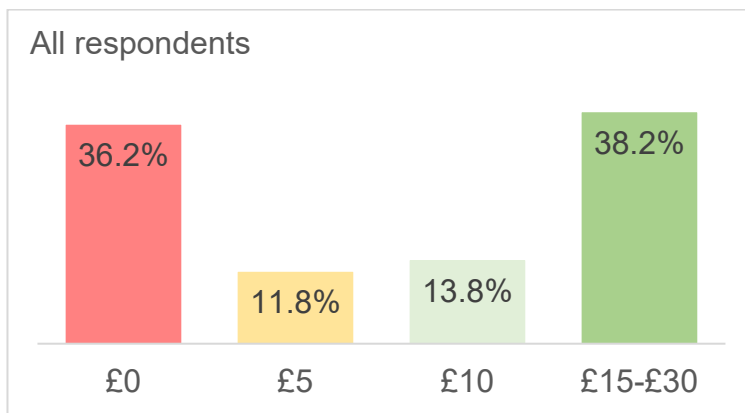


## 2025/26 Police Funding Survey Analysis

### Results – police funding

The first question<sup>1</sup> respondents were asked<sup>2</sup> was: *How much more, if any, would you be willing to pay a year through the police part of the council tax?*

- £0
- £5
- £10
- £15
- £20
- £25
- £30



We received 3,200 valid survey responses. With 3,146 opinions on the policing funding question.

There is majority support for a precept increase of £10 or more.

38% supported an increase of £15 or more.

Response	Number of responses	% of respondents	% of respondents <u>not</u> employed by the police	% of respondents employed by the police
£0	1138	36.2	35.8	32.1
£5	372	11.8	12.2	11.6
£10	433	13.8	14.2	14.7
£15	200	6.4	5.9	7.4
£20	311	9.9	10.1	10.9
£25	97	3.1	3.7	2.6
£30	595	18.9	18.1	20.7

<sup>1</sup> This was the first question in the Police Funding Survey: prior to this the questions were also part of the Police and Crime Plan Survey. Further information can be found in the methodology section of this report.

<sup>2</sup> Prior to the first question respondents were provided with context – this can be found in Appendix 1.

<b>% respondents by local authority</b>	B&NES	Bristol	North Somerset	Somerset	South Gloucestershire
£0	31.0	33.7	35.0	37.9	34.0
£5	11.6	12.5	11.8	12.3	10.5
£10	14.1	11.6	16.3	14.1	14.4
£15-£30	43.3	42.2	36.9	35.7	41.2

## Results – confidence

Secondly, 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	563	19.0	531	17.2
Tend to disagree	490	16.5	674	21.8
Neither disagree nor agree	1144	38.5	605	19.6
Tend to agree	562	18.9	848	27.4
Strongly agree	209	7.0	432	14.0
Don't know	213		70	

Of respondents with an opinion, 26% agreed they had confidence in the PCC while 36% disagreed.

Of respondents with an opinion, 41% 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 16 August 2024 to 20 December 2024. These questions were originally incorporated into the Police and Crime Plan Survey which closed on 21 October; the wording and order of these questions did not change.

The second method was a postal survey: 20,000 were dispatched on 25 September 2024. Targeting of these surveys was based on two strata: local authority area and ethnicity of the population.

Each of the five local authority areas were assigned a number of surveys directly proportional to their total population. Within each local authority area, the surveys were sent to the Lower Layer Super Output Areas 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.

<b>Number of responses by medium</b>	Last year	This year
Online	5,530	2,575
Postal	988	625
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,518</b>	<b>3,200</b>

## About the respondents

There were also a series of demographic and household questions. Percentages are based on the number of substantive responses to each question.

Sex	Number	%
Female	1393	49.1
Male	1443	50.9
Total responses	2836	

Gender identify the same as sex registered at birth	Number	%
Yes	2789	99.4
No	18	0.6
Total responses	2807	

Gender	Number	%
Female	1352	48.7
Male	1404	50.6
Non-binary	11	0.4
Prefer to self-describe	8	0.3
Total responses	2775	

Age	Number	%
11 - 17	1	0.0
18 - 24	65	2.3
25 - 34	379	13.2
35 - 44	475	16.5
45 - 54	571	19.8
55 - 64	554	19.3
65 - 74	462	16.1
75 or above	370	12.9
Total responses	2877	

Ethnicity	Number	%
Asian or Asian British	74	2.7
Bangladeshi	4	0.1
Chinese	16	0.6
Indian	22	0.8
Pakistani	11	0.4
Any other Asian background	21	0.8
Black or Black British	62	2.2
African	28	1.0
Caribbean	27	1.0
Any other Black, African or Caribbean background	7	0.3
Mixed	46	1.7
Asian and White	17	0.6
Black African and White	4	0.1
Black Caribbean and White	9	0.3
Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background	16	0.6
White	2572	92.8
British / English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish	2381	85.9
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	6	0.2
Irish	23	0.8
Roma	2	0.1
Any other White background	160	5.8
Other	19	0.7
Arab	4	0.1
Any other ethnic group	15	0.5
Total responses	2773	

Religion / Faith	Number	%
None	1280	47.4
Buddhism	29	1.1
Christianity	1243	46.1
Hinduism	11	0.4
Islam	36	1.3
Judaism	6	0.2
Sikhism	4	0.1
Other	90	3.3
Total responses	2699	

Sexual orientation	Number	%
Bisexual	91	3.5
Gay / lesbian	71	2.8
Heterosexual / straight	2371	92.5
Prefer to self-describe	31	1.2
Total responses	2564	

Disability	Number	%
No	2240	81.5
Yes	509	18.5
Total responses	2749	

Local Authority	Number	%
B&NES	284	9.2
Bristol	577	18.7
North Somerset	583	18.9
Somerset	1117	36.3
South Gloucestershire	517	16.8
Total responses	3078	

Council tax band	Number	%
A	272	12.8
B	403	19.0
C	406	19.2
D	618	29.2
E	238	11.2
F	105	5.0
G	58	2.7
H	17	0.8
Total responses	2117	

Indices of Multiple Deprivation Decile <sup>3</sup>	Number	%
1	205	10.3
2	195	9.8
3	104	5.2
4	182	9.2
5	199	10.0
6	226	11.4
7	220	11.1
8	233	11.7
9	159	8.0
10	260	13.1
Total responses	1983	

Employed by the police	Number	%
No	1896	65.2
Yes	1010	34.8
Total responses	2906	

<sup>3</sup> Respondents were asked for their postcode. This was mapped to the relevant Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) and then the decile of deprivation of those LSOAs was recorded. This is based on the English Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019.

## **Appendix 1 – funding question context**

### **Police Funding Survey**

In 2025/26 about 43% of the total funding for Avon and Somerset Police will come from council tax. The amount raised through council tax is about the same as the cost of all police officers in Avon and Somerset.

Avon and Somerset Police are under-funded compared to the national average for all police services, when you take into account the size of the population. If we received funding at the national average level this would mean we would have about £53 million more each year.

The most recent financial projections show that across the next four years Avon and Somerset Police need to make savings in order to balance their budget. These projections assume the policing part of your council tax will increase by 2% each year. For 2025/26 this will be £5.58 for the whole year (for the average band D household).

Some savings have already been identified by Avon and Somerset Police which will include reducing the number of police staff roles by about 250. For Avon and Somerset Police to avoid making extra savings, after 2025/26, this would mean increasing next year's policing part of the council tax by £16 for the year (for the average band D household).