

Community Justice Scotland: Public Attitudes

Report by The Diffley Partnership
March 2026



From many voices to smart choices

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Background and methodology

This chapter sets out the background and methodology for this research, exploring the views of the Scottish public.

Background

There is an ongoing debate about whether the criminal justice systems across the UK are working. The Common Ground Justice project is working to understand what the public wants from the justice system and try to find any common ground to cut crime and rebuild public trust.¹

In March 2026, Community Justice Scotland commissioned Diffley Partnership, an independent research agency in Edinburgh, to undertake national polling to examine attitudes towards the criminal justice system in Scotland. This included questions regarding views on the current workings of the criminal justice system and its outcomes and potential reforms including community alternatives and a national decarceration plan. This work follows on from a similar survey conducted across the whole of the UK.

Methodology

Diffley Partnership designed the survey with Community Justice Scotland. Many of the questions asked were based on equivalent questions ran in the UK wide survey referred to above, by More in Common, for Common Ground Justice. See Appendices A and B for the full questionnaires.

The Diffley Partnership survey was in field from 6th – 9th March 2026 and achieved 2,171 responses across Scotland; invitations were issued via the online ScotPulse panel. Results were weighted to 2024 Scottish mid-year population estimates for age and gender. More in Common's survey was in field from 28th February – March 2nd 2026 and achieved 2,009 responses, weighted by age and sex for the UK population.

¹ [About – The Common Ground Justice Project](#)

Where applicable, comparisons between the results of both surveys are presented. Tables specify 'Scotland' to refer to the Scottish sample in the ScotPulse survey and 'UK' to refer to the UK sample from the More in Common polling.

1. Views on the Criminal Justice System

Respondents were asked a series of questions about the criminal justice system in Scotland overall.

1.1 Experience with the criminal justice system

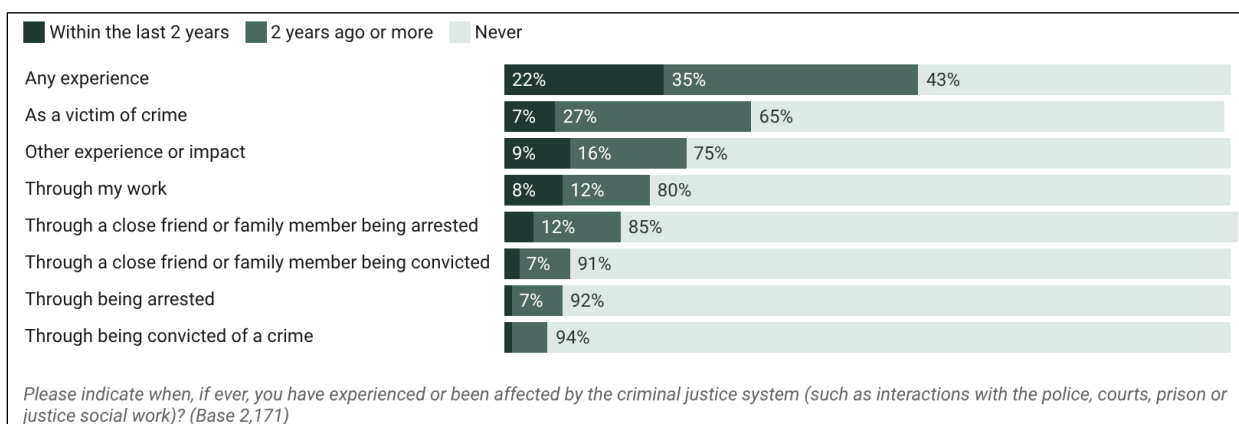
Scotland

Respondents were asked about when, if ever, they have been affected by the criminal justice system in Scotland in a variety of ways, including as a victim of a crime, through being arrested or through work.

About one in five (22%) indicated they had some type of experience with the criminal justice system within the last two years and an additional third (35%) said they had some type of experience or had been affected by the criminal justice system at some point, but longer than two years ago (Figure 1.1). The remaining two in five (43%) said they had never been affected by or experienced the criminal justice system.

The most common way people had been affected by the criminal justice system was through being a victim of a crime, which one in three (35%) said they had experience with at some point; least common was having been convicted of a crime, which only one in twenty (6%) said they had ever experienced.

Figure 1.1. Past experiences with the criminal justice system in Scotland



In terms of demographic differences, younger respondents were considerably more likely to have had recent experience with the criminal justice system; three in ten (29%) respondents aged 16 to 34 reported experience in the last two years, compared to just one in ten (9%) of those aged 65+. Women were also more likely than men to have had no experience with the criminal justice system (46%; 39%).

1.2 Effectiveness of the criminal justice system

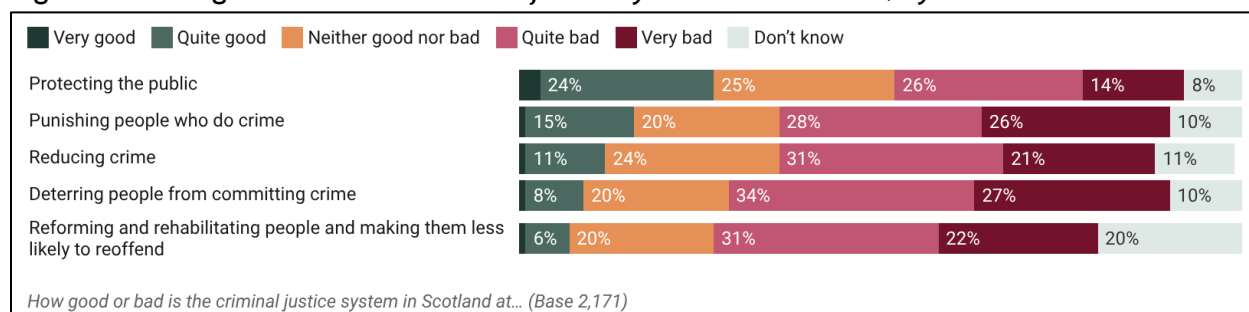
Scotland

Respondents were also asked about how good or bad they think the criminal justice system in Scotland is performing across a range of measures, including protecting the public, punishing people who do crime and reforming people who do crime.

The proportions who said the criminal justice system was good (very or quite) at these things varied from around one in twenty (7%) to one in four (27%), while the proportions who said performance was bad (very or quite) varied from two in five (40%) to three in five (62%) (Figure 1.2).

The measure viewed least negatively was protecting the public; around one in four (27%) Scots said that the criminal justice system in Scotland was good (either very or quite) on this measure while two in five (40%) said it was bad at this. At least half of the public said the criminal justice system was bad at achieving each of the other metrics. The Scottish criminal justice system's ability to deter people from committing crime was viewed most negatively; three in five (62%) said it was bad at this and only 8% said it was good according to this metric.

Figure 1.2. How good or bad the criminal justice system in Scotland is, by various measures



Younger respondents were more likely to say that the criminal justice system is doing a good job at protecting the public. Around one in three respondents aged 16 to 34 (32%) or 35 to 44 (33%) said the criminal justice system is good at this, compared to around a quarter of respondents aged 45 to 54 (22%), 55 to 64 (24%) or 65+ (24%). Similarly, the youngest respondents were least likely to say that the criminal justice system does a bad job when it comes to punishing people who do crime, particularly compared to the oldest respondents. While six in ten (60%) respondents aged 65+ had a negative impression of the criminal justice system's ability to punish people who do crime, the same can be said for just under half (45%) of respondents aged 16 to 34.

Considering experience with the criminal justice system, those who had any experience as a victim of crime were more likely than those who had never been a victim of a crime to view the criminal justice system negatively. Two in three (64%) of those who had been a victim of a crime in the last two years, and over half (56%) of those who had been a victim longer than two years ago, said the criminal justice system was bad at reducing crime, compared to half (49%) of those who had never been a victim of a crime. A similar pattern emerges considering perceptions of the system's ability to reform and rehabilitate people, making them less likely to reoffend (62%; 58%; 50%) as well as protect the public (49%; 44%; 37%).

Experience related to the criminal justice system through work also influenced respondents' views on the system. Respondents who had experience with the criminal justice system through work were more likely to believe it does a good job protecting the public. Two in five (44%) of those with recent experience of work related to the criminal justice system said the system was good at protecting the public, compared with one in

four (25%) of those who had never done work which engaged with the criminal justice system. However, respondents with previous experience of work related to the criminal justice system were also more likely to believe it was bad at ‘reforming and rehabilitating people and making them less likely to reoffend’. Three in five (60%) of those who had ever experienced the criminal justice system through work said the system was bad at this compared to around half (51%) of those who had never experienced it.

UK

Compared to the results of the UK wide survey, Scots tend to feel more negatively about the criminal justice system’s performance. Scots were less likely than UK wide respondents to say the system performed well when it came punishing people who do crime (16%; 29%), deter people from committing crime (8%; 16%) and reforming and rehabilitating people (7%; 16%) (Table 1.2). However, results for the system’s ability to protect the public were similar between both surveys and the UK respondents were more likely than Scottish respondents to believe the system was bad at reducing crime (58%; 52%). The table also delineates the proportion who believed the system was performing well at each element less the proportion who believed it was performing poorly, in the furthest right column.

Table 1.2. How good or bad the criminal justice system is, by jurisdiction

		NET: Good	Neither good nor bad	NET: Bad	Don’t know	NET: Good – Bad
		%	%	%	%	%
Protecting the public	Scotland (Base: 2,171)	27	25	40	8	– 13
	UK (Base: 2,009)	28	30	39	3	– 10
Punishing people who do crime	Scotland (Base: 2,171)	16	20	54	10	– 38
	UK (Base: 2,009)	29	25	41	5	– 12

Reducing crime	Scotland (Base: 2,171)	13	24	52	11	- 39
	UK (Base: 2,009)	16	22	58	4	- 41
Deterring people from committing crime	Scotland (Base: 2,171)	8	20	62	10	- 53
	UK (Base: 2,009)	16	23	57	4	- 40
Reforming and rehabilitating people and making them less likely to reoffend**	Scotland (Base: 2,171)	7	20	53	20	- 46
	UK (Base: 2,009)	16	26	51	6	- 35

**The UK survey did not include the second part of the answer option: 'and making them less likely to reoffend'.

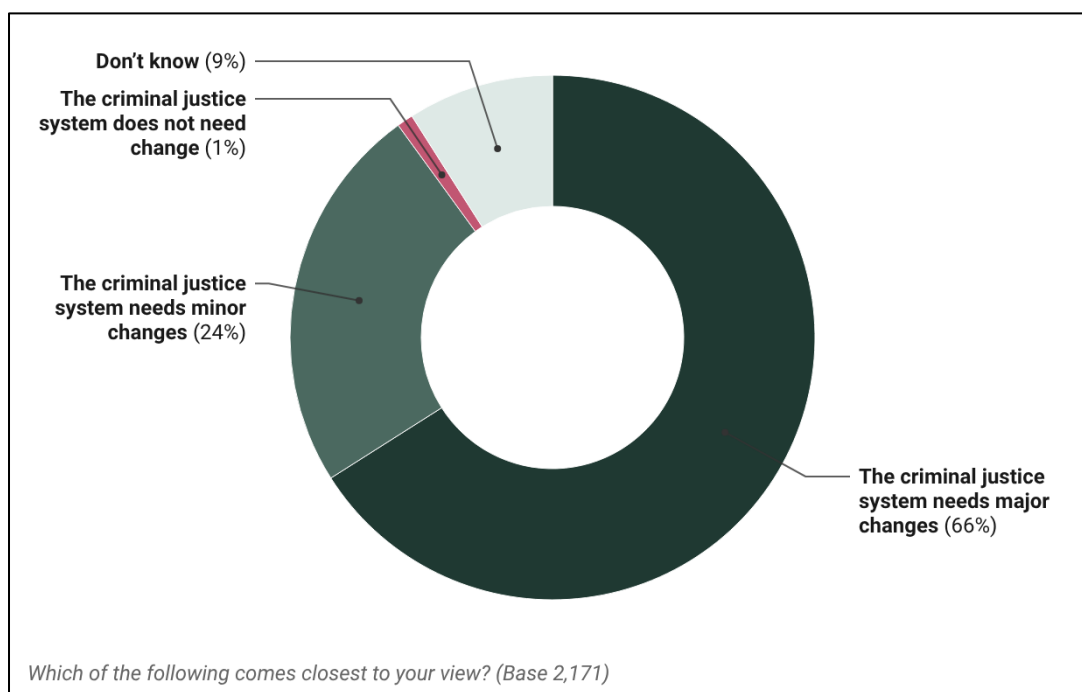
1.3 Changes needed to the criminal justice system

Scotland

Respondents were also asked to what extent they believe the criminal justice system in Scotland needs to change.

Two in three (66%) said the system needs major changes, while one in four (24%) said it needs minor changes and only 1% said it does not need change (Figure 1.3). The remaining one in ten (9%) said they didn't know.

Figure 1.3. Changes needed to the criminal justice system in Scotland



Having direct experience with the criminal justice system was a significant predictor of pro-system reform attitudes. Eight in ten (81%) respondents who had been a victim of crime in the past two years said that the system needs major reform, compared to two-thirds (64%) of those who had never been the victim of a crime. Additionally, three-quarters (76%) of those who had been arrested at any point in time said that the criminal justice system needs major reform compared to two thirds (65%) of those who had never been arrested.

This signals that interaction with the criminal justice system, as either a victim of crime or someone who has been arrested, increases one's propensity of advocating for major change to the system.

UK

Overall results are similar to those for the UK-wide survey, in which two in three (64%) said the criminal justice system needs major changes, one in four (26%) said it needs minor changes and 2% said it does not need to change (Table 1.3).

Table 1.3. Changes needed to the criminal justice system, by jurisdiction

	Scotland (Base 2,171)	UK (Base 2,009)
	%	%
The criminal justice system needs major changes	66	64
The criminal justice system needs minor changes	24	26
The criminal justice system does not need change	1	2
Don't know	9	7

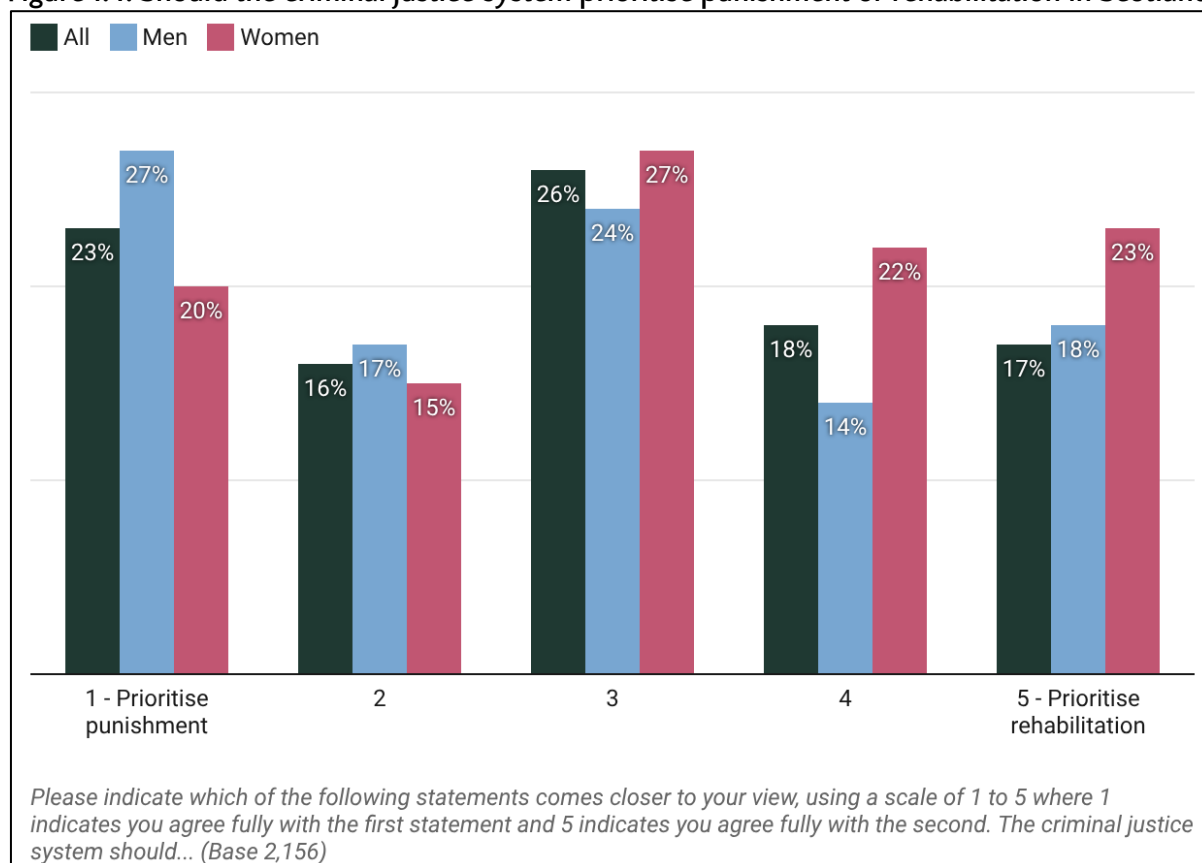
1.4 Punishment or rehabilitation

Scotland

Respondents were also asked whether they thought the criminal justice system should prioritise punishment or rehabilitation. They were shown a scale from one to five, where 1 indicates they fully agree the criminal justice system should prioritise punishment and 5 indicates they fully agree the criminal justice system should prioritise rehabilitation, and were instructed to select which number represents their view.

Around two in four (39%) agreed the criminal justice system should prioritise punishment more than rehabilitation, while one in three (35%) agreed it should prioritise rehabilitation over punishment (Figure 1.4). About one in four (23%) fully agreed the criminal justice system should prioritise punishment while one in six (17%) fully agreed it should prioritise rehabilitation. One in four (26%) selected '3', indicating they agreed with the statements equally.

Figure 1.4. Should the criminal justice system prioritise punishment or rehabilitation in Scotland



There was a clear gendered and age-driven split in priorities. Just under half (44%) of men favoured punishment, compared to a third (35%) women. Conversely, two in five (38%) women preferred rehabilitation, compared to a third (32%) of men. Similarly, around half (45%) of respondents aged 16 to 34 said rehabilitation should be prioritised, compared to just one in three of respondents aged 35 to 44 (34%), 45 to 54 (29%), 55 to 64 (33%) or 65+ (30%).

Recent experience with the criminal justice system (in the last two years) appeared to make a respondent more likely to prefer prioritisation of rehabilitation. Two in five (40%) of these respondents said that rehabilitation is more important, compared to three in ten (31%) who had no experience of the criminal justice system.

UK

Responses to the UK poll were similar, although leaned less towards rehabilitation than in Scotland. While around one in three (35%) thought the system should prioritise rehabilitation more than they thought it should prioritise punishment, only one in four (26%) said the same in the UK wide poll (Table 1.4).

Table 1.4. Should the criminal justice system prioritise punishment or rehabilitation, by jurisdiction

	Scotland (Base 2,156)	UK (Base 2,009)
	%	%
NET: Prioritise punishment (1-2)	39	45
Neutral (3)	26	29
NET: Prioritise rehabilitation (4-5)	35	26

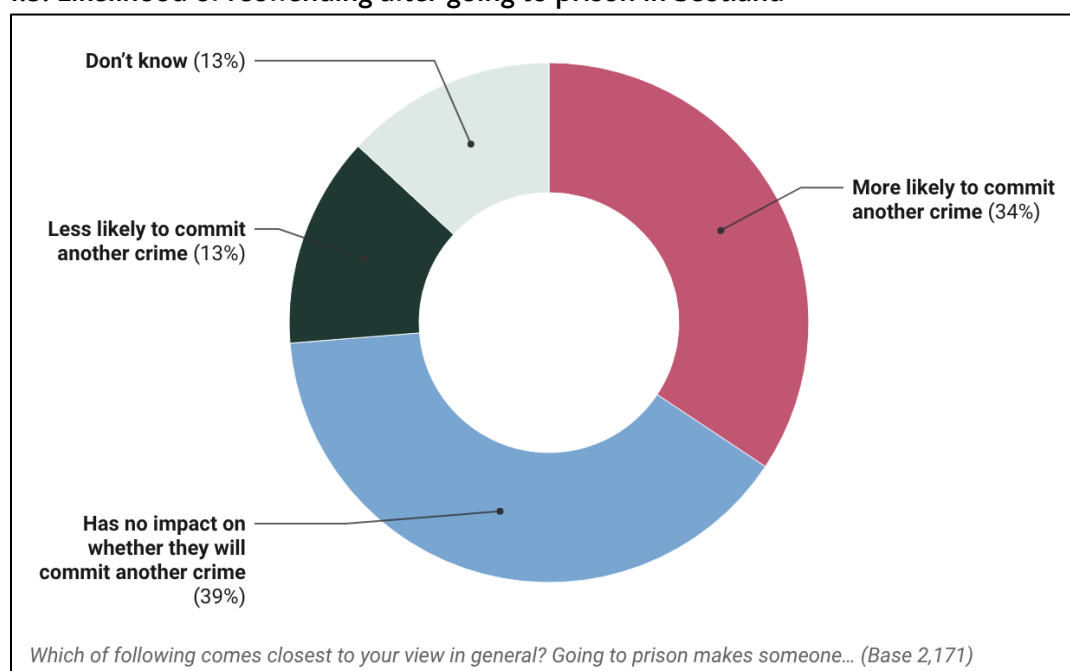
1.5 Likelihood of reoffending

Scotland

Respondents were then asked about the impact they thought going to prison has on someone's likelihood of reoffending.

About one in three (34%) said going to prison makes someone more likely to commit another crime while two in five (39%) said going to prison has no impact on whether or not someone will commit another crime and only one in eight (13%) said going to prison makes someone less likely to commit another crime. The remaining 13% said they didn't know (Figure 1.5).

Figure 1.5. Likelihood of reoffending after going to prison in Scotland



Having any experience of the criminal justice system in the past two years was associated with a greater likelihood of believing that going to prison makes someone more likely to commit another crime. More than four in ten (42%) respondents with any recent experience believe incarceration increases reoffending rates, compared to three in ten (29%) with no experience of the criminal justice system.

Looking closer, this pattern persists when examining respondents who had been a victim of a crime within the last two years (39%) or further in the past (39%) compared to respondents who had never been the victim of a crime (31%). And those who had a close family member or friend be arrested within the last two years were more likely to believe going to prison increases the chance someone will commit another crime compared to those who had never had a family member or friend be arrested (45%; 33%).

UK

This question was also asked in the UK wide survey (Table 1.5). Slightly higher proportions in Scotland thought that going to prison made someone more likely to commit another crime (34%; 30%) or had no impact on whether they will commit another crime compared

to the UK as a whole (39%; 35%). However, significantly fewer respondents in Scotland, than in the UK as a whole, thought that going to prison made someone less likely to commit another crime (13%; 21%).

Table 1.5. Likelihood of reoffending after going to prison, by jurisdiction

	Scotland (Base 2,171)	UK (Base 2,009)
	%	%
More likely to commit another crime	34	30
Has no impact on whether they will commit another crime	39	35
Less likely to commit another crime	13	21
Don't know	13	14

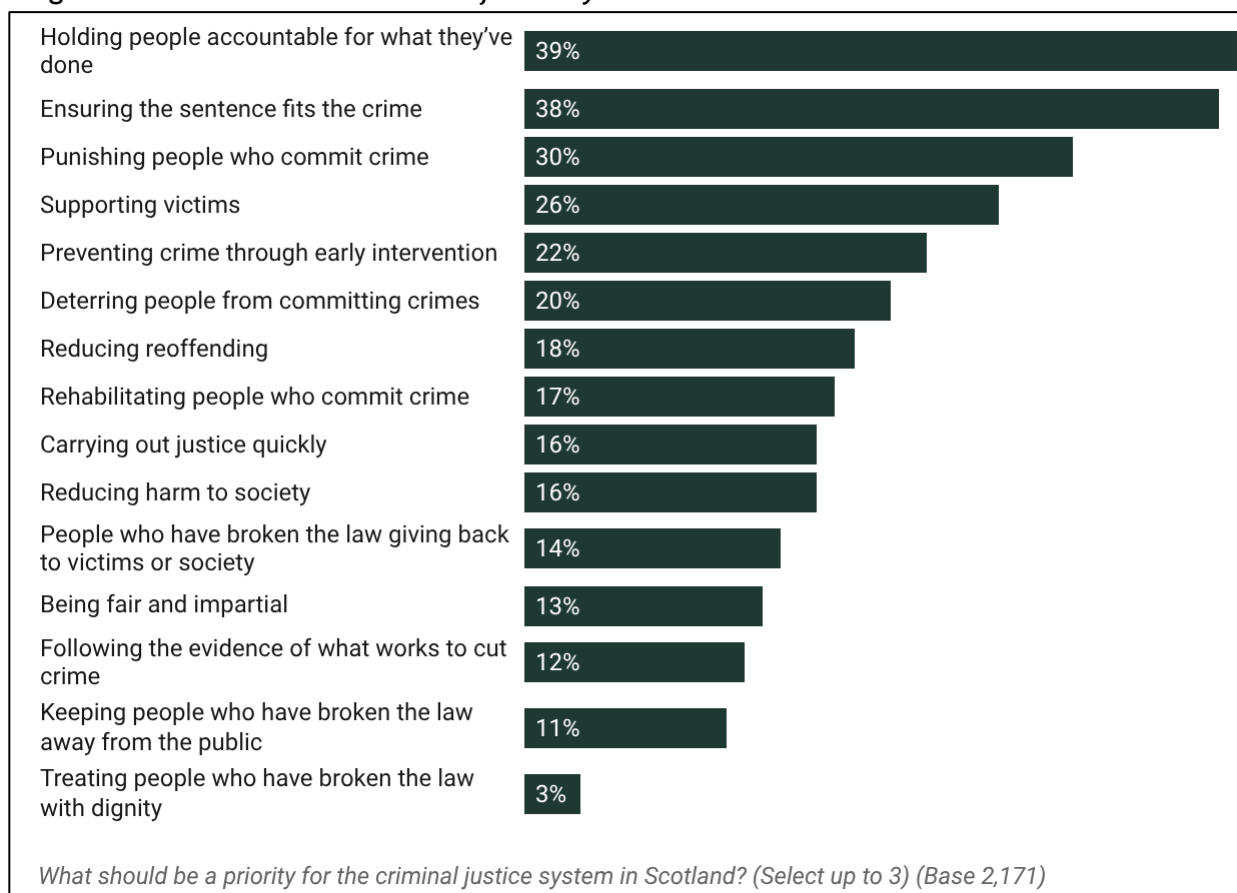
1.6 Priorities for the criminal justice system

Scotland

Respondents were shown a list of 15 potential priorities for the criminal justice system and asked to select up to three.

Two in five (39%) respondents selected 'holding people accountable for what they've done', and a similar proportion (38%) selected 'ensuring the sentence fits the crime' (Figure 1.6). About one in three (30%) selected 'punishing people who commit crime' and one in four (26%) selected 'supporting victims'. Around two in five selected priorities related to prevention, such as 'preventing crime through early intervention' (22%), 'detering people from committing crimes' (20%) and reducing reoffending (18%). Only about one in thirty (3%) said 'treating people who have broken the law with dignity' should be one of the top three priorities of the criminal justice system in Scotland.

Figure 1.6. Priorities for the criminal justice system in Scotland



Turning towards demographic differences, men were more likely to view the criminal justice system through a punitive lens and tended to identify with priorities centred on the individuals who commit crime. One in three (35%) men said a priority of the system should be to 'punish people who commit crime', compared to one in four (25%) women. Similarly, men were more likely than women to prioritise 'deterring people from committing crimes' (22%; 18%) and 'keeping people who have broken the law away from the public' (13%; 8%). Conversely, women were more likely than men to choose priorities focussed on broader societal impacts, such as 'preventing crime through early intervention' (25%; 19%), 'reducing harm to society' (18%; 14%), 'people who have broken the law giving back to victims or society' (16%; 12%) and 'ensuring that the sentence fits the crime' (43%; 32%).

Differences in priorities between age groups also emerged. The youngest age group were more likely to prioritise rehabilitation compared to all other age groups; one in four (25%) of those aged 16 to 34 identified 'rehabilitating people who commit crime' as a priority compared to one in seven (14%) of those aged 35+. Those aged 16 to 34 also had a greater focus on 'reducing reoffending' compared to the oldest cohort aged 65+ (23%; 12%) and 'preventing crime through early intervention' (29%; 19%). Respondents aged 65+ were more likely than those aged 16 to 34 to argue that the criminal justice system should prioritise 'holding people accountable for what they've done' (44%; 34%), 'ensuring that the sentence fits the crime' (44%; 31%) and 'carrying out justice quickly' (19%; 10%).

Those with recent experience (within the last two years) of the criminal justice system were more likely than those with no previous experience to believe 'rehabilitating people who commit crime' should be a top priority (23%; 15%) as well as 'treating people who have broken the law with dignity (7%; 2%)'. On the other hand, respondents with no experience were more likely than those with any recent experience to select that the system should prioritise 'holding people accountable for what they have done' (42%; 34%).

UK

This question was also asked in the UK wide survey, although a few of the answer options which were not frequently selected by respondents were not included in the Scottish survey; see the note below the table for more details (Table 1.6).

The results for both surveys were largely similar; 'holding people accountable for what they've done' was the most frequently selected priority in Scotland and the UK (39%; 33%), followed closely by 'ensuring the sentence fits the crime' (38%; 33%). The third most selected response was 'punishing people who commit crime', which was selected by only marginally more respondents in the UK (32%) than in Scotland (30%). One significant difference was the proportion who said 'supporting victims' should be one of the criminal justice system's top 3 priorities, which was selected by one in four (26%) in Scotland and only about one in seven (15%) in the UK.

Table 1.6. Priorities for the criminal justice system, by jurisdiction

	Scotland (Base: 2,171)	UK (Base: 2,009)
	%	%
Holding people accountable for what they've done	39	33
Ensuring the sentence fits the crime	38	33
Punishing people who commit crime	30	32
Supporting victims	26	15
Preventing crime through early intervention	22	20
Detering people from committing crimes	20	17
Reducing reoffending	18	16
Rehabilitating people who commit crime	17	17
Carrying out justice quickly	16	17
Reducing harm to society	16	10
People who have broken the law giving back to victims or society	14	11
Being fair and impartial	13	14
Following the evidence of what works to cut crime	12	7
Keeping people who have broken the law away from the public	11	11
Treating people who have broken the law with dignity	3	3
Value for taxpayer money	n/a	4
Making the system clear	n/a	6
Signalling what is and is not acceptable in our society	n/a	8
Don't know	n/a	*
None of the above	n/a	3

n/a – these answer options were not included on the Scottish survey

2. Sentencing

Respondents were asked five questions related to sentencing in Scotland, including their views on community alternatives to traditional prison sentences and thoughts on the national decarceration plan recommended by Scotland's Independent Commission on Sentencing and Penal Policy.

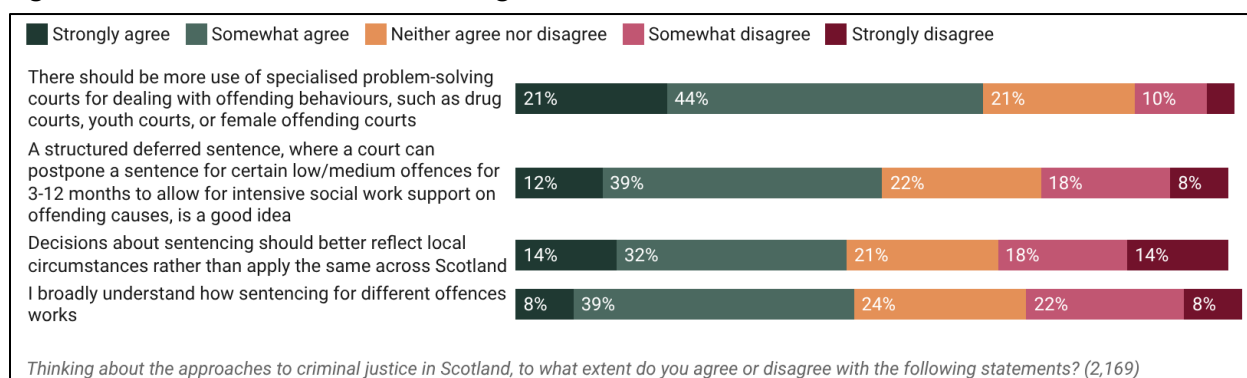
2.1 Sentencing decisions

Scotland

Respondents were presented with four statements about the approaches to sentencing in Scotland and asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with each (Figure 2.1).

Two in three (65%) agreed (strongly or somewhat) that 'there should be more use of specialised problem-solving courts for dealing with offending behaviours, such as drug courts, youth courts or female offending courts', and only one in seven (15%) disagreed (somewhat or strongly) with this. Half (51%) agreed 'a structured deferred sentence, where a court can postpone a sentence for certain low/medium offences for 3-12 months to allow for intensive social work support on offending causes, is a good idea' while one in four (26%) disagreed with this. Similar proportions agreed 'decisions about sentencing should better reflect local circumstances rather than apply the same across Scotland' (47%) and that they 'broadly understand how sentencing for different offences works' (46%), while about one in three disagreed with each of these statements (33%; 29%).

Figure 2.1. Attitudes towards sentencing decisions in Scotland



Women were more likely than men to agree that there should be more use of specialised problem solving courts for dealing with offending behaviours, such as drug courts, youth courts, or female offending courts (69%; 61%). Additionally, the youngest cohort of respondents, aged 16 to 34, were more likely than the oldest respondents, aged 65+, to advocate for the consideration of local circumstances during sentencing (57%| 43%).

Experience with the criminal justice system was associated with differing levels of agreement. For example, more than half (55%) of respondents with any experience in the last two years agreed that they broadly understand how sentencing works, compared to four in ten (43%) of those with no experience of the criminal justice system. Similarly, those with any recent experience agreed with structured deferred sentences at higher rates than those with no experience (58%; 45%). And looking closer, those who had ever had experience with the system as victims were more likely than those who did not to agree that structured deferred sentences are a good idea (57%; 48%).

2.2 Support for community sentencing

Scotland

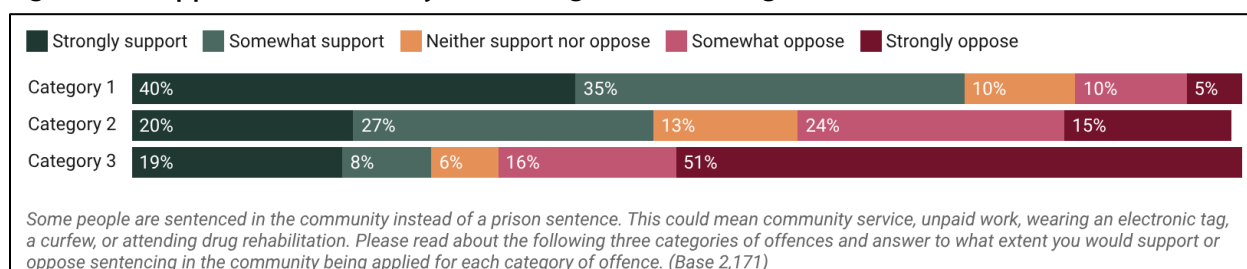
The definition of community sentencing was presented to respondents who were then asked to what extent they would support or oppose community sentencing applied for three described categories of offense (Figure 2.2):

- Category 1 – Low-Harm Offences: Behaviours that cause limited harm, involve no physical injury, and are typically dealt with at the lower end of the justice system. Examples include: Taking low-value items from a shop, causing minor property damage (e.g., graffiti, broken window), possessing small amounts of drugs for personal use or causing disturbance in a public place.
- Category 2 – Offences Involving Harm or Risk: Behaviours that involve some degree of harm, risk, or repeated conduct, but fall short of causing serious physical injury or life-threatening harm. Examples include: A physical altercation resulting in short-term or non-serious injury, Repeated shop theft or recurring offending, Driving under the influence where no one is injured, Breaking into a property that is unoccupied, Low-level drug supply.

- Category 3 – Offences Involving Significant Harm or Risk: Behaviours that result in more substantial harm or have a meaningful impact on victims or the community
Examples include: Assault resulting in injury requiring medical attention (but not life-threatening), Patterns of abusive or harmful behaviour that do not involve severe physical injury, Drug supply that affects multiple people or the wider community, Repeated high-risk driving that endangers others, Fraud causing significant financial loss to individuals.

The proportions who were supportive of community sentencing decreased as the severity of the offence increased. Three in four (75%) were supportive (strongly or somewhat) of community sentencing for category 1 offences while about half (48%) were supportive of community sentencing for category 2 offences and only one in four (27%) were supportive of community sentencing for category 3 offences. Notably, two in three (67%) were opposed to community sentencing being applied for category 3 offences and half (51%) were strongly opposed to this.

Figure 2.2. Support for community sentencing for three categories of offence in Scotland



Respondents in social grade C2DE were more likely to support community sentencing for Category 3 offences, relative to respondents in ABC1 (32%; 23%). Those who thought the criminal justice system needed change were also more likely to support community sentencing for Category 3 offenders, compared to those who said they didn't know whether the system requires change. Three in ten respondents who believed the system needs major changes (28%) or minor changes (29%) supported community sentencing for these types of offences, compared to one in seven (15%) respondents who didn't know if change is needed.

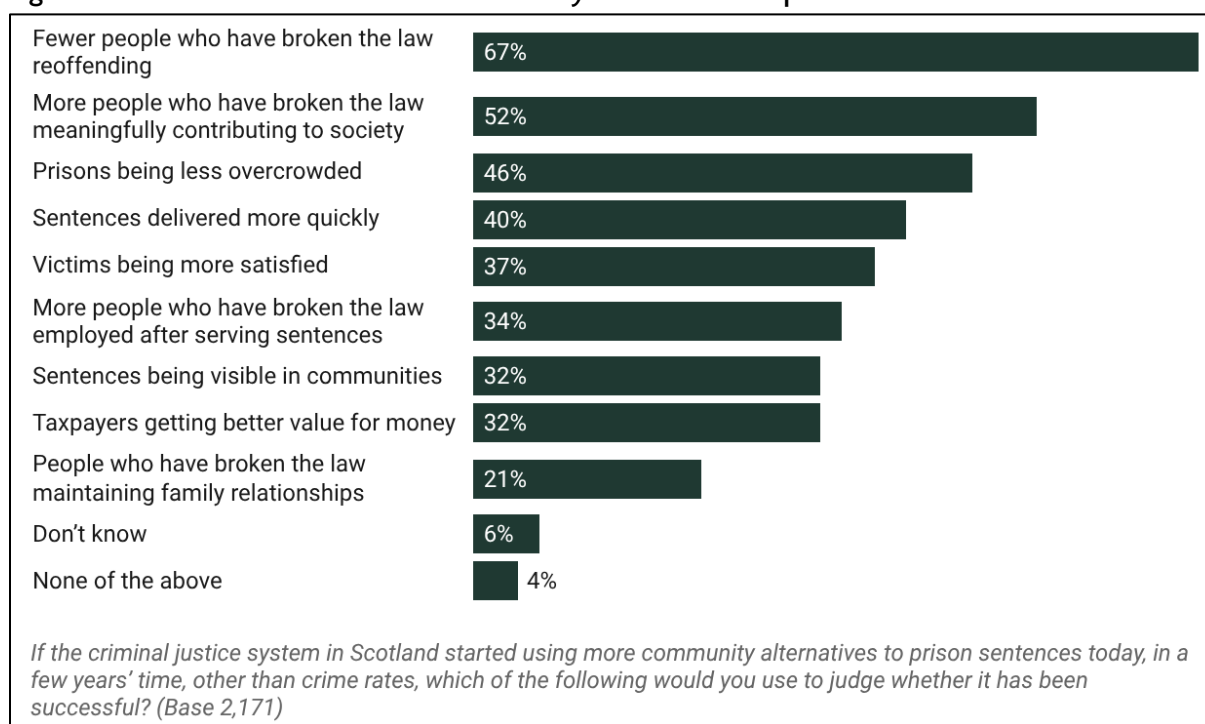
Considering opposition, men were more likely than women to oppose community sentencing for Category 1 offences (19%; 12%). Furthermore, respondents in certain areas of Scotland were more likely to oppose community sentencing for Category 1 (low harm) offences. One in five (21%) respondents in the North East Scotland parliamentary region opposed community sentencing for these offences, compared to around one in eight in the Lothian (13%), Central Scotland (12%), and South Scotland (11%) regions.

2.3 Community alternatives: Measures of success

Scotland

Respondents were then asked what metrics, other than a decrease in crime rates, could measure whether community alternatives to prison sentences were successful, if Scotland were to start implementing these. They were able to select as many as they agreed with. Two in three (67%) said lower rates of reoffending would be a good measure of success and half (52%) said the same of 'more people who have broken the law meaningfully contributing to society' (Figure 2.3). Almost half (46%) thought 'prisons being less overcrowded' would indicate community alternatives were working and two in five (40%) thought seeing 'sentences delivered more quickly' would be a good metric. About one in three (37%) said 'victims being more satisfied' could be used as a measure of success and similar proportions said the same about 'more people who have broken the law being employed after serving sentences' (34%), 'sentences being visible in communities' (32%) and 'taxpayers getting better value for money' (32%). One in five (21%) selected 'people who have broken the law maintaining family relationships' and only about one in five selected 'don't know' (6%) or 'none of the above' (4%).

Figure 2.3. Measures of success of community alternatives to prison sentences in Scotland



Men more frequently considered positive outcomes in terms of value for money for the taxpayer compared to women (36%; 27%) while women more frequently selected 'fewer people who have broken the law reoffending' (70%; 64%) and 'sentences delivered more quickly' (46%; 33%). Respondents aged 65+ were more likely to select a number of metrics, compared to those aged 16 to 34, such as, 'more people who have broken the law meaningfully contributing to society' (57%; 47%), 'sentences delivered more quickly' (51%; 26%), 'victims being more satisfied' (43%; 33%) and 'sentences being visible in communities' (36%; 24%). Meanwhile, the youngest cohort (aged 16 to 34) were more likely than those aged (45 to 54) to prioritise 'more people who have broken the law employed after serving sentences' (41%; 28%), 'more people who have broken the law maintaining family relationships' (26%; 16%) and 'prisons being less overcrowded' (53%; 40%).

'Victims being more satisfied' was more important as an indicator of success for respondents in West Central Scotland (41%) and East Central Scotland (39%), compared to those in the North of Scotland (29%), while 'sentences delivered more quickly' was more

important to respondents in East Central Scotland (46%), compared to West Central (38%) and the North of Scotland (36%).

UK

A similar question was asked in the UK survey. Due to methodological differences in which respondents to the UK survey were limited to two answers, there was a significantly lower incidence rate for each of the answer options, making the results non-comparable with the Scottish survey. Additionally, slightly different wording was used in each survey for some of the answer options. Specifically, the UK survey used the term 'offenders' where 'people who have broken the law' was in the Scottish survey (Table 2.3).

Table 2.3. Measures of success of community alternatives to prison sentences, UK results

UK (Base: 2,009)	%
If fewer offenders reoffend	52
If more offenders meaningfully contribute to society	28
If more offenders are employed after serving sentences	20
If prisons are less overcrowded	16
If victims are more satisfied	13
If the sentences were visible for communities to see	12
If sentences were delivered more quickly	10
If taxpayers get better value for money	9
If more offenders maintain family relationships	7
None of the above	3
Don't know	8

2.4 Technologies to enhance community sentences and justice services

Scotland

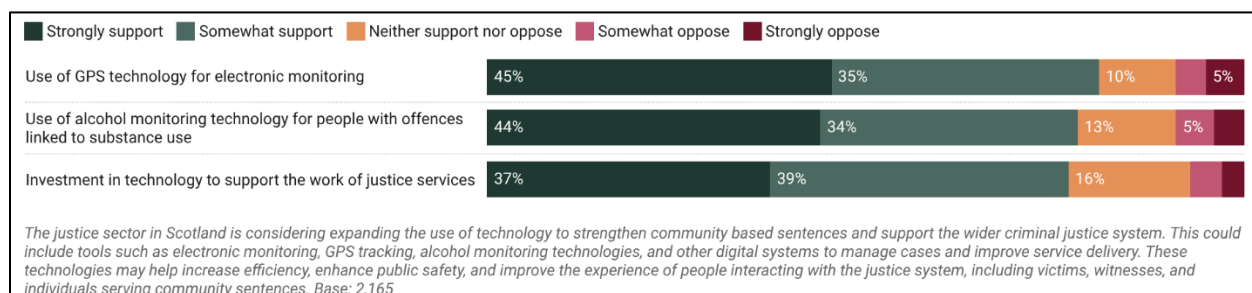
Respondents were given the following information on the potential expansion of technology use: 'The justice sector in Scotland is considering expanding the use of

technology to strengthen community based sentences and support the wider criminal justice system. This could include tools such as electronic monitoring, GPS tracking, alcohol monitoring technologies and other digital systems used to manage cases and improve service delivery. These technologies may help increase efficiency, enhance public safety and improve the experience of people interacting with the justice system, including victims, witnesses and individuals serving community sentences.'

They were then asked to what extent they support or oppose three expanded uses of technology in the criminal justice system: the use of GPS technology, alcohol monitoring technology and investment in technology.

At least three in four respondents were supportive (strongly or somewhat) of each use of technology, Four in five (80%) were in support of the use of GPS technology for electronic monitoring, and similar proportions supported the use of alcohol monitoring technology for people with offences linked to substance abuse (77%) and investment in technology to support the work of justice services (77%) (Figure 2.4). Fewer than one in ten disagreed (somewhat or strongly) with each of these (9%; 9%; 7%, respectively).

Figure 2.4. Support for the use of technology to support the criminal justice system in Scotland



Women were more likely to support the use of certain monitoring technology compared to men. Over four in five (84%) women supported the use of GPS technology for electronic monitoring and a similar proportion (82%) supported the use of alcohol monitoring for people with offences linked to substance use while around three in four men supported each of these (77% and 73%, respectively). Additionally, respondents in social grade ABC1 were more likely than those in grades C2DE to support the use of GPS

monitoring technology (83%; 76%) and investment in technology to support the work of justice services (81%; 71%).

Older respondents were also more likely than younger respondents to support the use of and investment in these technologies. Over four in five of those aged 55 to 64 (84%) and 65+ (85%) supported the use of GPS technology compared to seven in ten (72%) of those aged 16 to 34. The same was seen for alcohol monitoring; four in five respondents aged 55 to 64 (84%) and 65+ (81%) supported the use of this technology, compared to seven in ten (72%) of the youngest cohort. And again, four in five of those aged 55 to 64 (81%) or 65+ (80%) supported investment in technology to support the work of justice services compared to under three in four (72%) of those aged 16 to 34.

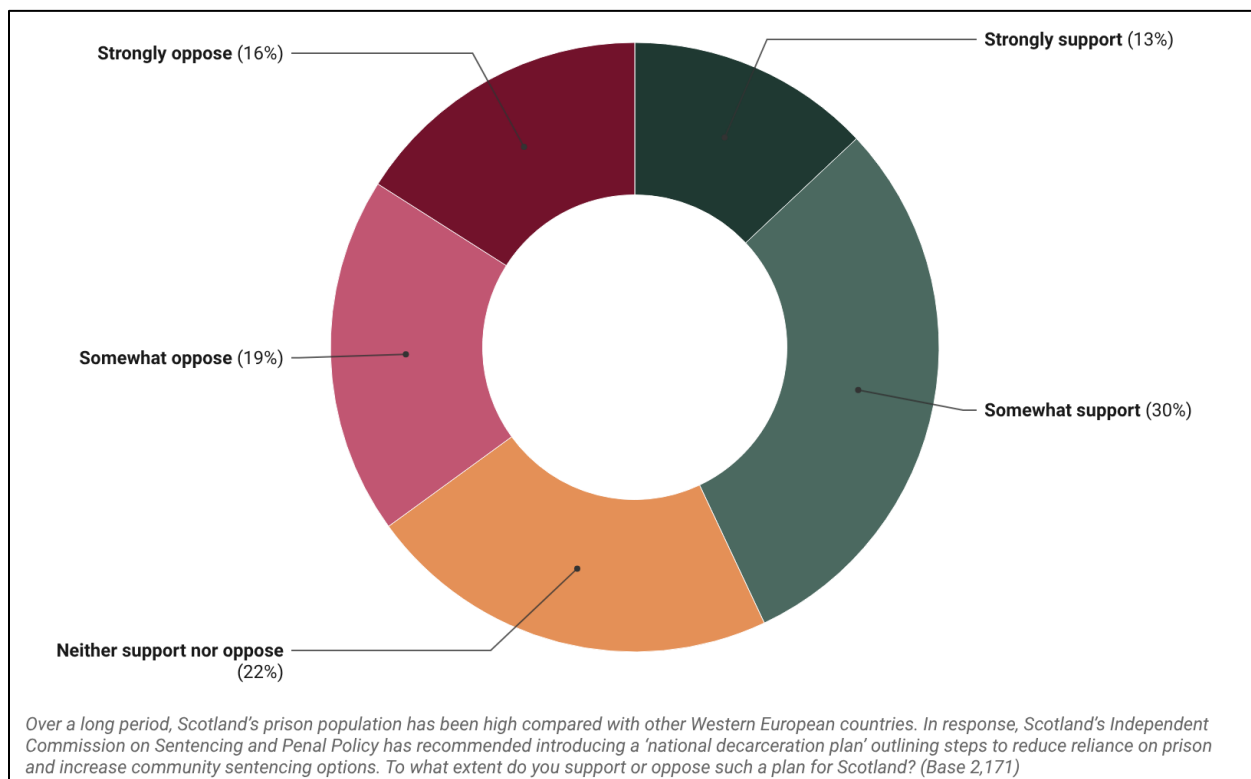
2.5 National decarceration plan

Scotland

In response to the high prison population in Scotland relative to the rest of Western Europe, Scotland's Independent Commission on Sentencing and Penal Policy has recommended a 'national decarceration plan' to reduce reliance on prison and increase community sentencing options. Respondents were asked to what extent they support or oppose this idea.

About two in five (43%) respondents were supportive (strongly or somewhat) of this idea while about one in five (22%) were neutral and one in three (35%) were opposed (Figure 2.5).

Figure 2.5. Support for a national decarceration plan in Scotland



Men were more likely to oppose a national decarceration plan than women (38%; 32%), while respondents aged 16 to 34 were considerably more likely to support this plan compared to those 65 and older (51%; 39%). Likewise, respondents aged 65+ were more likely to report opposition to this than those aged 16 to 34 (42%; 25%).

And different areas of Scotland were associated with differing levels of support for a national decarceration plan. Around a third of those in the Central Scotland (33%) and North East Scotland (34%) parliamentary regions supported this compared to around half of those in South Scotland (45%), Mid Scotland and Fife (47%), Glasgow (49%), West Scotland (50%) and Lothian (50%).

Lastly, respondents who had any experience of the criminal justice system in the last two years were more likely to support this plan relative to those who had no experience of the system (48%; 40%).

3. Overcrowding in prisons

Prisons in Scotland are reaching capacity. As such, respondents were asked a few questions related to this including views on funding responses, a potential decarceration plan and amending how remand is used in Scotland.

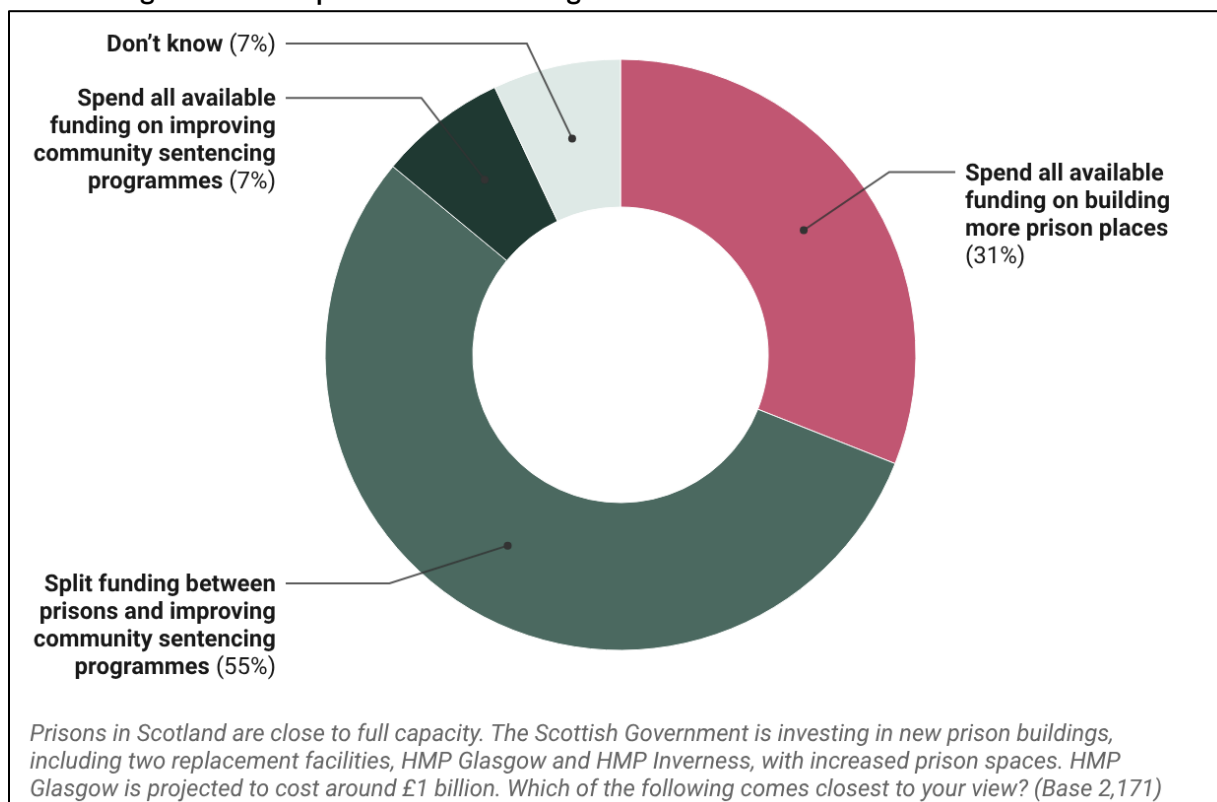
3.1 Funding solutions to prison overcrowding

Scotland

Respondents were given some information about the current capacity limits of Scottish prisons: 'Prisons in Scotland are close to full capacity. The Scottish Government is investing in new prison buildings, including two replacement facilities, HMP Glasgow and HMP Inverness, with increased prison spaces. HMP Glasgow is projected to cost around £1 billion'. They were then asked how they think the available funding should be spent: on building more prison places, improving community sentences or split between the two.

Over half (55%) said they thought funding should be split between prisons and improving community sentence programmes, while one in three (31%) said they thought the funding should be spent on building more prison places and fewer than one in ten (7%) said all funding should be spent on improving community sentencing programmes (Figure 3.1). The remaining 7% said they didn't know.

3.1. Funding solutions to prison overcrowding in Scotland



Women were more likely than men to advocate for splitting funding between prisons and community sentencing programmes (63%; 46%) while men were more likely than women to support using all available funding to build more prison spaces (37%; 25%). Putting all funding towards prison places was also more popular among respondents aged 65+ compared to those aged 16 to 34 (36%; 26%), those in social grades C2DE compared to those in ABC1 (36%; 28%).

Beliefs about how prison impacts those who have committed crimes also influenced views on how funding should be spent. Only around one in five (20%) of those who believed going to prison makes someone more likely to commit another crime suggested all funding should be spent on building more prison places compared to two in five of those who believed prison has no impact on if someone will commit another crime (43%) or makes them less likely to (40%).

UK

The UK wide survey asked a similar question for a UK context; they were provided with the following information: ‘UK prisons are almost at full capacity. The government has plans to spend £10 billion building 20,000 new prison cells’ and asked how they thought the available funding should be spent (Table 3.1).

Results between the Scottish and UK surveys were similar. Around half thought funding should be split between prisons and community sentencing (55%; 52%), one in three (31%; 28%) thought it should be spent on prisons only and under one in ten (7%; 7%) thought all funding should be spent on community sentencing programmes. However, a smaller proportion of respondents in Scotland said they didn’t know how the funding should be spent, relative to those who said the same in the UK wide survey (7%; 13%). Notably, slightly different wording was used in each survey for some of the answer options; see the note below the table for more details.

Table 3.1. Funding solutions to prison overcrowding, by jurisdiction

	Scotland (Base 2,171)	UK (Base 2,009)
	%	%
Spend all available funding on building more prison places**	31	28
Split funding between prisons and improving community sentencing programmes**	55	52
Spend all available funding on improving community sentencing programmes**	7	7
Don’t know	7	13

**The UK survey specified ‘the government should’ at the beginning of each answer option and used the term ‘prison cells’ instead of ‘prison places’ or ‘prisons’.

3.2. Use of remand

Scotland

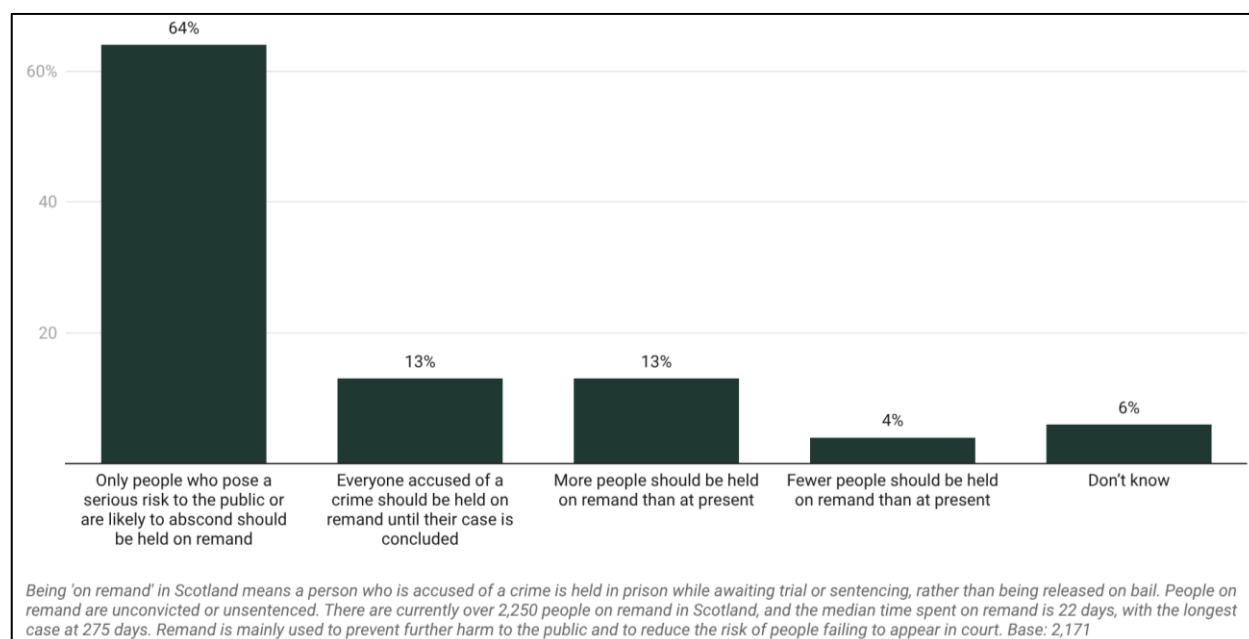
Respondents were presented with the following information about how remand is currently used in the criminal justice system in Scotland: 'Being 'on remand' in Scotland means a person who is accused of a crime is held in prison while awaiting trial or sentencing, rather than being released on bail. People on remand are unconvicted (awaiting trial) or unsentenced (awaiting a sentencing decision). There are currently over 2,250 people on remand in Scotland, and the median time spent on remand is 22 days, with the longest case at 275 days. Remand is mainly used to prevent further harm to the public and to reduce the risk of people failing to appear in court.'

They were then asked which of the following statements comes closest to their view about how remand should be used in Scotland:

- Only people who pose a serious risk to the public or are likely to abscond should be held on remand
- Everyone accused of a crime should be held on remand until their case is concluded
- More people should be held on remand than at present
- Fewer people should be held on remand than at present

About two in three (64%) Scots said only people who pose a serious risk to the public or are likely to abscond should be held on remand, while about one in eight (13%) said everyone accused of a crime should be held on remand until their case is concluded (Figure 3.2). The statements which strictly concern the number of people currently held on remand were less popular: about one in eight (13%) said more people should be held on remand than at present while fewer than one in twenty (4%) said fewer people should be held on remand than at present.

Figure 3.2. Views on how remand should be used in Scotland



Respondents who had recent experience with the criminal justice system were significantly more likely than those with no previous experience of the system to say that only those who pose a serious risk to the public or are likely to abscond should be held on remand (73%; 57%). Meanwhile, those with no experience of the system were more likely to support remand for everyone accused of a crime, compared to those with any experience of the system in the past two years (18%; 8%). Respondents who believed going to prison makes someone more likely to commit a crime were more likely to say that remand should only be for high-risk people (74%), compared to those who said prison has no impact on whether someone will commit another crime (55%) and those who believed prison decreases likelihood of reoffending (64%).

4. Restorative justice and throughcare

Respondents were also asked about their views on restorative justice and throughcare.

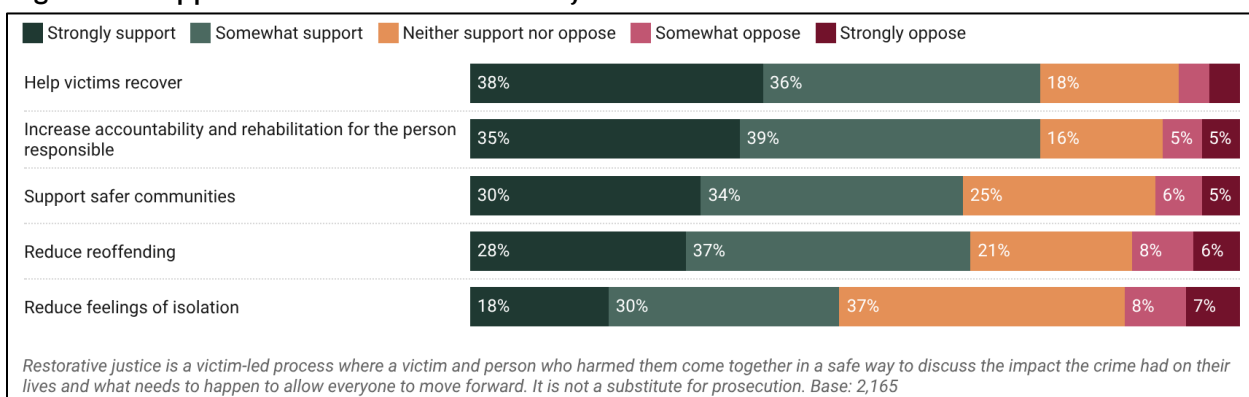
4.1. Support for the use of Restorative Justice

Scotland

Respondents were asked for their views on the use of restorative justice, and given the following definition: 'Restorative justice is a victim led process where a victim and a person who harmed them come together in a safe way to discuss the impact the crime had on their lives and what needs to happen to allow everyone to move forward. It is not a substitute for prosecution.'

Specifically, they were asked to what extent they support or oppose its use for a number of purposes. Respondents were largely positive about the use of restorative justice and relatively few were opposed to its use. Three in four (74%) were supportive (strongly or somewhat) of its use to help victims recover, and an equivalent proportion (74%) were supportive of it to increase accountability and rehabilitation for the person responsible (Figure 4.1). Fewer than one in ten were opposed (strongly or somewhat) to restorative justice for these purposes (8%; 9%, respectively). Two in three (65%) were supportive of using restorative justice to reduce reoffending and a similar proportion (64%) were supportive of it to support safer communities, while 11% and 14% were opposed to the use of restorative justice for these purposes, respectively. And about half (48%) were supportive of its use to reduce feelings of isolation while one in seven (15%) were opposed to this.

Figure 4.1. Support for the use of restorative justice in Scotland



Women were more likely than men to support the use of restorative justice for the purposes of increasing accountability and rehabilitation for the person responsible (77%; 71%), reducing reoffending (68%; 61%) and supporting safer communities (67%; 60%).

The youngest respondents, aged 16 to 34 were also more likely to support restorative justice to reduce reoffending than those aged 65+ (71%; 61%) and to increase accountability and rehabilitation for the person responsible (80%; 70%).

4.2 Throughcare in the criminal justice system

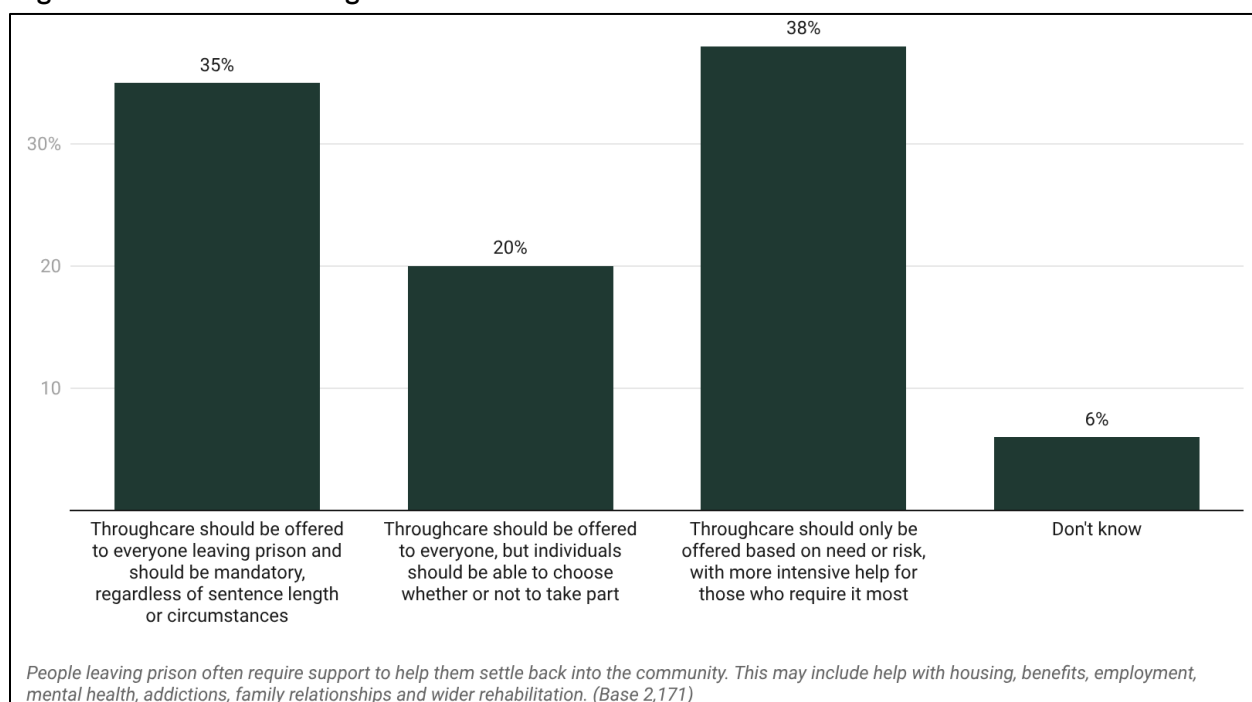
Scotland

Respondents were given the following information about throughcare: 'People leaving prison often require support to help them settle back into the community. This may include help with housing, benefits, employment, mental health, addictions, family relationships and wider rehabilitation.' They were then asked which of the following statements about throughcare came closest to their view:

- Throughcare should be offered to everyone leaving prison and should be mandatory, regardless of sentence length or circumstances
- Throughcare should be offered to everyone, but individuals should be able to choose whether or not to take part
- Throughcare should only be offered based on need or risk, with more intensive help for those who require it most.

Over half (56%) of respondents thought throughcare should be offered to everyone leaving prison; about one in three (35%) thought this should be mandatory while one in five (20%) thought individuals should be able to choose whether or not to take part. The remaining two in five (38%) thought throughcare should only be offered based on need or risk and 6% said they didn't know.

Figure 4.2. Views on throughcare in Scotland



Women were more likely than men to think that throughcare should be offered to everyone and be mandatory (39%; 31%), while respondents aged 45+ were more likely than respondents aged 16 to 44 to believe throughcare should only be offered based on need or risk (42%; 33%). Respondents from the Glasgow region were least likely to believe throughcare should only be offered based on need or risk (27%), particularly compared to those in Central Scotland (49%).

Additionally, respondents who had any previous experience with the criminal justice system in Scotland were more likely than those who had no experience to believe throughcare should be mandatory and offered to everyone (38%; 31%). More specifically, those who had ever been a victim of a crime were more likely than those who had never

been a victim to believe throughcare should be mandatory for everyone leaving prison (39%; 34%).

Unsurprisingly, respondents who believed going to prison makes someone more likely to commit another crime were much more likely to believe throughcare should be mandatory than those who believed going to prison has no impact or makes someone less likely to commit another crime (44%; 30%; 28%, respectively).

Appendix A: Scotland Questionnaire

ASK ALL

1. Please indicate when, if ever, you have experienced or been affected by the criminal justice system (such as interactions with the police, courts, prison or justice social work)?

MATRIX

SELECT MAX 1 PER ROW

- As a victim of crime
- Through being arrested
- Through being convicted of a crime
- Through a close friend or family member being arrested
- Through a close friend or family member being convicted
- Through my work
- Other experience or impact

Scale: Within the last two years, longer than last two years, never

ASK ALL

2. How good or bad is the criminal justice system in Scotland at...

MATRIX. SINGLE FOR EACH

RANDOMISE ORDER

- Punishing people who do crime
- Reducing crime

- Deterring people from committing crime
- Protecting the public
- Reforming and rehabilitating people and making them less likely to reoffend

Scale:

Very good, Quite good, Neither good nor bad, Quite bad, Very bad, Don't know

ASK ALL

3. Which of the following comes closest to your view?

SINGLE CODE ONLY

- The criminal justice system needs major changes
- The criminal justice system needs minor changes
- The criminal justice system does not need change
- Don't know

ASK ALL

4. Please indicate which of the following statements comes closer to your view, using a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 indicates you agree fully with the first statement and 5 indicates you agree fully with the second.

Answer options:

- The criminal justice system should prioritise punishment
- The criminal justice system should prioritise rehabilitation

SCALE: 1-5

ASK ALL

5. Which of the following comes closest to your view in general? Going to prison makes someone...

SINGLE CODE

- More likely to commit another crime
- Has no impact on whether they will commit another crime
- Less likely to commit another crime

- Don't know

ASK ALL

6. What should be a priority for the criminal justice system in Scotland? Please select up to three

MULTI CODE UP TO THREE, RANDOMISE

- Punishing people who commit crime
- Holding people accountable for what they've done
- Ensuring the sentence fits the crime
- Deterring people from committing crimes
- Preventing crime through early intervention
- Keeping people who have broken the law away from the public
- Rehabilitating people who commit crime
- Reducing reoffending
- Supporting victims
- Carrying out justice quickly
- Being fair and impartial
- Following the evidence of what works to cut crime
- Reducing harm to society
- People who have broken the law giving back to victims or society
- Treating people who have broken the law with dignity

ASK ALL

7. Some people are sentenced in the community instead of a prison sentence. This could mean community service, unpaid work, wearing an electronic tag, a curfew, or attending drug rehabilitation. To what extent would you support or oppose using this kind of sentence for people found guilty of the following types of crimes who are currently sent to prison?

Category 1 - Low-Harm Offences: Behaviours that cause limited harm, involve no physical injury, and are typically dealt with at the lower end of the justice system.

Examples include: Taking low-value items from a shop, Causing minor property damage (e.g., graffiti, broken window), Possessing small amounts of drugs for personal use, Causing disturbance in a public place.

Category 2 - Offences Involving Harm or Risk: Behaviours that involve some degree of harm, risk, or repeated conduct, but fall short of causing serious physical injury or life-threatening harm.

Examples include: A physical altercation resulting in short-term or non-serious injury, Repeated shop theft or recurring offending, Driving under the influence where no one is injured, Breaking into a property that is unoccupied, Low-level drug supply.

Category 3 - Offences Involving Significant Harm or Risk: Behaviours that result in more substantial harm or have a meaningful impact on victims or the community

Examples include: Assault resulting in injury requiring medical attention (but not life-threatening), Patterns of abusive or harmful behaviour that do not involve severe physical injury, Drug supply that affects multiple people or the wider community, Repeated high-risk driving that endangers others, Fraud causing significant financial loss to individuals

MATRIX

- Category 1 – Low-harm offences
- Category 2 – Offences involving harm or risk
- Category 3 – Offences involving significant harm or risk

Scale: Strongly support, Somewhat support, Neither support nor oppose, Somewhat oppose, Strongly oppose

ASK ALL

8. Thinking about the approaches to criminal justice in Scotland, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

SINGLE CODE PER STATEMENT

- I broadly understand how sentencing for different offences works,
- There should be more use of specialised problem-solving courts for dealing with offending behaviours, such as drug courts, youth courts, or female offending courts
- A structured deferred sentence, where a court can postpone a sentence for certain low/medium offences for 3-12 months to allow for intensive social work support on offending causes, is a good idea
- Decisions about sentencing should better reflect local circumstances rather than apply the same across Scotland.

Scale: Strongly agree, Somewhat agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Somewhat disagree, Strongly disagree

ASK ALL

9. If the criminal justice system in Scotland started using more community alternatives to prison sentences today, in a few years' time, other than crime rates, which of the following would you use to judge whether it has been successful?

SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

- More people who have broken the law meaningfully contributing to society
- Taxpayers getting better value for money
- Fewer people who have broken the law reoffending
- Victims being more satisfied
- More people who have broken the law employed after serving sentences
- Sentences being visible in communities
- Sentences delivered more quickly
- People who have broken the law maintaining family relationships
- Prisons being less overcrowded
- None of the above
- Don't know

ASK ALL

10. Prisons in Scotland are close to full capacity. The Scottish Government is investing in new prison buildings, including two replacement facilities, HMP Glasgow and HMP Inverness, with increased prison spaces. HMP Glasgow is projected to cost around £1 billion. Which of the following comes closest to your view?

SINGLE CODE

- Spend all available funding on building more prison places
- Split funding between prisons and improving community sentencing programmes
- Spend all available funding on improving community sentencing programmes
- Don't know

ASK ALL

11. Over a long period, Scotland's prison population has been high compared with other Western European countries. In response, Scotland's Independent Commission on Sentencing and Penal Policy has recommended introducing a 'national decarceration plan' outlining steps to reduce reliance on prison and increase community sentencing options. To what extent do you support or oppose such a plan for Scotland?

SINGLE CODE ONLY

Scale: Strongly support, Somewhat support, Neither support nor oppose, Somewhat oppose, Strongly oppose

ASK ALL

12. Restorative justice is a victim-led process where a victim and person who has harmed them come together in a safe way to discuss the impact the crime had on their lives and what needs to happen to allow everyone to move forward. It is not a substitute for prosecution.

To what extent do you support or oppose the use of Restorative Justice in the criminal justice system in Scotland for the following purposes?

MATRIX

RANDOMISE, SINGLE CODE FOR EACH

- Help victims recover
- Reduce feelings of isolation
- Increase accountability and rehabilitation for the person responsible
- Reduce reoffending
- Support safer communities

Scale: Strongly support, Somewhat support, Neither support nor oppose, Somewhat oppose, Strongly oppose

ASK ALL

13. The justice sector in Scotland is considering expanding the use of technology to strengthen community-based sentences and support the wider criminal justice system. This could include tools such as electronic monitoring, GPS tracking, alcohol monitoring technologies, and other digital systems used to manage cases and improve service delivery. These technologies may help increase efficiency, enhance public safety, and improve the experience of people interacting with the justice system, including victims, witnesses, and individuals serving community sentences. To what extent do you support or oppose the following technologies to enhance community sentences and justice services in Scotland?

MATRIX

SINGLE CODE FOR EACH

- Use of GPS technology for electronic monitoring
- Use of alcohol monitoring technology for people with offenses linked to substance use
- Investment in technology to support the work of justice services

Scale: Strongly support, Somewhat support, Neither support nor oppose, Somewhat oppose, Strongly oppose

14. Being 'on remand' in Scotland means a person who is accused of a crime is held in prison while awaiting trial or sentencing, rather than being released on bail. People on remand are *unconvicted* (awaiting trial) or *unsentenced* (awaiting a sentencing decision). There are currently over 2,250 people on remand in Scotland, and the median time spent on remand is 22 days, with the longest case at 275 days. Remand is mainly used to prevent further harm to the public and to reduce the risk of people failing to appear in court. With this in mind, which of the following statements comes closest to your view about how remand should be used in Scotland?

SINGLE CODE

- Everyone accused of a crime should be held on remand until their case is concluded
- More people should be held on remand than at present

- Fewer people should be held on remand than at present
- Only people who pose a serious risk to the public or are likely to abscond should be held on remand
- Don't know

15. People leaving prison often require support to help them settle back into the community. This may include help with housing, benefits, employment, mental health, addictions, family relationships and wider rehabilitation. Thinking about throughcare (support provided before and after release), which of the following comes closest to your view?

SINGLE CODE

- Throughcare should be offered to everyone leaving prison and should be mandatory, regardless of sentence length or circumstances
- Throughcare should be offered to everyone, but individuals should be able to choose whether or not to take part
- Throughcare should only be offered based on need or risk, with more intensive help for those who require it most
- DK

Appendix B: UK Questionnaire

1. In your view, what are the main causes of crime? Select up to two.

- Poverty
- Addiction
- Childhood trauma or abuse
- Bad parenting
- Peer pressure
- Greed
- Mental illness
- Being a bad person
- Culture and materialism
- Bad decisions
- Other
- None of the above
- Don't know

Criminal justice system

2. Which of the following comes closest to your view?

- The criminal justice system in this country needs major changes
- The criminal justice system in this country needs minor changes
- The criminal justice system in this country does not need change
- Don't know

3. What should be a priority for the criminal justice system in this country? Select up to three.

- Punishing people who commit crime
- Ensuring the sentence fits the crime
- Holding people accountable for what they've done
- Deterring people from committing crimes
- Preventing crime through early interventions
- Keeping offenders away from the public
- Rehabilitating people who commit crime
- Reducing reoffending
- Supporting victims

- Carrying out justice quickly
- Being fair and impartial
- Following the evidence of what works to cut crime
- Reducing harm to society
- Offenders giving back to victims or society
- Treating offenders with dignity
- Value for taxpayer money
- Making the system clear
- Signalling what is and is not acceptable in our society
- None of the above
- Don't know

4. Please indicate which of the following statements comes closer to your view, using a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 indicates you agree fully with the first statement and 5 indicates you agree fully with the second statement.

- 1 -The criminal justice system should prioritise **punishment**
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 - The criminal justice system should prioritise **rehabilitation**

5. Which of the following comes closest to your view in general? Going to prison makes someone...

- More likely to commit another crime
- Less likely to commit another crime
- Has no impact on whether they will commit another crime
- Don't know

6. In your view how important or unimportant is it for criminal sentences to...

- Punish the person responsible
- Reduce crime
- Deter people from committing crime
- Reform and rehabilitate people
- Protect the public
- Make the person responsible give something back to society

- Very important
- Quite important
- Not that important
- Not important at all

7. How good or bad is the criminal justice system in this country at...

- Punishing people who do crime
- Reducing crime
- Deterring people from committing crime
- Reforming and rehabilitating people
- Protecting the public
- Making the offender give something back to society
 - Very good
 - Quite good
 - Neither good nor bad
 - Quite bad
 - Very bad
 - Don't know

8. In your view, what is the most important reason to punish people who commit a crime?

- To deter them from committing future crime
- To deter others from committing crimes
- To make them suffer because they have caused suffering
- To make them reflect on their behaviour
- To enforce our society's values
- To provide justice for victims
- Other
- None of the above
- Don't know

Community sentencing

9. [SPLIT 1] Some people are sentenced in the community instead of a prison sentence. This could mean community service, unpaid work, wearing an electronic tag to limit activities, a curfew or

attending drug rehabilitation. To what extent would you support or oppose using this kind of sentence for certain people currently sent to prison?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

[SPLIT 2] Some people are sentenced in the community instead of a prison sentence. This could mean community service, unpaid work, wearing an electronic tag to limit activities, a curfew or attending drug rehabilitation.

If the person does not comply with their community sentence, it could become a prison sentence. To what extent would you support or oppose using this kind of sentence for certain people who are currently sent to prison?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

10. [SPLIT 1] For each of the following type of offender, in which cases do you think they should receive a community sentence instead of prison?

In all cases / In most cases / In some cases / In exceptional cases / Never

- Women
- Young people
- Working-age people
- Old people
- First-time offenders
- Offenders of non-violent crimes
- Offenders of minor crimes
- Mothers of young children
- Parents of young children
- People with addiction issues
- People with mental health conditions
- People with physical health conditions

- People who have suffered childhood abuse
- Unemployed people

11. [SPLIT 2] For each of the following types of crime, in which cases do you think the person should receive a community sentence instead of prison?

In all cases / In most cases / In some cases / In exceptional cases / Never

- Shoplifting
- Domestic abuse
- Phone snatching
- Stalking
- Possession of marijuana
- Carrying a knife in a public place
- Supplying heroin
- Home burglary
- Not paying the TV license fee
- Drink driving
- Benefit fraud
- Minor assault (eg. slapping or shoving someone)
- Serious assault (eg. choking or stabbing someone)
- Sexual assault
- Vandalism
- Online scamming
- Racial hate crime

12. Which of the following comes closest to your view?

- Prison sentences are always tougher than community sentences
- Some community sentences could be as tough as prison sentences
- Don't know

13. What impact do you think using community sentences instead of prison sentences for more people who commit crime could have on the following...

- Public safety
- Rate of reoffending
- Families of offenders
- Local communities

- Very positive
- Somewhat positive
- No impact
- Somewhat negative
- Very negative
- Don't know

14. If the criminal justice system in this country started using more community alternatives to prison sentences today, in a few years' time, other than crime rates, what would tell you whether this was a good idea? Select up to two.

- If more offenders meaningfully contribute to society
- If taxpayers get better value for money
- If fewer offenders reoffend
- If victims are more satisfied
- If more offenders are employed after serving sentences
- If the sentences were visible for communities to see
- If sentences were delivered more quickly
- If more offenders maintain family relationships
- If prisons are less overcrowded
- None of the above
- Don't know

15. Below are some arguments against the criminal justice system using more community alternatives to prison sentences. Which do you find most convincing? Select up to two.

- Prison sentences show victims that justice has been done
- Community sentences make the public unsafe
- Community sentences are not a harsh enough punishment
- Community sentences won't act as a deterrent to future crime
- The system won't be able to effectively monitor and enforce community sentences
- Monitoring and enforcing community sentences will be more expensive
- Community sentences could lead to inconsistent punishments for the same crime
- None of them
- Don't know

Below are some alternatives to a prison sentence which could be used for certain people who commit a crime.

- **[SPLIT A] GPS tag monitoring:** Requiring people to wear an electronic tag which tracks their location 24/7
- **[SPLIT B] Curfews:** Requiring people to stay at home during certain hours
- **[SPLIT C] Community service:** Unpaid work that benefits the community, like cleaning public spaces
- **[SPLIT D] Drug rehabilitation orders:** Requiring people with substance abuse issues to complete rehabilitation programmes
- **[SPLIT E] Banning or restriction orders** (eg location bans, banning from football matches for hooliganism, banning from driving for traffic offenses)
- **[SPLIT A] Mandatory employment:** Requiring people to work an allocated job, for which they are paid
- **[SPLIT B] Mandatory employment with compulsory renting:** Requiring people to work an allocated job, for which they are paid, and live in an allocated hostel, for which they have to pay rent
- **[SPLIT C] Mandatory employment with GPS monitoring:** Requiring people to work an allocated job, for which they are paid, and wear an electronic tag which tracks their location 24/7
- **[SPLIT D] Community service with GPS monitoring:** Requiring people to perform unpaid work that benefits the community, and wear an electronic tag which tracks their location 24/7
- **[SPLIT E] Drug/alcohol rehabilitation with community service:** Requiring people to complete treatment for substance misuse, followed by unpaid work that benefits the community.

[GRID FOR EACH SHOWN]

16. To what extent would you support or oppose using this kind of sentence for certain people who commit a crime?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

17. How effective or ineffective do you think this kind of sentence would be at ensuring the person does not reoffend?

- Very effective
- Quite effective
- Quite ineffective
- Very ineffective
- Don't know

18. How much of a deterrent do you think this kind of sentence would be?

- Very strong deterrent
- Quite strong deterrent
- Quite weak deterrent
- Very weak deterrent
- Don't know

19. How good or bad value for taxpayer money do you think this kind of sentence would be?

- Very good value
- Quite good value
- Quite bad value
- Very bad value
- Don't know

20. The head of Iceland Foods recently suggested that people who commit certain crimes instead of going to prison could have the option of a suspended sentence through taking a paid job at Iceland (in the shop or as a driver). If they didn't show up to work or do a good job they would then lose this option and go to prison.

To what extent would you support or oppose using this kind of sentence for certain crimes?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

21. The government has plans to spend £10 billion building 20,000 new prison cells. How good or bad value for taxpayer money do you expect this prison expansion to be?

- Very good value
- Quite good value
- Quite bad value
- Very bad value
- Don't know

22. UK prisons are almost at full capacity. The government has plans to spend £10 billion building 20,000 new prison cells. Which of the following comes closest to your view?

- The government should spend the full amount building more prison cells
- The government should spend some of the money on building more prison cells, and some of the money on improving community sentencing programmes
- The government should spend the full amount on improving community sentencing programmes
- Don't know

[Within closing demographics]

23. Have you or a close family member ever been the victim of crime, or been significantly impacted by crime?

- Yes
- No



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From many voices to smart choices

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