
CRIME RECORDING

Version 3

1. Policy statement

The Police Federation of England and Wales believes that more needs to be done to ensure that the data, on which national crime statistics for England Wales are based, are reliable and accurate to increase both the quality of and public confidence in those statistics. PFEW believes that the statistics published by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) are highly misleading to the public as they do not capture the full range of crimes committed and only reflect a small proportion of the work officers do.

2. Responsibility

The National Board is responsible for all policy formation.

3. Summary

PFEW believes the national crime statistics for England and Wales are highly misleading to the public. Evidence suggests that the underlying data on crimes recorded by the police service may not be reliable.¹

PFEW acknowledges that the extent and nature of crime in England and Wales is difficult to measure accurately. Various factors affect how a crime is recorded by the police after being reported. In addition, not all crimes are reported. Each police force has its own procedure for recording crime and this leads to inconsistency across England and Wales.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales is based on interviews with people in England and Wales about their experience of crime, this feedback then forms the official national statistics in England and Wales. The figures give a 'false picture' of policing because they do not take into account much of the work that police forces do. For example, policing work such as cyber-crime, counter-terrorism, child exploitation, the monitoring of sex offenders, missing person's searches and incidents related to mental health are not included in the overall statistics for crime reporting.

PFEW believes that the Home Office and the Office for National Statistics need to do more to ensure an accurate figure of overall crime in England and Wales and the public need to be aware of the issues in their local communities relating to this.

¹ UK Statistics Authority Assessment Report 268, January 2014

Since 2009 there has been a loss of 21,494 police officers², this leads to longer response times and potentially a loss of public confidence in their local police force. PFEW believes that this loss of trust means that many crimes are not reported. One of the knock-on effects of the reduction in officer numbers is that there are fewer officers on the streets and fewer neighbourhood officers carrying out preventative policing.

4. Procedures/implementation

PFEW will support the Home Office's work in liaising with the ONS to more accurately record crime in England and Wales.

Responsibility is delegated to the National Secretary and/or appropriate sub-committee.

	Author	Date	Date to be reviewed	Change
Version 1	KP-EP	May 2015	May 2016	
Version 2	KP-EP	March 2017	March 2018	ONS now responsible for publication of all crime statistics
Version 3	KP-EP	January 2019	March 2020	Minor changes

Signed by:



National Chair



National Secretary

² Year ending 30 September 2016