THE 2018 NATIONAL RURAL CRIME SURVEY
About the NRCN

• 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
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

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.
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.**
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’ then their urban counterparts, 78% vs 47%
Key Findings

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
RECOMMENDATIONS
Recommendations

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

• 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