table 2b, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crimes-detected-in-england-and-wales-2010-to-2011>
Charge rates for 2015 - 22 - Table 2_3, Crime outcomes in England and Wales, year to September 2022: data tables - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
The number of crimes where investigation is complete - no suspect identified can be sourced here, Table 3_1- Crime outcomes in England and Wales, year to September 2022: data tables - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

⁹ Outcomes assigned to crimes recorded in year to September 2022, Table 2_2 Crime outcomes in England and Wales, year to September 2022: data tables - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

The failure of leadership by the Home Office and the wider Government on new technology and the workforce has been particularly damaging. The Police National Computer is fifty years old next year, digital forensics services are completely inadequate, and the long promised new Emergency Services Network is many years late and billions of pounds over budget. There is a hopeless lack of effective coordination on IT across criminal justice institutions, and no proper workforce strategy for dealing with new threats and crimes.

It's no surprise that as a result public confidence in the police has been on a downward trend since 2017 falling from 62% to 55% in 2020.¹⁰ More recent YouGov data suggests that confidence has fallen further to just 47% in March 2023.¹¹ Confidence among black and minority ethnic communities is much lower, and that serious confidence gap is getting worse not better. Policing must have the confidence of all communities. Without confidence we lose the trust needed for the British model of policing by consent.

The criminal justice system is failing to deal with those criminals who are caught

The Tories' reforms to criminal justice system post-2010, across courts, prisons and probation, saw resources taken away without any coherent strategy to avoid making outcomes worse. The complete lack of modernisation has made it harder for victims to get justice, and failed to reduce the overall costs of keeping the system running.

Victims are left waiting months, sometimes years for trials, unable to move on with their lives or see justice done. Rape victims are now waiting on average more than 3 years for their case to reach completion in court¹². The court backlog is bigger than ever with systems unable to cope under the pressure and victims giving up before they see justice. None of this was inevitable, but caused by the Conservatives' decision to cut funding with no vision for transformation or change.

At the same time the government's failed privatisation of probation saw the average number of offenders recalled to prison for breaching their license conditions go up by almost 50% between January 2016 and September 2018. As a result, they hurriedly brought it back into the public sector just a few years later.

Prisons are no longer places where offenders are reformed or rehabilitated. Instead, offenders now come out of prison more likely to commit a crime again, with 80% of offenders having at least one previous caution or conviction.¹³

As a result, victims' confidence in the criminal justice system to protect them or to deliver justice for them is being hit, with more victims dropping out than ever before.

One of the most shameful consequences of the last 13 years is the systematic failure to tackle violence against women and girls.

The Conservatives have failed to grip the root causes of violence against women and girls, meaning there has been no real progress in bringing down levels of it in society. Misogynist hate has been allowed to proliferate unchecked online, men and boys are not being appropriately taught what abuse and violence looks like, and both the policing and criminal justice systems are not adequately equipped to support victims.

The most recent figures show that 1.6 million women aged 16 to 74 years in England and Wales experienced domestic abuse and over 600,000 women have been sexually assaulted. These figures have remained unchanged for a number of years, with no action taken to break down the patterns that lead to this violence.

¹⁰ Data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) suggests that around 55% of people think their police force is doing a "good" or "excellent" job. This figure is often known as the confidence level. The confidence level has fallen over the last two years (from around 62% in 2017/18 to 55% in 2019/20). Crime in England and Wales: Annual supplementary tables - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) Table S4.

¹¹ Data from YouGov's separate confidence tracker in policing, % of respondents saying the police do a good job Are the police doing a good job? (yougov.co.uk)

¹² Average number of days taken from offence to completion for rape and sexual offences from October 2021- September 2022 can be sourced here- <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-24/131153>

¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/innovative-new-projects-to-tackle-reoffending-and-protect-the-public-revealed>

WHAT WE WILL DO: OUR MISSION

Halve serious violent crime and raise confidence in the police and criminal justice system to its highest levels, within a decade.

Our mission focuses on the twin challenges of reducing serious violent crime and raising confidence in our police.

By focusing on these twin challenges, our mission will result in more visible policing, faster courts, higher standards and ultimately more criminals brought to justice.

Within a decade, our mission means we will:

- ▶ Halve the level of violence against women and girls.
- ▶ Halve the incidents of knife crime.
- ▶ Raise confidence in every police force to its highest levels.
- ▶ Reverse the collapse in the proportion of crimes solved.

Halve the level of violence against women and girls within a decade.

Everyone should be able to feel safe on their local streets, in their communities and in their own homes. But for too many people – and in particular for too many women and girls – that is not the case. The independent police inspectorate has warned about the “epidemic of violence against women and girls”, yet the response from Government, police and criminal justice system and from society has too often been tinkering around the edges. Labour will not stand for this. We need radical change.

Measuring the level of VAWG is complex. Reported sexual and domestic abuse has gone up steeply over the last few years, in part reflecting greater willingness to identify and report crimes, which is important. However the response of the police and criminal justice system has deteriorated with just 1.6% of rapes being charged – down from 8.5% in 2015.¹⁴

At the same time national survey data on violence against women and girls suggest that levels of domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking have remained broadly stagnant for nearly 10 years, having previously dropped by around a third under the last Labour Government. In 2020, 7.6% of women reported being a victim of domestic abuse in the last year, 5.4% of women experienced stalking, and 3.5% experienced sexual assault¹⁵. This is not good enough.

Labour would commit to using all of the levers of Government to deliver on a mission to halve levels of violence against women and girls within a decade. This includes domestic abuse, rape, sexual violence, stalking and honor killings.

This will not be easy, and will require a whole-society approach, looking beyond just reform of policing and criminal justice, to our education system, our online regulation, our media and our community services. We also need a deep focus on early prevention. Young men and boys need an understanding of what makes a healthy relationship, the impact of misogyny and the sources of gender-based violence.

We will work with experts to identify the most effective way to measure the drop in VAWG that we are determined to see. We will not use any measure that would incentivise under-reporting or reducing charging and prosecution. Our starting point will be the survey work done by the Office for National Statistics which estimates the number of women who are victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence,

¹⁴ Outcomes assigned to crimes recorded in year to September 2022, Table 2_2 Crime outcomes in England and Wales, year to September 2022: data tables - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

¹⁵ Crime in England and Wales: Annual supplementary tables - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk), Table S41b (domestic abuse = partner abuse + family abuse)

stalking and related crimes. That measure alone is not sufficient and will need to be supplemented by analysis of repeat abuse as some of the most serious violence that needs to be addressed is escalating and repeated domestic abuse where early intervention saves lives. If elected, we will establish an appropriate and effective measure of incidents based on this data, baseline this number and commit to halving it. We will also work with forces to guarantee the integrity of any crime data informing this mission.

How will you deliver this?

As a first step Labour will:

- Put specialists into the court system including:
 - Specialist support for rape and domestic abuse victims, ending the postcode lottery currently facing victims and ensuring every victim gets the best possible chance at justice; and
 - Specialist rape courts, to end the unacceptable waits some victims face before justice.
- Put specialists into the policing system including:
 - Specialist domestic abuse workers in the control rooms of every police force, responding to 999 calls and supporting victims of abuse; and
 - Specialist rape units in every police force, to make sure every victim has access to specialist support and investigators who are rigorously trained to solve these complex crimes.
- Tackle misogyny as the root cause of VAWG by ending the promotion and hosting of content which is harmful online, and making tackling misogyny a key part of school accountability.
- Give domestic abusers no place to hide by introducing a new Domestic Abuse Register to track offenders and help protect victims.

Halve the incidents of knife crime within a decade.

Knife crime destroys young lives, devastates families and undermines communities. It is drawing in young people, with incidents now being recorded in areas where previously there were none. Knife crime is often the result of wider gang crime, or drugs crime and therefore often reflects the level of crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour among young people in an area too.

To tackle knife crime we need a serious programme of police reform and prevention. We need departments to work together and work with the Home Office to intervene where young people are at risk and act quickly when knife crime incidents are recorded.

How will you deliver this?

As a first step Labour will:

- Crack down on serious, violent crime and prevent young people getting drawn into crime and criminal gangs by:
 - making grooming and criminal exploitation of children illegal to target gangs who deliberately lure children and teenagers into county lines and criminal activity;
 - taking action to stop vulnerable young people being drawn into crime and gangs by putting access to mental health support workers into every school; and
 - putting youth workers into accident and emergency departments and custody suites to reach young people who are becoming involved in gangs.
- Tackle online sites promoting and selling machetes and dangerous knives.

Raise confidence in every police force to the highest levels.

Labour believes in the British model of policing by consent and it is most effective when it is rooted in communities and communities have confidence in their work. But increasingly people feel the police won't be there for them when they need help, or that the police will not keep them safe.

The hollowing out of neighbourhood policing, collapse in the charge and prosecution rates, delays in bringing criminals to justice, and evidence of serious misconduct have all reduced confidence in police forces, leaving our streets less safe.

Labour will hold ourselves accountable by using relevant measures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales as well as gathering new information to ensure confidence is raised to the highest levels in every police force in the country. Measures we will monitor will include: (i) police can be relied upon when needed; (ii) confidence in local police; and (iii) victims satisfied with the police (iv) confidence across different groups including ethnicity, gender, age and socio-economic group.

How will you deliver this?

As a first step Labour will:

- Ensure we have more and reformed police on our streets.
- Restore neighbourhood policing with 13,000 new neighbourhood police and PCSOs, with mandatory guaranteeing patrols of town centres by dedicated officers.
- Raise standards in policing by overhauling training, misconduct and vetting procedures.
- Compulsory anti-racism training and training on violence against women and girls for policing.
- Introduce a new standards regime and national policy reform to tackle persistent low standards.
- Support the Police Covenant, improving mental health support, training and development as part of proper workforce strategy to develop the talent of officers and diversity of forces.
- Introduce a strong antisocial behaviour plan, including:
 - Respect Orders issued to persistent repeat adult offenders of antisocial behaviour.
 - A full prevention and diversion programme, including new youth mentors for children and young people most vulnerable to crime and mental health professionals in schools.
 - A statutory duty for local partners to cooperate to tackle antisocial behaviour, with mandatory antisocial behaviour officers in every local authority area.
 - Data-driven hotspot policing targeted at common drug dealing sites, which is acknowledged by experts to be one of the most effective ways of preventing local crime.
 - Tough penalties for fly-tippers and establishing clean-up squads whereby offenders will clear up litter and vandalism they have dumped. They will be given Fixed Penalty Cleaning Notices that will be managed by the Local Authority.
 - Increase and strengthen the use of community sentences, achieving a double win by tackling reoffending rates and giving a voice directly to victims and local communities.
 - Establish Community and Victim Payback Boards in communities where victims and community leaders would oversee community sentences to ensure they are carried out and choose unpaid work that suits the needs of their community.

Reverse the collapse in the proportion of crimes solved

In order to restore confidence in criminal justice system we need to give people confidence that when a crime is committed, justice will be delivered swiftly. Far too many people feel that if they are a victim nothing will be done and there will be no consequences for the perpetrator. Labour will put victims back at the heart of the criminal justice system.

Plummeting charge and prosecution rates for crime have led to this overwhelming sense of inaction, leaving most crimes entirely unpunished. Between 2008 and 2013, when Keir Starmer led the Crown Prosecution Service, charge and prosecution rates were around three times higher than they are right now. Equally the proportion of victims who drop out of the system is now roughly triple what it was in 2014-15.

That's why as part of our overarching mission we will reverse the collapse in the proportion of crimes solved, using the government's current Crime Outcomes measure, so that more criminals face justice and punishment, and fewer victims are let down or give up on the criminal justice system. This excludes certain crimes where outcomes can't be clearly linked to an offence.

To help drive this commitment we will launch a commission involving representation from each part of the system. This commission will set out detailed proposals to reverse the collapse in criminals brought to justice and provide options for how we can measure progress in a way which doesn't distort decision making. We also understand that charge and prosecution targets need to be carefully looked at, as badly implemented, they can be gamed and drive adverse outcomes. Based on the commission's work we will set out further objectives and details on this aspect of our crime mission later this year.

How will you deliver this?

As a first step Labour will:

- Increase the Crown Prosecutor pool by 50% with Associate Prosecutors able to work on appropriate cases to bring down the backlog in cases.
- Reverse the collapse in the charge rate by setting new joint arrangements for the police and Crown Prosecution Service and tackling bureaucracy involved in bringing charges.
- Introduce a direct entry scheme for detectives for every police force, to tackle the national shortage and solve more crimes.
- Significantly strengthen the Victim's Bill, including new protections for victims of crime and persistent unresolved antisocial behaviour, increased powers for the Victims' Commissioner, and a requirement that victims are signposted to a full range of practical support services and information.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH

To achieve this mission, Labour will take a different approach in government. This will be based on five key shifts:

1. Building a trusted police force, fit for 21st Century Britain not disconnected services lagging behind the criminals

If we want policing in our country to be the best in the world, we need to take a bold new approach. That means putting thousands of extra police directly in the community, and restoring patrols back to town centres, making sure communities and residents know who to turn to when things go wrong. However, it also means ending the Home Office's laissez-faire approach to police standards. We will hold policing to clear and updated national rules on professional standards across police forces. We will also introduce new mandatory requirements on vetting, training and misconduct underpinned by new legislation, and a new standards regime to tackle failing forces or failing services within forces.

In addition to rebuilding trust the police need to modernise practices. Many traditional types of crime, including drug trafficking and serious violence, are now either conducted online or enabled by online technology. However, the police's tools have failed to keep pace and the government's transformation programmes have failed disastrously. That's why we need serious Home Office leadership on overhauling technology so policing can use modern equipment to tackle new models of criminal activity.

2. Adopting a prevention-first approach, not just dealing with crime when there is a victim.

Being tough on the causes of crime has always been central to Labour's approach to tackling crime. However, there is currently no coordinated preventative model and there is no innovative thinking to stop crime before it happens. Too many young people are being left without support and so are not being diverted away from criminal activities. The services and safe spaces that once existed

for young people have been cut back, leaving a vacuum and little help for teachers, parents and guardians when dealing with a troubled young person. At the same time far too little is being done to help protect communities, with neighbourhood watch and similar programs declining.

When offenders are brought to justice they aren't rehabilitated. A quarter of all of those who are released from custody, receive a non-custodial conviction at court or receive a reprimand or warning, will go on to reoffend. Proper prevention needs a focus on making sure offenders are rehabilitated and don't go on to reoffend.

Labour is considering how trauma-informed practice can have an impact on the criminal justice system. At every stage from early intervention, arrest, trial, punishment and resettlement, Labour will make the criminal justice system responsible for reducing reoffending by breaking the cycle of crime that leads to it. And we will roll out a new whole-society response to crime prevention, starting with network of youth workers in custody suites and A&E to intervene at key points, plus mentors in Pupil Referral Units and counsellors in schools to tackle problems early.

3. Police and criminal justice working together to cut crime not two divided systems letting criminals fall through the cracks.

Right across the police and criminal justice there are some specific challenges given the fragmentation of the system. At its most basic level there isn't even agreement between the police and Crown Prosecution Service on their targets, and coordination between criminal justice system institutions has gotten much worse. We need urgent action to improve coordination and effectiveness, speeding up systems and using new technology across Home Office, Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General's Office. And we need to break down the barriers – whether they are misaligned incentives, outdated technology, or antiquated legislation - and ensure key agencies are held accountable for driving better outcomes together, not apart. On fraud, the UK's most commonly-experienced crime, we need a whole government approach to deal with the full scale of the crisis, rather than each department treating it as someone else's problem.

We also need the Home Office to work with the Department of Health and Social Care on reducing mental health pressures on policing, and to work with the Department for Education on new plans to prevent rising knife crime. Beyond central government we need smarter multi-agency coordination between schools, health and care services, and other relevant bodies to flag and deliver pro-active support for children who have been identified as particularly vulnerable as a result of experiencing domestic violence, parental imprisonment and drug abuse.

Taking a whole-system approach to reform, across all actors both from government and civil society is needed if we are ever to break the cycle of crime, see fewer victims, and see offenders brought to justice effectively.

4. Using the power of the state to put an end to a culture of violence, not accepting violence as an inevitability.

For too long there has been no concerted effort to tackle the culture of violence that is so corrosive within sections of society. The lack of action has been compounded by the increasing ease with which people, and in particular young people, can buy weapons and access online content which promotes hate and violence. To tackle this we need to stop deadly weapons being sold on online sales platforms. This includes bringing in tough measures now to hold online marketplaces to account for knife sales. It also means stopping violent, hateful or misogynistic content proliferating online. Dangerous extremists, violent tutorials and hate speech are allowed to be pushed to young people through social media with no action taken on it because it is legal. Labour knows we have to stop young people being exposed to serious violence and hate speech with a far stronger requirement for social media bosses to act on this material.

Misogynistic content is readily and easily available for young men to consume. It is dangerous and sows the seed of violence against women and girls. We can also all accept that growing up comes with its challenges. Our young people deserve quality mental health support so they can be supported and

tackle difficult thoughts which present themselves as violent long before any violence takes place. Well-adjusted young people are key to reducing serious violence and gender-based violence. We must also take a zero-tolerance approach to violence, where violence is not allowed to go unchecked. To support victims to seek justice, more perpetrators of violence need to know they will not be able to get away with it. Whether it's in an intimate relationship or at a local pub, violence will not be tolerated in our society.

5. Active Home Office leadership that takes responsibility for national standards, not a hands-off approach that tolerates failures

There has been a complete collapse in Home Office leadership on crime and policing under the Conservatives. For 13 years they have maintained a strategic approach of withdrawing the Home Office and the government from active policies on policing and crime, and to leave everything instead to a very fragmented network of local forces, PCCs and weak national policing institutions. This has allowed them to abandon the work the Home Office used to do on police standards, on workforce planning, on crime prevention, on anticipating new and changing patterns of crime and then blame others when things go wrong. And they ditched partnership working with other departments or agencies even where national leadership is needed.

The only chance the police and criminal justice system has to navigate the challenging environment is with the full support and leadership of the Home Office and the wider government.

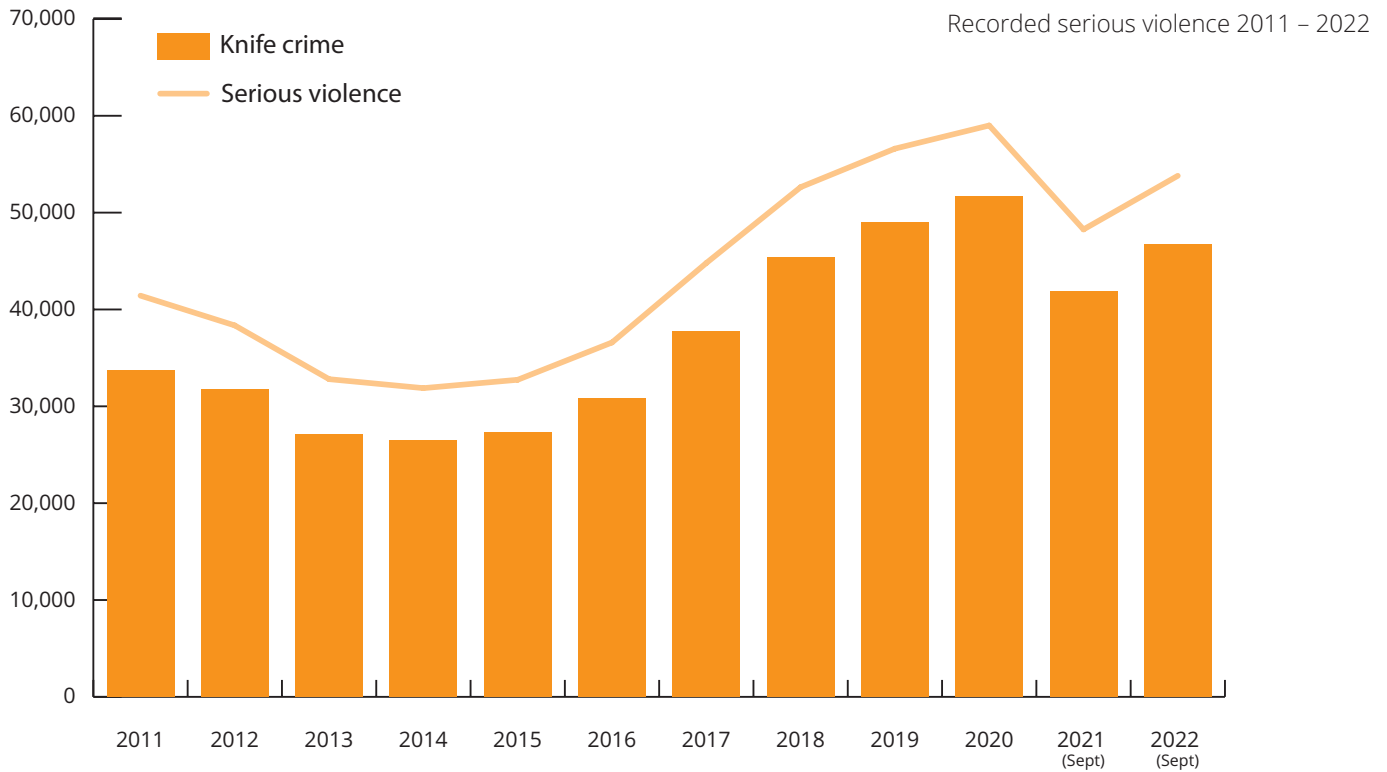
We need new leadership that sets out active strategies in vital areas, including on VAWG, youth violence, antisocial behaviour and fraud. We need serious Home Office leadership on overhauling technology so policing can use modern equipment, and proper collaboration, shared procurement and efficiency savings across the 43 forces. And we need to develop a proper national police workforce strategy to support the police, but also raise standards.

HELP US ACHIEVE OUR MISSION

We have set out the first steps we will take and the substantial policy levers to help achieve our mission. However, mission-driven government means working across society, organisations and taking on a variety of views to refine and deliver our plans. We welcome further discussions, through our policy roundtables, and will be considering the following questions:

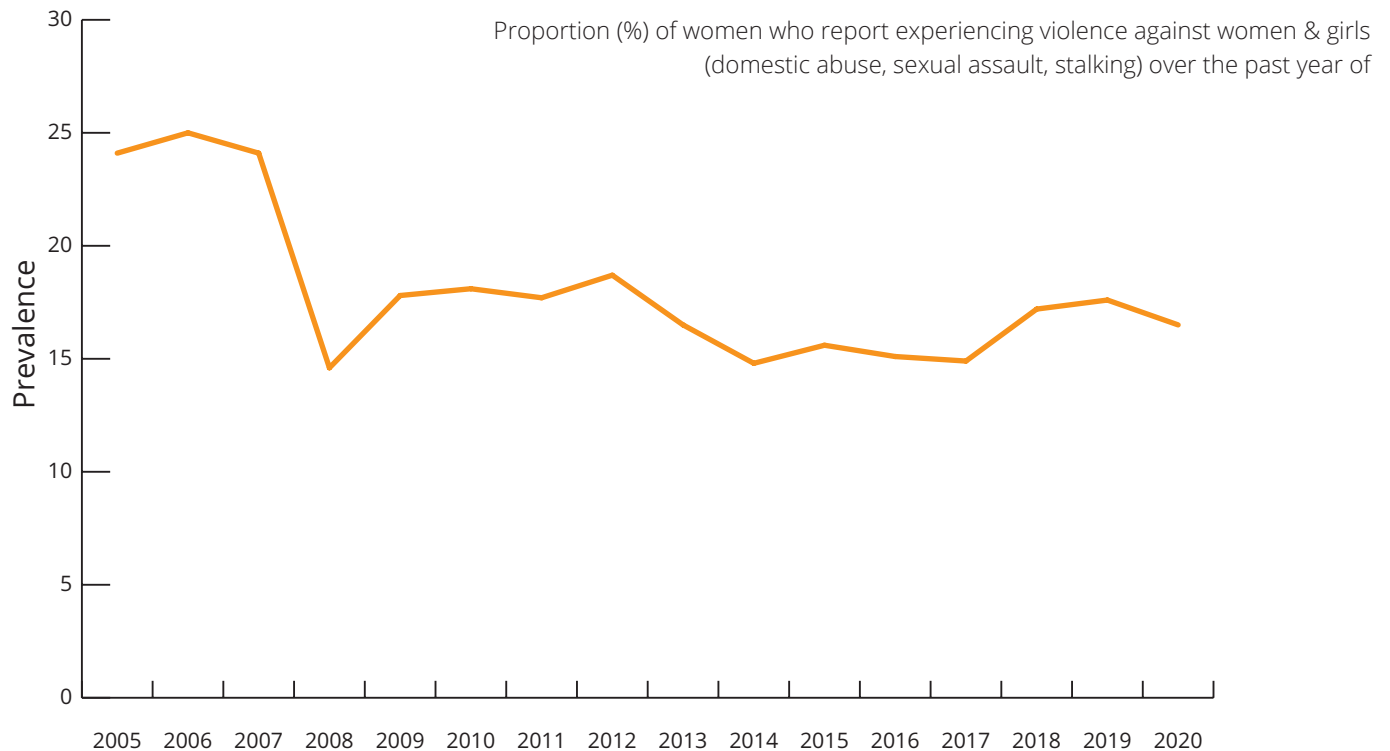
- How do we make people feel safe where they live?
- How can policing effectively cut serious violent crime?
- What are the blockers to reform that we will need to overcome to make policing fit for the future?
- What is the role of home and parenting, and our schools, in turning around attitudes to VAWG?
- How can we stop so many victims dropping out from the criminal justice system?
- How do the institutions of government need to change to embed a prevention-first approach to criminal justice?
- How can we make sure prisons and the probation services are set up to effectively rehabilitate offenders?
- Which other departments, agencies, third-sector organisations will be required to pull together to deliver Labour's missions?
- How do we make working in the police a more attractive profession across the country?
- How should government drive forward work to improve police standards and culture?
- How can technology help deliver better outcomes for victims and the public?

ANNEX: LONG-TERM TRENDS



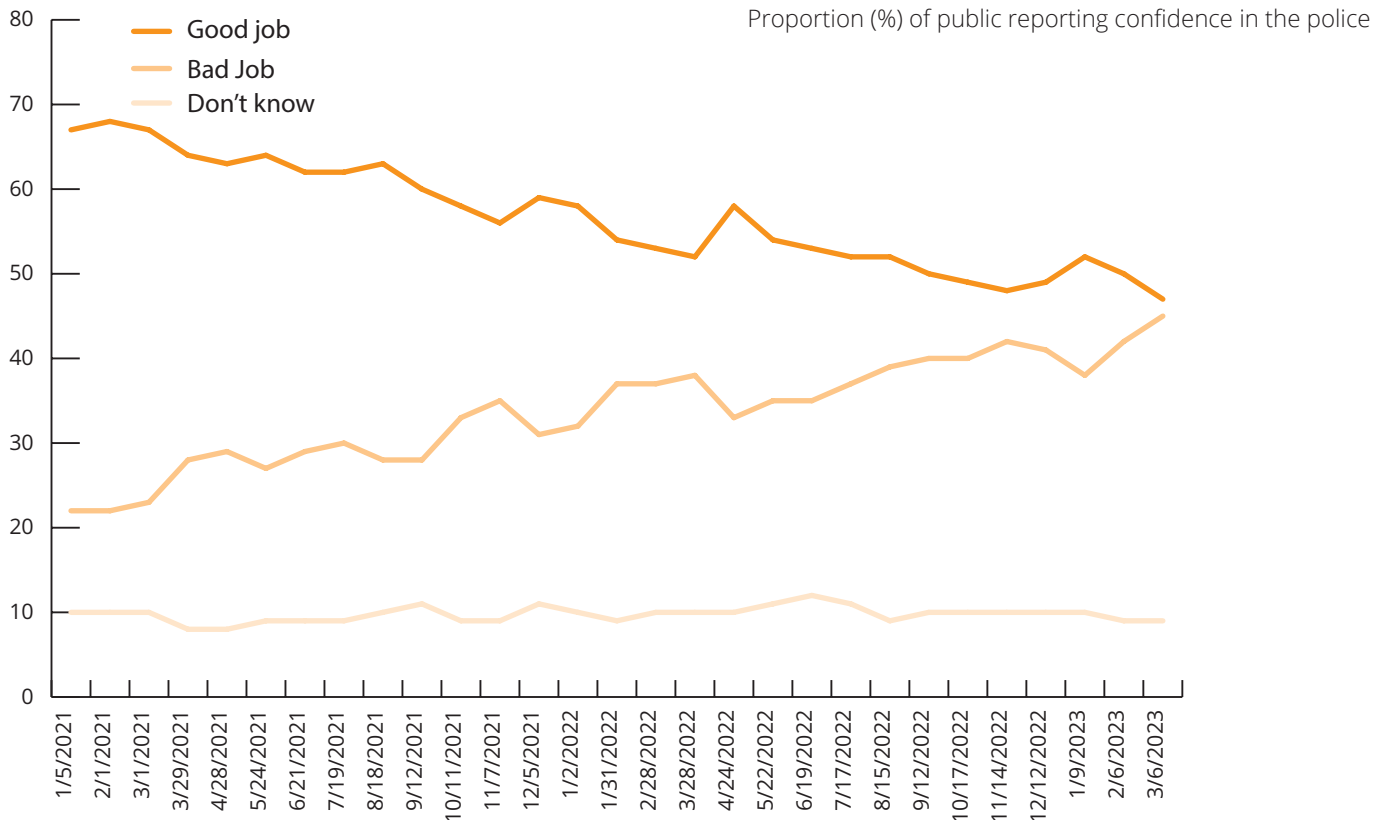
The number of serious violent offences recorded by the police has increased from 41,401 in 2011 to 53,777 in the year ending September 2022.

*Serious violent offences = knife crime + gun crime + homicide
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/crimeinenglandandwalesotherrelatedtables>



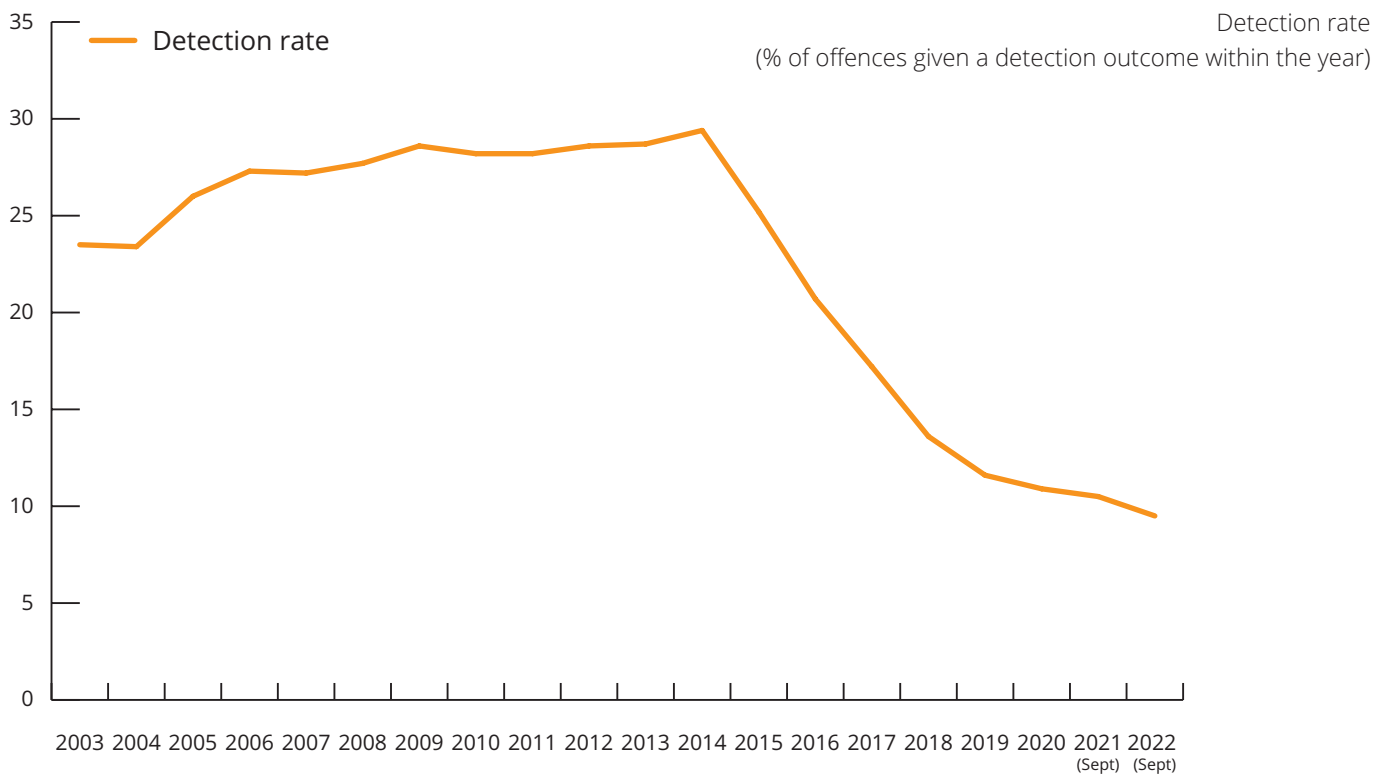
The proportion of women who self-report as a victim of domestic abuse, sexual assault, stalking has remained static over the past 10 years.

Crime in England and Wales: Annual supplementary tables - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)



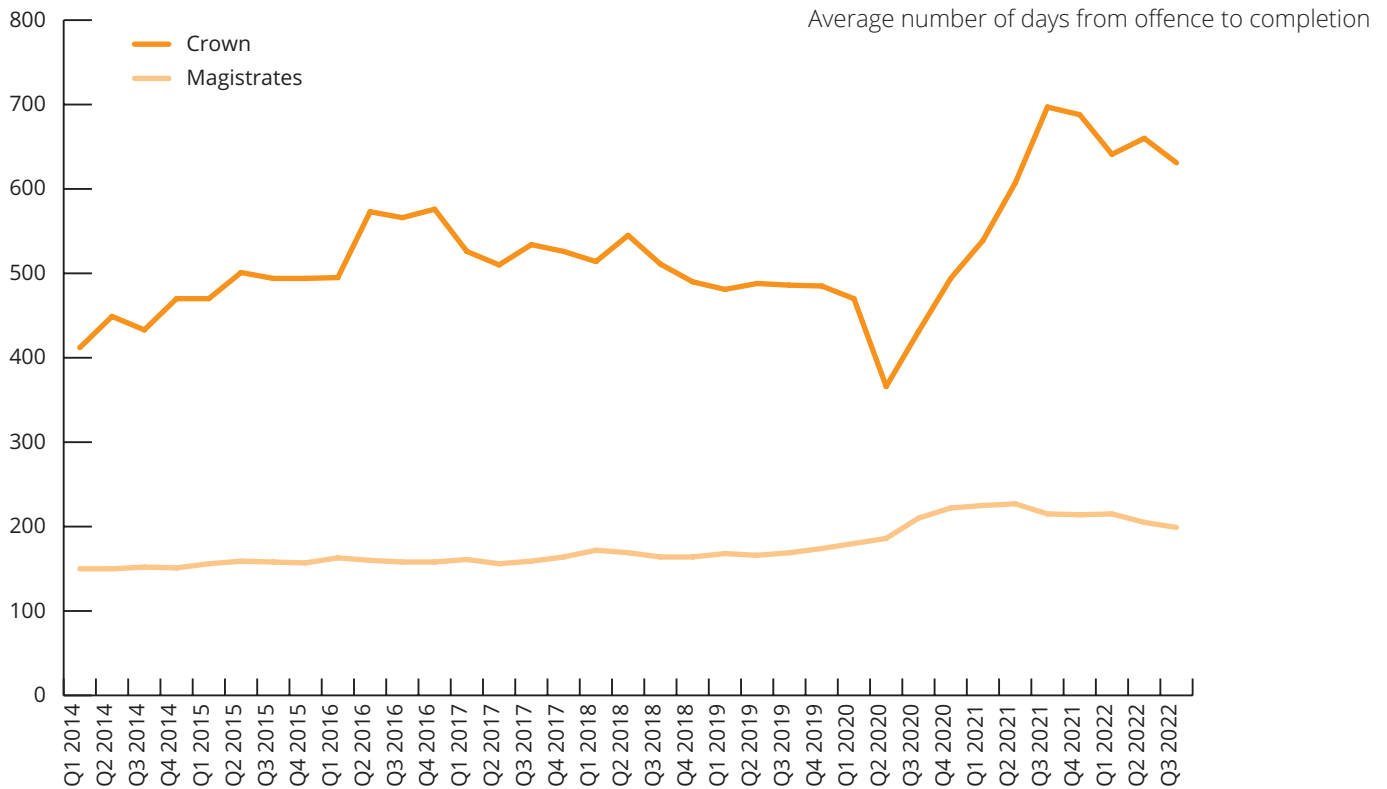
The proportion of the public that believe the police is doing a good job has fallen from 67% in January 2021 to 47% in March 2023.

Are the police doing a good job? (yougov.co.uk)



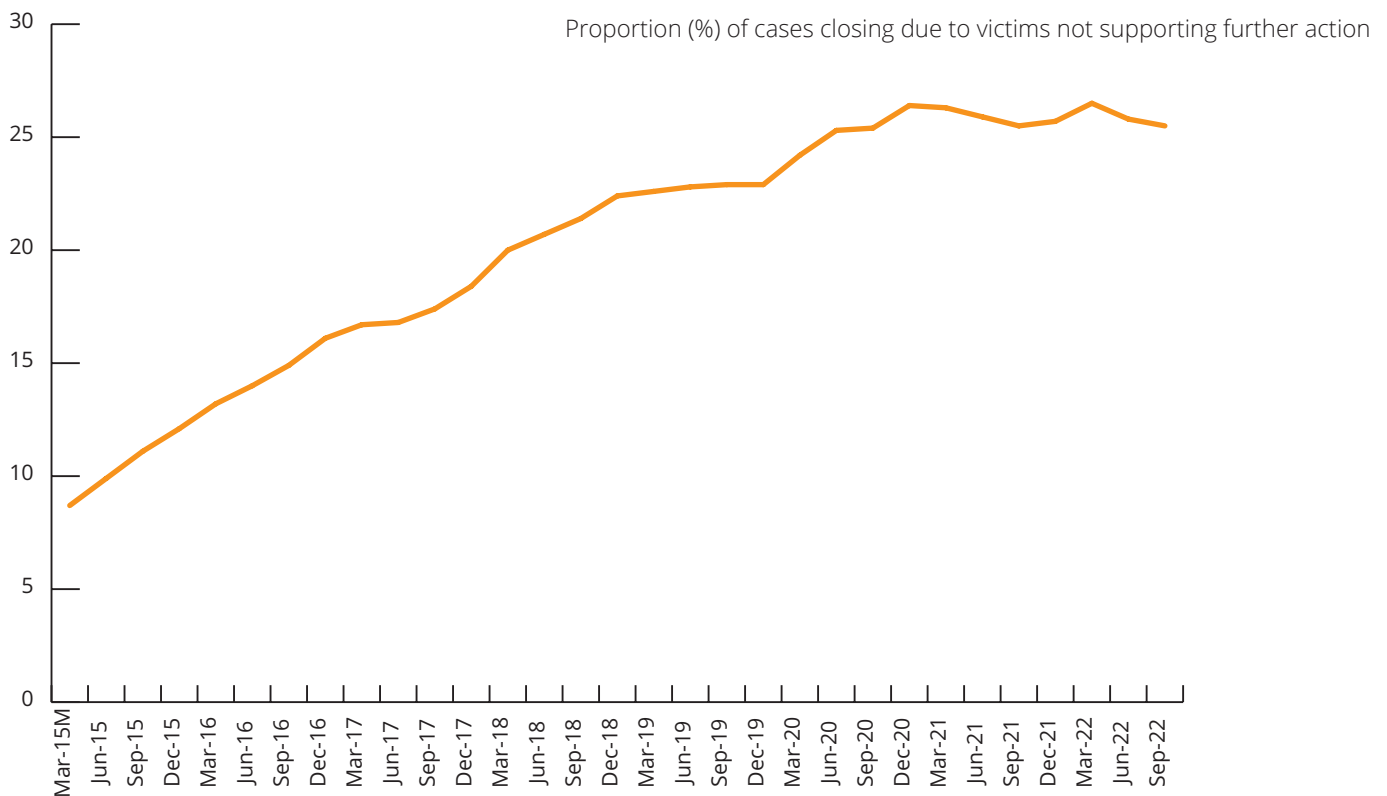
The detection rate for offences has fallen drastically from 28.2 % in 2010 to 9.5% year ending September 2022.

Crime outcomes in England and Wales statistics - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



The number of average days victims wait from offence to completion in the Crown Court has increased from 412 days (Q1 of 2014) to 631 days (Q3 of 2022).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-court-statistics-quarterly-july-to-september-2022>



The proportion of cases closed due to victims not supporting further action has increased from 8.7 % in March 2015 to 25.5% in September 2022.

Source: Home Office Data, Crime Outcomes - Crime outcomes in England and Wales statistics - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)