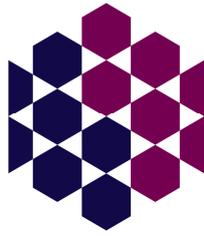


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Statistics and Research Branch

**Views on Organised
Crime:
Findings from the
January 2013
Northern Ireland
Omnibus Survey**

Research and Statistical Bulletin 3/2013

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Produced by Statistics and Research Branch,
Department of Justice.

For further information write to:

**Statistics and Research Branch
Department of Justice
Knockview Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3SL**

Telephone: 028 9052 2611

Email: statistics.research@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk

This bulletin is available on the Internet at:

www.dojni.gov.uk

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This bulletin documents the results from the organised crime module in the January 2013 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey. The key findings are as follows:

- ◆ 71% of respondents associated drug dealing with organised crime. This was an increase on the 2012 figure (67% in 2012).
- ◆ Fewer respondents associated armed robbery, fuel laundering, trading in counterfeit goods, money laundering and prostitution with organised crime in this survey than in 2012.
- ◆ Almost two-thirds (66%) of respondents believed that the problem of organised crime was either widespread (23%) or very widespread (43%) in Northern Ireland.
- ◆ Respondents most frequently reported that it was individual victims (64%) and small businesses (63%) that suffered as a result of organised crime.
- ◆ More than nine out of ten respondents (91%) felt the police had a role in tackling organised crime, followed by the Serious Organised Crime Agency (45%).
- ◆ 47% of those surveyed believed they had a role in tackling organised crime and 78% of these felt their role might include reporting criminal activity to the police or Revenue and Customs, an increase from previously (74% in 2012).
- ◆ However, substantially fewer respondents in this survey compared with previously felt their role included refusing to purchase illicit goods or dissuading others, such as their children, from purchasing illicit goods.
- ◆ The proportion of people who felt they had been personally affected by organised crime in the last three years was 8%.
- ◆ Around one-third of respondents (33%) had heard of the Organised Crime Task Force. This was a significant fall compared with the previous year (39% in 2012). Television was the most common medium by which these respondents became aware of the OCTF (63%).
- ◆ Of those who had heard of the OCTF, 46% thought it was fairly or very effective in raising awareness about organised crime. This compares with 52% in 2012.
- ◆ 83% of respondents agreed that the proceeds of any one form of organised crime may ultimately be contributing towards other forms of organised crime.

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Views on Organised Crime in Northern Ireland

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE FOCUS OF THIS PUBLICATION

The Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) was established in Northern Ireland in 2000 and as from 12 April 2010 comes under the auspices of the Department of Justice. The Task Force, chaired by the Minister of Justice, is a forum which brings government, law enforcement and a range of agencies together to set priorities for tackling organised crime in Northern Ireland. The OCTF does not itself assume an operational responsibility, which remains the focus of the law enforcement agencies operating in Northern Ireland.

In order to gain an understanding of the level of public awareness of and knowledge about the harm caused by organised crime, the Department of Justice Statistics and Research Branch, on behalf of the OCTF, commissioned a series of questions in the January 2013 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey.

1.2 ABOUT THE NORTHERN IRELAND OMNIBUS SURVEY

The Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey is conducted several times each year by the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and is designed to provide a snapshot of the behaviour, lifestyle and views of a representative sample of people in Northern Ireland.

The survey comprises two distinct parts: core questions about the respondents and their personal attributes, and a variety of mainly attitudinal questions commissioned by clients. Where appropriate, differences in relation to gender, area of residence, religion, age and employment status are highlighted. A number of questions have changed from the January 2012 Omnibus survey, but where available comparative figures for the January 2012 survey are given in the text and tabular annex.

When analysing data from a sample of the population, there can often appear to be a difference or an increase/decrease in the figures when actually, this difference has most likely occurred by chance. In the text of this publication, we have only reported differences that have emerged as being statistically significant at the 5% ($p < 0.05$) level of probability (two-tailed tests). This means that one can be 95% confident that this difference has not occurred by chance. Such statistically significant results are noted in each of the tables with ** and an arrow indicating the direction of change up (**↑) or down (**↓). Further information on sample selection can be found in the Technical Annex section.

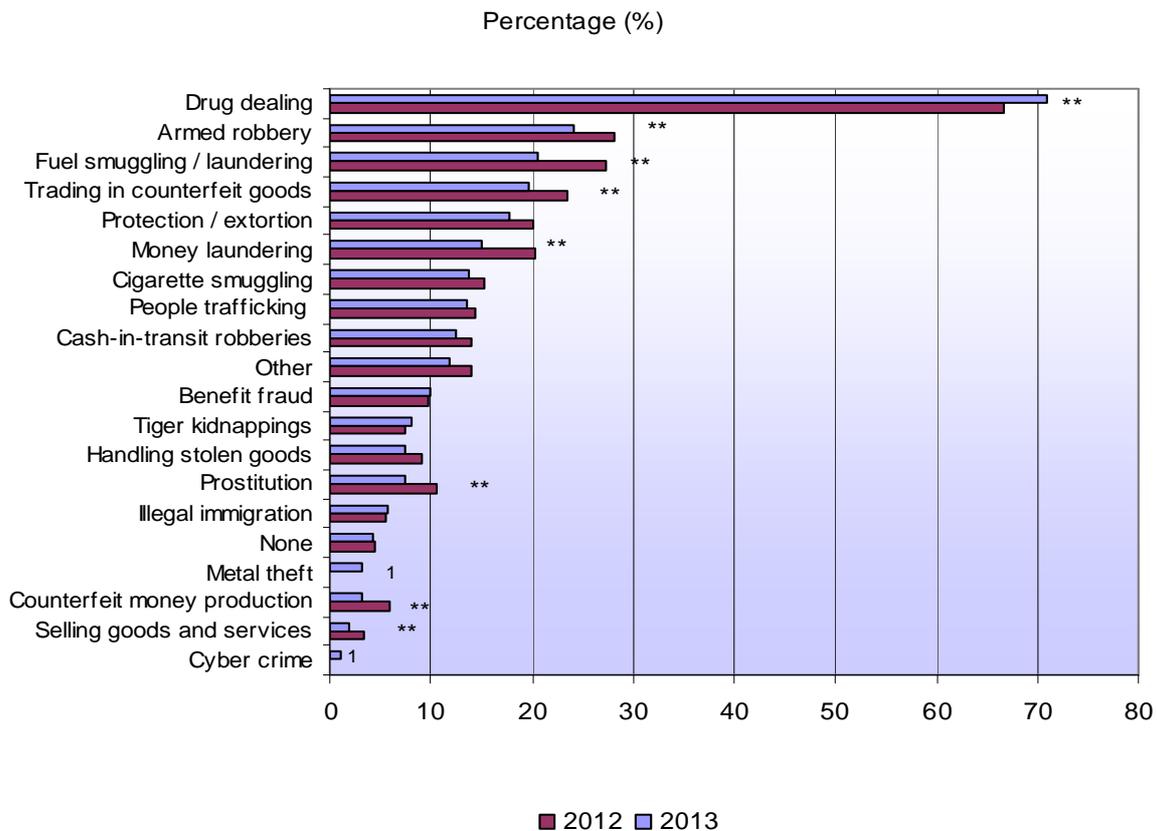
2. SURVEY FINDINGS

2.1 GENERAL PERCEPTIONS OF THE ORGANISED CRIME PROBLEMS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

What types of crime would you associate with organised crime in Northern Ireland?

- ◆ Drug dealing was the offence type that the highest proportion, 71%, of respondents associated with organised crime. The second most likely offence to be associated with organised crime was armed robbery, chosen by 24 % of respondents. Metal theft and cybercrime were included in this survey for the first time in 2013; however only 3% and 1% respectively associated these with organised crime.
- ◆ Compared with 2012, the proportion of respondents who associated drugs with organised crime increased from 67% to 71%. Fewer people associated armed robbery (24% in 2013 and 28% in 2012); or fuel laundering (20% in 2013 and 27% in 2012) with organised crime. Only 7% of respondents associated prostitution with organised crime, a decrease from 11% in 2012 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Types of crime associated with organised crime, 2012 - 2013



** Statistical significance of changes is indicated by a double asterisk at the 5% level (two-tailed tests).

1. This category is new for the 2013 Omnibus survey and no comparative figures are available.

How widespread do you think the problem of organised crime is in Northern Ireland?

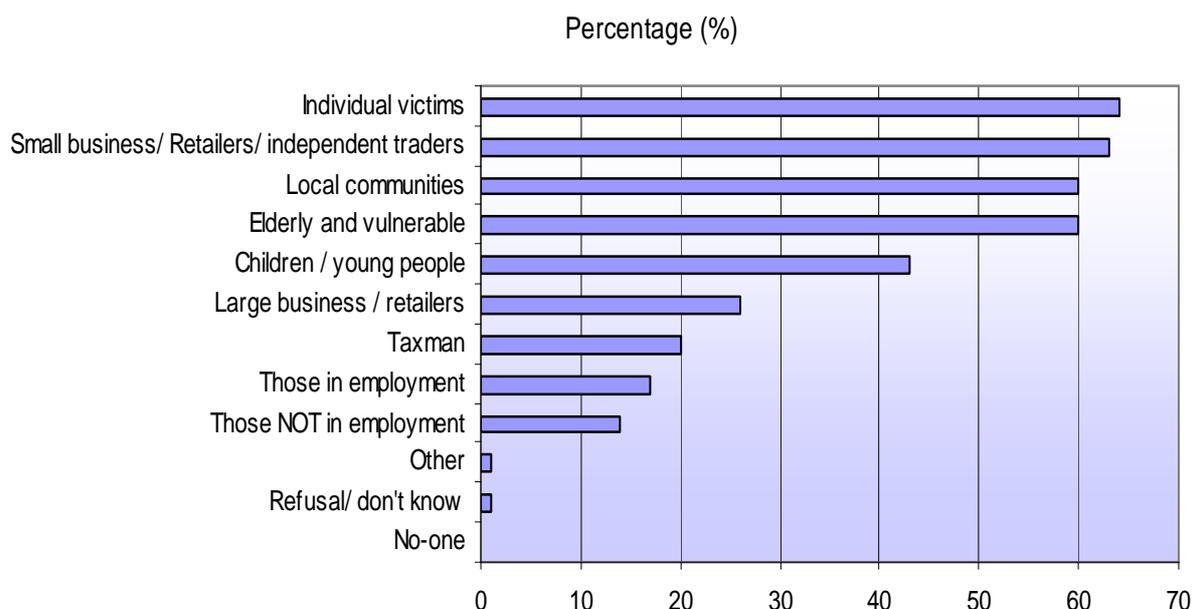
- ◆ Almost two-thirds (66%) of respondents believed that the problem with organised crime was either widespread (23%) or very widespread (43%) in Northern Ireland (Table 2).
- ◆ Variations occurred with age, notably the proportion of 65 and over (46%) who felt the problem was very widespread compared with 35% of those aged 16-24.

2.2 VIEWS ON THE VICTIMS AND IMPACT OF ORGANISED CRIME

Who do you think suffers most as a result of organised crime?

- ◆ Respondents were asked to give their opinion as to whom they believe suffered as a result of organised crime, to which one or more responses could be offered. Similar proportions felt individual victims (64%) and the small business/retailers/independent traders (63%) suffered, while 60% felt that local communities and the elderly and vulnerable suffered (Table 3; Figure 2).
- ◆ Analysis by gender shows that a smaller proportion of male respondents, 55%, felt that the elderly and vulnerable suffered compared with 64% of female respondents. Analysis by area of residence shows that 65% of respondents from Belfast felt organised crime affected local communities compared with 64% from the East and 53% from the West of Northern Ireland.

Figure 2: Respondents' views on who suffers as a result of organised crime



What do you think is the impact of organised crime?

- ◆ When surveyed about their views on the impact of organised crime, respondents were again able to identify more than one effect. Over two-thirds (68%) of respondents stated that organised crime could lead to fear in the community (Table 4).
- ◆ Other common effects cited by those surveyed were reported by just under half the respondents (49%) included victim's health, business closure and violence in the community.
- ◆ Compared with 2012 there were fewer respondents who felt that organised crime impacted on victim's health, business and retailers lost trade, businesses closing, loss of jobs, market flooded with inferior goods, market flooded with dangerous goods, violence in the community, less money available for public services.
- ◆ When asked if they had been personally affected by organised crime in the last three years, the vast majority of respondents (92%) claimed organised crime had had no impact on them personally (Table 8). This proportion was similar to that in 2012 when it was 91%.

2.3 ROLES IN TACKLING ORGANISED CRIME

Who do you think has a role in tackling organised crime?

- ◆ With regards to tackling organised crime, 91% of those surveyed felt the police had a role with 45% feeling Serious Organised Crime Agency had a role in tackling organised crime, a decrease from 52% in 2012. In contrast the least common organisations cited by respondents as having a role in tackling organised crime were retailers (8%) and manufacturers (6%) (Table 5).

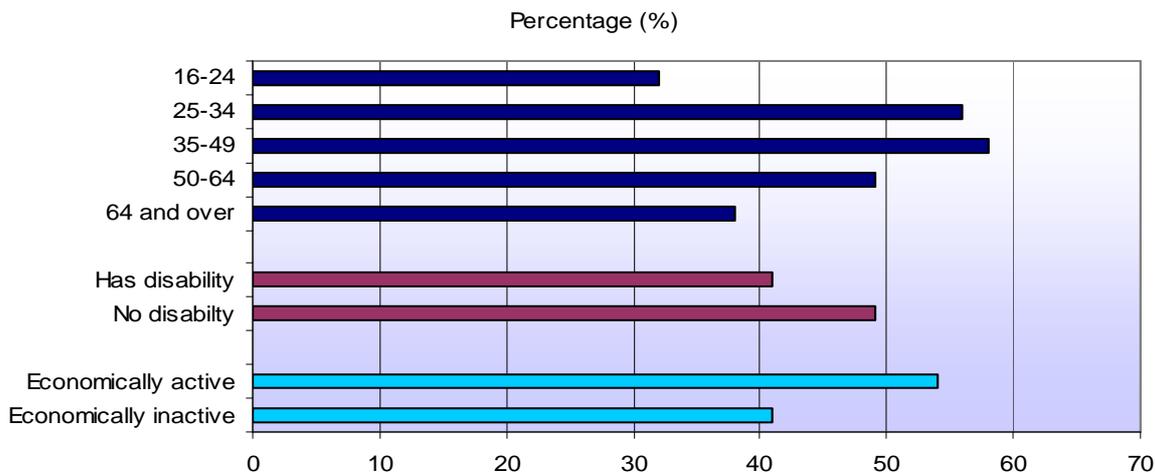
Do you think that you have a role in tackling organised crime?

- ◆ Almost half (47%) of those surveyed believed they personally had a role in tackling organised crime; respondents aged 65 and over (38%) and 16-24 (32%) were less likely to be of this opinion compared with those aged 25-34 (56%), 35-49 (58%) and 50-64 (49%) (Figure 3).

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Views on Organised Crime in Northern Ireland

Figure 3: Proportion of respondents who believed they personally had a role in tackling organised crime



- ◆ There were also variations between respondents from different parts of Northern Ireland in their views on whether or not they had a role in tackling organised crime. Over half (53%) of respondents living in the East of NI considered they had a part to play compared with 41% of respondents living in the West of Northern Ireland¹.
- ◆ Respondents who were economically active (54%) were more likely than those who were not (41%) to regard themselves as having a role to play in tackling organised crime (Figure 3).

What do you think your role is?

- ◆ Findings indicate that of those respondents who felt they had a role in tackling organised crime, over three-quarters (78%) reported that role might involve reporting criminal activity to police or revenue and customs; over half (55%) of respondents felt it might include contacting Crimestoppers. Other roles cited were to: refuse to purchase counterfeit goods (52%); dissuade others from purchasing counterfeit or illicit goods (43%); to report suspicions to the relevant authorities about victims of human exploitation (39%); give evidence in court about organised criminals (39%); and to speak to elected representatives or community groups (29%) (Table 7).
- ◆ Compared with 2012, the number of respondents in 2013 who would report their suspicions to the police or Revenue and Customs increased from 74% to 78%. In contrast, fewer respondents reported that they would refuse to purchase counterfeit or illicit goods or services (61% in 2012, 52% in 2013); or dissuade others, for example, their children, from purchasing counterfeit or illicit goods or services (54% in 2012, 43% in 2013).
- ◆ Substantially fewer respondents (52%) in this survey compared with those in 2012 (61%) felt their role included refusing to purchase illicit goods or dissuading others, such as their children from purchasing illicit goods (43% in 2013 and 54% in 2012).

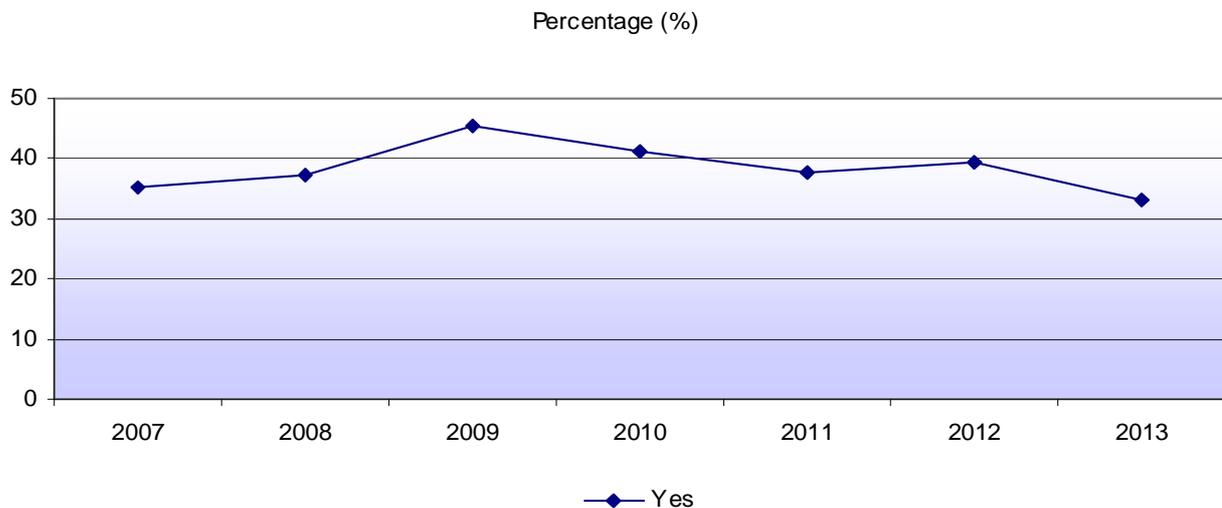
¹ Areas comprising East and West of Northern Ireland are given in Table 14 in the Technical Annex.

2.4 AWARENESS OF THE ORGANISED CRIME TASK FORCE

Have you heard of the Organised Crime Task Force? If so, how did you find out about it and how effective do you think the Organised Crime Task Force has been so far in raising awareness about organised crime?

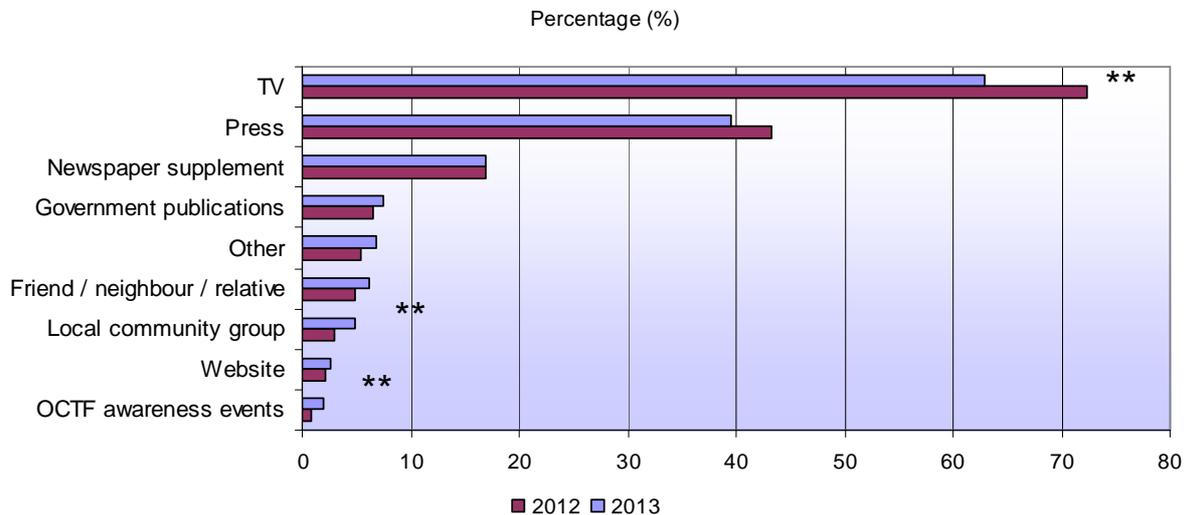
- ◆ Around one-third (33%) of respondents had heard of the OCTF. Results suggest that awareness of 16-24 year-olds (12%) is lower than that among other age groups. Proportionately, more males (39%) than females (28%) had heard of the OCTF.
- ◆ The 2013 figure (33%) represented a significant decrease from 2012 (39%).
- ◆ The proportion of respondents who reported that they had heard of the OCTF was at its highest in 2009, decreasing from 45% to 33% in 2013

Figure 4: Proportion of respondents who had heard of the Organised Crime Task Force 2007 to 2013



- ◆ Television remained the primary means by which respondents became aware of the OCTF. The proportion of respondents who became aware of the OCTF through this media was lower in 2013 at 63% than in 2012 at 72%. Other methods of communication cited as means by which respondents became aware of the OCTF included the press (39%) and newspaper supplements (17%), proportions which were unchanged from 2012 (Table 10; Figure 5).

Figure 5: How respondents became aware of the Organised Crime Task Force, 2012 and 2013



** Statistical significance of changes is indicated by a double asterisk at the 5% level (two-tailed tests).

- ◆ Findings reveal that 46% of those who had heard of the OCTF believed it was fairly or very effective in raising awareness about organised crime. This proportion was lower than in 2012 at 52%. Twenty-six per cent could not decide whether the OCTF was effective or ineffective, a reduction compared with the 2012 figure of 30% (Table 11).

2.5 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DIFFERENT FORMS OF ORGANISED CRIME

Do you agree or disagree that the proceeds of any one form of organised crime may ultimately be contributing towards other forms of organised crime?

- ◆ Forty-five percent of respondents strongly agreed that one form of organised crime may contribute towards other forms. Thirty-eight percent responded that they tended to agree. Just over one in ten neither agreed nor disagreed and 3% tended to disagree.
- ◆ Those in paid employment were more likely to strongly agree than those not in paid employment (48% and 41% respectively). Respondents living in the East were most likely to strongly agree (49%), than in the West (41%).

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TABULAR ANNEX

Table 1: What types of crime would you associate with organised crime in Northern Ireland?

	2012 (%)	2013 (%)	Statistically significant change 2012 to 2013
Drug dealing	67	71	***↑
Fuel smuggling / laundering	27	20	**↓
Trading in counterfeit goods	24	20	**↓
Money laundering	20	15	**↓
Protection / Extortion racketeering	20	18	
Cash-in-transit robberies	14	13	
Tiger kidnappings	7	8	
Armed robbery	28	24	**↓
People trafficking for sexual or labour exploitation	14	14	
Cigarette smuggling	15	14	
Counterfeit money production	6	3	**↓
Benefit fraud	10	10	
Illegal immigration	6	6	
Handling stolen goods	9	7	
Prostitution	11	7	**↓
Selling goods and services that don't exist (deception)	3	2	**↓
Metal Theft	Not measured	3	
Cyber crime	Not measured	1	
Other	14	12	
None	4	4	
Base	1,141	1,154	

Note: the categories “metal theft” and “cyber crime” were for the first time introduced in the 2013 omnibus survey

Table 2: How widespread do you think the problem of organised crime is in Northern Ireland?

	2013 (%)
Very widespread	43
Widespread	23
Fairly widespread	27
Not widespread	4
No effect	1
Don't know/refusal	2
Base	1,154

Note: this question has changed from that posed in 2012, which was: “How serious do you think the problem with organised crime is in Northern Ireland?”. As a result the question is no longer directly comparable.

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Table 3: Who do you think suffers most as a result of organised crime?

	2013 (%)
Individual victims	64
Small business/ Retailers/ independent traders	63
The Elderly and vulnerable	60
Local communities	60
Children / Young people	43
Large business/retailers	26
Taxman	20
Those in employment	17
Those NOT in employment	14
Refusal/ Don't Know	1
Other	1
No-one	0
Base	1,154

Table 4: What do you think is the impact of organised crime?

	2012 (%)	2013 (%)	Statistically significant change 2012 to 2013
Victim's health	57	49	**↓
Business and retailers lose trade	50	39	**↓
Businesses close	55	49	**↓
Reduction of business investment	27	28	
Loss of jobs	49	42	**↓
Market flooded with inferior goods	41	27	**↓
Market flooded with dangerous goods	38	23	**↓
Violence in the community	60	49	**↓
Fear in the community	71	68	
Loss of confidence in law enforcement	43	36	**↓
Less money available for public services	33	28	**↓
None	1	0	
Don't know / Refusal	1	0	
Base	1,141	1,154	

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Table 5: Who do you think has a role in tackling organised crime??

	2012 (%)	2013 (%)	Statistically significant change 2012 to 2013
Manufacturers	9	6	**↓
Revenue and Customs	47	34	**↓
Department of Justice	45	41	
Northern Ireland Environment Agency	12	9	**↓
Social Security Agency	25	17	**↓
DHSSPS	15	13	
Serious Organised Crime Agency	52	45	**↓
UK Border Agency	39	26	**↓
Retailers	11	8	**↓
Police	90	91	
Individuals	25	24	
Member of the Community	36	22	**↓
The Media	20	22	
Policing and Community Safety Partnership*	Not measured	41	N/A
District policing partnerships*	36	Not measured	N/A
Community Safety partnerships*	21	Not measured	N/A
Elected representatives	32	36	
Other	0	1	
Base	1,141	1,154	

*Community Safety Partnerships and District Policing Partnerships were replaced on 1 April 2012 by Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs).

Table 6: Do you think you have a role in tackling organised crime?

	2012 (%)	2013 (%)	Statistically significant change 2012 to 2013
Yes	46	47	
No	53	52	
Don't know / Refusal	1	1	
Base	1,141	1,154	

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Table 7: What do you think your role is?

	2012 (%)	2013 (%)	Statistically significant change 2012 to 2013
Report to police or Revenue and Customs	74	78	**↑
To contact Crimestoppers	57	55	
To contact the UK Border Agency	16	12	**↓
To give evidence in court about organised crime	30	25	**↓
To report suspicions to the relevant authorities about victims of human exploitation	39	39	
Refuse to purchase counterfeit or illicit goods or services	61	52	**↓
Dissuade others, for example, your children, from purchasing counterfeit or illicit goods or services	54	43	**↓
Speak to elected representatives/community groups	33	29	**↓
Other	1	1	
Base	1,141	1,154	

Asked of those who believed they had a role

Table 8: Have you been personally affected by organised crime in the last three years?

	2012 (%)	2013 (%)	Statistically significant change 2012 to 2013
Yes	8	8	
No	92	92	
Don't know	0	0	
Base	1,141	1,154	

Table 9: Have you heard of the Organised Crime Task Force?

	2012 (%)	2013 (%)	Statistically significant change 2012 to 2013
Yes	39	33	**↓
No	61	66	**↑
Don't know	0	0	
Base	1,141	1,154	

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Table 10: How did you find out about the Organised Crime Task Force?

	2012 (%)	2013 (%)	Statistically significant change 2012 to 2013
TV	72	63	**↓
Press	43	39	
Newspaper supplement	17	17	
Government publications	6	7	
Friend / neighbour / relative	5	6	
Website	2	3	
Local community group	3	5	**↑
OCTF Awareness Events	1	2	**↑
Other	5	7	
Base	449	383	

Asked of those who had heard of the OCTF

Table 11: How effective do you think the Organised Crime Task Force has been so far in raising awareness about organised crime?

	2012 (%)	2013 (%)	Statistically significant change 2012 to 2013
Very effective	5	4	
Fairly effective	47	42	**↓
Neither effective nor ineffective	26	30	**↑
Fairly ineffective	16	16	
Very ineffective	3	3	
Don't know	3	5	**↑
Base	449	383	

Asked of those who had heard of the OCTF

1. Statistical significance of changes is indicated by a double asterisk for significance at the 5% level (two-tailed tests).

Table 12: Do you agree or disagree that the proceeds of any one form of organised crime may ultimately be contributing towards other forms of organised crime?

	2013 (%)
Strongly agree	45
Tend to agree	38
Neither agree nor disagree	11
Tend to disagree	3
Strongly disagree	0
Don't know/refusal	2
Base	1,154

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TECHNICAL ANNEX

The sample of those surveyed in the January 2013 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey was drawn from the Valuation and Lands Agency list, the most up-to-date listing of private households in Northern Ireland. The complete list of private addresses was stratified into three regions – Belfast, East of Northern Ireland and West of Northern Ireland, and a random sample drawn from each stratum.

At each address the interviewer lists all members of the households eligible for inclusion in the sample, that is, all persons aged 16 or over. The interviewer's computer then randomly selects one person from each household to complete the interview. From a set sample of 2,200 addresses, 1,912 were eligible and 1,154 interviews were achieved giving an eligible response rate of 60%.

Selecting only one individual for interview at each address means individuals living in large households have a lower chance of being included in the sample than individuals living in smaller households. The data presented in this bulletin have been weighted to prevent a bias towards smaller households.

To assess how accurately a survey sample reflects the population of Northern Ireland, the characteristics of the sample are compared with the characteristics of the current Census of Population. Table 15 below shows a comparison between the January 2013 Omnibus Survey sample and the mid year population for Northern Ireland for adults aged 16 and over, based on the 2011 census.

Table 13: Sample profile

	Census 2011 Population 2011 (16+) %	January 2013 Omnibus Survey
Sex		
Male	49	48
Female	51	52
Age group		
16-24	16	13
25-34	17	15
35-49	26	25
50-64	22	27
65 and over	19	21
Base		1,154

The area analysis was based on District Council boundaries and is detailed in Table 14. The 26 District Councils listed in this table were used to form each of the three areas (Belfast, East of Northern Ireland, West of Northern Ireland) described in the bulletin.

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Table 14: Areas of Northern Ireland by District Council

Belfast	Belfast
East of Northern Ireland	Antrim, Ards, Ballymena, Banbridge, Carrickfergus, Castlereagh, Craigavon, Down, Larne, Lisburn, Newtownabbey, North Down
West of Northern Ireland	Armagh, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Cookstown, Dungannon, Fermanagh, Limavady, Derry, Magherafelt, Moyle, Newry & Mourne, Omagh, Strabane

Analysis by religion is based only on those respondents who said that they were either Catholic or Protestant. Respondents who refused to answer the religion question or those who said they were a religion other than Catholic or Protestant were excluded from this analysis.

In the tables, if the figure is less than 0.5% the cell is denoted with a '0%'.

Rounding, error and statistical significance

Percentages may not always sum to 100 due to the effect of rounding or because respondents could give more than one response.

Due to a combination of both sampling and non-sampling error, any sample is unlikely to reflect precisely the characteristics of the population.

Because Omnibus Survey estimates are subject to sampling error, differences between estimates from successive years of the survey or between population subgroups may occur by chance. Statistical significance tests are used to identify which differences are unlikely to have occurred by chance.

For the purposes of this bulletin, where differences have emerged as being statistically significant, these have been reported at the 5% ($p < 0.05$) level of probability (two-tailed tests). This means that, for any observed result that is found to be statistically significant, one can be 95% confident that this has not happened by chance.

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Statistics and Research Branch

Department of Justice

Knockview Buildings

Stormont Estate

Belfast BT4 3SL

Email: statistics.research@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 028 9052 2611

www.dojni.gov.uk