

A background image of a rural landscape with rolling green hills, scattered trees, and a small village with houses visible in the distance under a bright sky.

# NRCN

National Rural Crime Network

## THE 2018 NATIONAL RURAL CRIME SURVEY

# About the NRCN

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- **Established in 2014 with Home Office funding**
- **30+ PCC members**
- **Other rural stakeholders e.g. NFU, RSN, Crimestoppers etc**
- **Focus on research and lobbying, raising the profile of rural crime**

# About the Survey

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## **20,252 responses to the 2018 Survey**

- **All live or work in rural areas (as defined by ONS)**
- **Mostly rural dwellers**
- **Almost 4,000 business owners (including farmers)**
- **50% respondents aged 55-75**

## KEY FINDINGS

**1. The *perception* of policing in rural communities is poor, and much worse than in urban areas.**

**2. Communities believe crime in rural areas is a big problem – and is getting worse.**

***FACT - The proportion of people who think their local police do a good job is 11% lower than in 2015.***

# Key Findings

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**3. Some of the most common concerns are not solely policing matters, like fly-tipping and speeding – too many partners, like local authorities, are less able to respond to the needs of rural communities.**

**4. Crime is not just an inconvenience - crime, and the fear of crime, is leading to emotional strain and a loss of confidence within rural communities, particularly among hard working young people, families and farmers.**

***FACT - Fly tipping and speeding dominate the list of concerns with 57% seeing evidence of fly tipping and 32% evidence of speeding in their communities in the last 12 months***

# Key Findings

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**5. Farmers and agricultural businesses are facing huge challenges – and they don't feel there is enough being done to support them**

**6. Many crimes in rural communities go unreported – especially by business owners, because they don't feel the offence will be taken seriously or anything will be done**

***FACT - One in ten rural people feel unsafe in their own homes after dark.***

# Key Findings

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**7. Residents and businesses in rural communities believe they are being specifically targeted – and, on balance, most believe the crime is organised.**

**8. Rural victims feel angry and annoyed that they are not taken seriously by those in positions of power – and the extent of crime is making communities feel vulnerable**

***FACT – rural victims of crime are much more ‘annoyed’ than their urban counterparts, 78% vs 47%***

# Key Findings

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**9. The financial impact of crime is substantial – for residents and, particularly, for businesses who are the lifeblood of the rural economy**

**10. Ultimately, rural communities are not understood and services do not match need – if nothing is done there is a risk of a wholesale loss of trust in rural policing.**

***FACT – The average crime costs rural people an average of £4,800, 13% up on 2015***



# Negative cycle



**Some areas seem to be breaking this cycle, identified in 2015, but most aren't**

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

# Recommendations

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- 1. We need Chief Constables to change the policing of rural communities.**
- 2. We need to do more to understand rural crime and its impact**
- 3. We need to put that understanding into practice**
- 4. We need to put more focus on farmers and specific rural businesses**

**5. We need to work together on organised crime.**

**6. We need the criminal justice system to understand rural communities.**

**7. We need justice to be done and be seen to be done for rural communities.**

**8. We need to make reporting crimes easier.**

**9. We need to do more to help rural residents and businesses with crime prevention.**

**10. We need to ensure victims of fly-tipping are not left to pay the price of others actions**

# Summary

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- **Rural communities are still being routinely let down**
- **We need to work together to press government to act/fund differently**
- **There are gaps in all parts of the system (police, criminal justice, local authority etc.)**
- **Further work has uncovered hidden vulnerability in rural areas e.g. domestic abuse, making all the above even more concerning**

# NRCN

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Online: [www.nationalruralcrimenetwork.net](http://www.nationalruralcrimenetwork.net)

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