



Research Report No. 2/2022

Collation of Crime and Offence Survey Responses

In the May 22 Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania *Monthly Bulletin*, two intelligence articles, written by former police officers, were published. The topics were Stolen Motor Vehicles reviewed over a 25-year period and Home Burglaries reviewed over the most recent eight-year period. The data was drawn from Tasmania Police, *Corporate Performance Reports*, for the relevant periods.

In June 2022, an email survey was sent to all Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania Coordinators which asked the following two questions, relevant to the two intelligence reports from the previous month:

1. Would you like to see more reports such as this?
2. What other crimes, offences, issues, or topics would you like to hear about with this sort of research?

This paper provides a summary collation and commentary, of the responses received.

- 25 responses received
- 100 percent positive endorsement of this approach from all responses.
- 60 percent provided detail in their feedback.

A summary of those responses containing details is as follows:

The two main offence categories which featured in the responses were traffic offences and property damage. These two categories were present in 86 percent of returns and is best expressed by this response:

Crimes of the most concern to our residents are those relating to motor vehicles (thefts and damage, as well as recovery rates), home burglaries and vandalism/malicious damage, and traffic policing (crimes such as drink/drug-driving, speeding, and especially "hooning" which is a real issue up here.

The single most mentioned category of offending behaviour was traffic related offences (53 percent) such as dangerous driving, drink driving, speeding. A number of respondents, 33 percent specifically, referred to 'hooning' as the key issue affecting their area and a topic of discussion at meetings. An example of how the community feels about this type of offending (hooning) was summed up by this response:

I believe that the wider community around here is totally cheesed off with the amount of hooning and dangerous driving in cars, motorbikes & modified scooters.

There was a similar level of interest in property type offences (26 percent) specifically property damage such as vandalism and graffiti. One response summed this up by saying:

Property damage, i.e. dwellings, vehicles (many streets are overnight car-parks) and other premises (businesses, schools, halls, public toilets, etc.)

There was likewise a similar level of interest (26 percent) in stolen motor vehicles and wanting more specific information such as models of vehicles and arson of vehicles.

Issues such as family violence and youth offending were equally mentioned (20 percent) in the feedback.

Whilst only three (20 percent) of responses mentioned wanting locally specific information (council region level), the need was implicit in almost all of the responses. The need for information at the local level was identified as necessary to inform meetings, report back to the community, and to inform responses to community concerns:

I feel any reports on all aspects of crime and antisocial behaviour can only help us in Neighbourhood Watch groups. We can get a feel of what direction we need to go in order to help keep our communities safe.

In summary, NHW co-ordinators clearly endorse the approach taken to provide evidence-based reports that analyse various offence trends. The feedback received identifies the need for this analysis to be as locally specific as possible and to focus on traffic offences and property damage in the first instance, followed by family violence and youth offending.