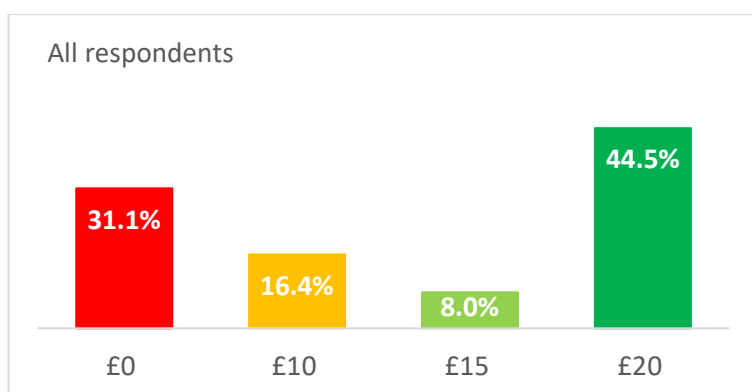


Interim 2023/24 Precept Survey Analysis – Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner

Results – precept

The first question respondents were asked¹ was: *How much more, per year, would you be willing to pay for the police precept?*

- £0 (would equate to a total reduction of 450 police staff roles)
- £10 (total reduction of 250)
- £15 (total reduction of 150)
- £20 (total reduction of 50)

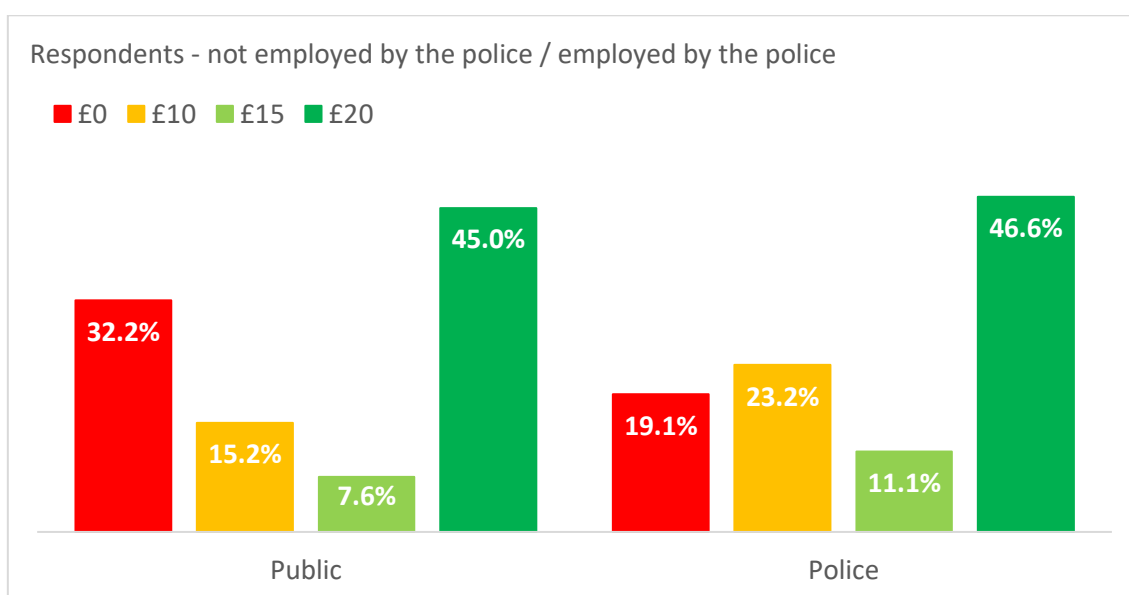


We received 5,710 survey responses (to date).

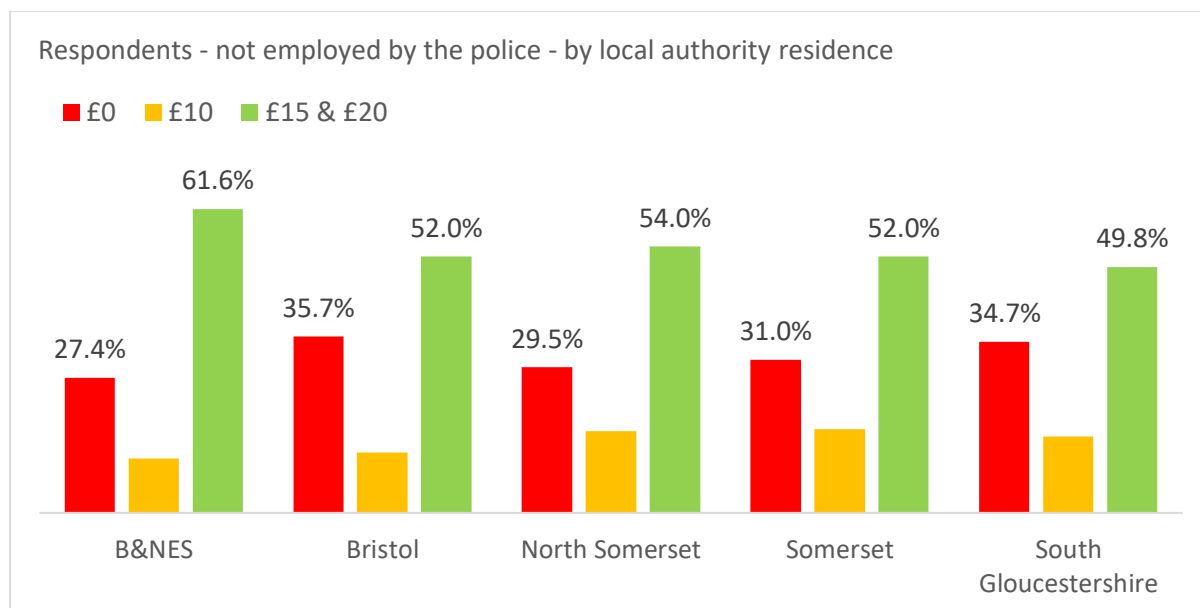
There is strong support for a precept increase with over half of people willing to pay an extra £15 or more.

There is less support for an increase from those not employed by the police.

Response	Number of responses	% of respondents	% of respondents <u>not</u> employed by the police	% of respondents employed by the police
£0	1,776	31.1%	32.2%	19.1%
£10	938	16.4%	15.2%	23.2%
£15	457	8.0%	7.6%	11.1%
£20	2,539	44.5%	45.0%	46.6%



¹ Prior to the first question respondents were provided with context – this can be found in Appendix 1.



Results – priorities for policing

The second question asked was: *What should be the top three priorities for Avon and Somerset Police?* Respondents were asked to select three options from the below list (which was presented in alphabetical order).

Priority	Number	%
Anti-social behaviour	1,832	32%
Burglary	1,107	19%
Complaints and misconduct	84	1%
Domestic abuse	577	10%
Drug crime	1,081	19%
Fraud and cybercrime	373	7%
Hate crime	196	3%
Male violence against women and girls	629	11%
Neighbourhood policing	1,498	26%
Preventing crime	1,083	19%
Responding to calls promptly	1,696	30%
Retail crime (including shoplifting)	264	5%
Road safety	401	7%
Robbery	222	4%
Rural crime	227	4%
Serious and organised Crime	1,125	20%
Serious violence (including knife crime)	1,850	32%
Sexual offences	665	12%
Stalking and harassment	105	2%
Theft of or from vehicles	131	2%
Visible police patrols	1,619	28%
Vulnerable people	260	5%

Results – confidence

Thirdly, people were asked how much they agree or disagree with the following statements:

- *Taking everything into account I have confidence in the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner*
- *Taking everything into account I have confidence in the police in this area*

Agreement level	I have confidence in the PCC		I have confidence in the police	
	Number	% (of those with an opinion)	Number	% (of those with an opinion)
Strongly disagree	1,078	20.0%	979	17.6%
Tend to disagree	935	17.3%	1,199	21.5%
Neither disagree nor agree	2,035	37.7%	1,282	23.0%
Tend to agree	1,011	18.7%	1,560	28.0%
Strongly agree	334	6.2%	552	9.9%
Don't know	317		138	

Of respondents with an opinion, 25% agreed they had confidence in the PCC while 37% disagreed.

Of respondents with an opinion, 38% agreed they had confidence in the police while 39% disagreed.

Methodology

Opinions about next year's precept were collected in two different ways. First, an online survey was hosted on the PCC website and promoted by the OPCC. This survey was open – for anybody to complete – from 6 November 2023 to 29 January 2024.

The second method was a postal survey: 20,000 were dispatched on 8 December 2023. Targeting of these surveys was based on two strata: local authority area and ethnicity of the population. The methodology was applied separately to batches of 15,000 and 5,000.

First, each of the five local authority areas were assigned a number of surveys, from the 15,000, directly proportional to their total population. Within each local authority area, the surveys were sent to the Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) which had the highest proportions of people whose ethnicity was other than White. Where part of an LSOA was needed to reach the total, addresses were selected at random.

The other 5,000 surveys were sent out in Bristol also to LSOAs which had the highest proportions of people whose ethnicity was other than White. The reason for putting additional surveys into Bristol was twofold. First, Bristol has the most ethnically diverse population. Secondly, in last year's survey Bristol was under-represented in terms of the total responses.

Number of responses by medium	Last year	This year
Online	3,118	4,934
Postal	642	776
Total	3,760	5,710

It should be noted this survey was open for a 12-week period, compared to 6 weeks for last year's survey.

About the respondents

After the substantive questions there were a series of demographic or household questions: asked in order to understand the types of people responding.

Gender identity	Number	%
Female	2,467	43.2%
Male	2,780	48.7%
Non-binary	22	0.4%
Prefer to self-describe	9	0.2%
Prefer not to say	432	7.6%

Gender identity the same as sex assigned at birth	Number	%
Yes	5,203	91.1%
No	29	0.5%
Prefer not to say	478	8.4%

Age	Number	%
16 - 24	104	1.8%
25 - 34	458	8.0%
35 - 44	640	11.2%
45 - 54	822	14.4%
55 - 64	1,121	19.6%
65 - 74	1,295	22.7%
75 or above	821	14.4%
Prefer not to say	449	7.9%

Ethnicity	Number	%
Asian or Asian British	94	1.6%
Bangladeshi	15	0.3%
Chinese	8	0.1%
Indian	33	0.6%
Pakistani	13	0.2%
Any other Asian background	25	0.4%
Black or Black British	81	1.4%
African	39	0.7%
Caribbean	26	0.5%
Any other Black background	16	0.3%
Mixed	86	1.5%
Asian and White	33	0.6%
Black African and White	6	0.1%
Black Caribbean and White	15	0.3%
Any other mixed/multiple ethnic background	32	0.6%
White	4,993	87.4%
White – British/English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish	4,752	83.2%
White – Irish	40	0.7%
White – Gypsy or Irish Traveller	7	0.1%
White – Roma	4	0.1%
Any other White background	190	3.3%
Other	19	0.3%
Arab	3	0.1%
Any other ethnic group	16	0.3%
Prefer not to say	437	7.6%

Religion / Faith	Number	%
None	2,274	39.8%
Buddhism	42	0.7%
Christianity	2,437	42.7%
Hinduism	13	0.2%
Islam	36	0.6%
Judaism	15	0.3%
Sikhism	0	0.0%
Other	139	2.4%
Prefer not to say	754	13.2%

Sexual orientation	Number	%
Bisexual	131	2.3%
Gay / lesbian	103	1.8%
Heterosexual / straight	4,461	78.1%
Prefer to self-describe	42	0.7%
Prefer not to say	973	17.0%

Disability	Number	%
Yes	711	12.5%
No	4,516	79.1%
Prefer not to say	483	8.5%

Local Authority	Number	%
B&NES	544	9.5%
Bristol	933	16.3%
North Somerset	1,014	17.8%
Somerset	2,201	38.5%
South Gloucestershire	855	15.0%
Prefer not to say	163	2.9%

Council tax band	Number	%
A	327	5.7%
B	594	10.4%
C	752	13.2%
D	1,421	24.9%
E	579	10.1%
F	270	4.7%
G	202	3.5%
H	43	0.8%
Don't know	1,003	17.6%
Prefer not to say	519	9.1%

Indices of Multiple Deprivation Decile	Number	%
1	165	5.9%
2	207	7.5%
3	126	4.5%
4	242	8.7%
5	301	10.8%
6	342	12.3%
7	441	15.9%
8	287	10.3%
9	193	7.0%
10	471	17.0%

Employed by the police	Number	%
No	4,449	77.9%
Yes	915	16.0%
Prefer not to say	346	6.1%

Appendix 1 – survey introduction/context

Police Funding Survey

The Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is responsible for setting the amount of money you contribute to local policing through your council tax bill (known as the 'precept').

The precept accounts for 41% of police funding and the rest is from central Government. The Government set the maximum amount by which PCCs can increase the precept each year.

The Government has not yet confirmed the maximum amount PCCs can increase the precept for next year, however it will be at least £10 for a band D household (3.8% of your council tax bill). The Government assume that PCCs will ask for the maximum allowed and use this assumption in their budget setting.

Our current financial planning assumes the precept will be increased by £10 next year. Even with this assumed increase savings still need to be made. The size of the savings needed will likely result in about 250 staff roles being cut across the next few years. These cuts will have an impact on front line services such as visible policing and the ability to investigate crime.

Council tax band	Maximum precept increase	
	Month (£)	Year (£)
A	0.56	6.67
B	0.65	7.78
C	0.74	8.89
D	0.83	10.00
E	1.02	12.22
F	1.20	14.44
G	1.39	16.67
H	1.67	20.00

On the 19 December 2023 the following update was added to the online version:

The Government have now confirmed that the maximum amount, by which PCCs can increase the precept next year, is £13 for a band D household.

The Government have also announced the central funding they will provide next year, and this is broadly in line with the assumptions made in our financial planning.