

Response of the National Bench Chair Forum (NBCF)

to the Home Office Consultation Paper entitled

'British Crime Survey extension to cover under 16s'

✚ What should be the lower age limit for the survey and why?

We agree with including children aged 11 – 15 who are likely to have sufficient maturity and personal experience to be able to respond adequately to the survey. We think this will enhance the validity of the BCS.

✚ What additional crime related topics should the survey cover and why?

All the topics mentioned would be suitable but experiences of bullying would be particularly relevant to the 11-15 age group.

✚ How should the estimates of personal victimisation be treated and reported?

The confidence with which figures may be regarded will ultimately depend on the quality of the interview process used to get the information and weed out the exaggerated and spurious claims of victimisation which may well arise from individuals in these categories. It would probably give a fairer picture if the children's sample was reported separately to the main adult sample.

✚ Is there interest in providing estimates for other sub-groups?

We don't have a particular view on this.

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