

## Ipsos MORI poll summary

The Restorative Justice Council (RJC) commissioned Ipsos MORI to conduct research on public awareness of and attitudes to restorative justice. This included placing questions in the Ipsos MORI Omnibus, the regular Ipsos MORI face to face survey of the general public. A nationally representative sample of 1,782 adults (aged 15 and over) was interviewed throughout England and Wales, with the fieldwork conducted between March 19 2015 and April 2 2015. All data has been weighted to the known profile of adults aged 15+ in England and Wales. Similar polling was conducted by Ipsos MORI in October 2013 on behalf of the RJC.

### Key questions<sup>1</sup>

**NB** - where figures do not sum to 100% this is due to computer rounding of individual responses.

#### 1) Have you heard of restorative justice?

- Yes 30%
- No 69%
- Don't know 1%

When the same question was asked by Ipsos MORI in 2013, the answers were as follows:

- Yes 22%
- No 75%
- Don't know 3%

#### 2) Should victims of crime have the right, if they want to, to meet the offender and tell them the impact of the crime?

- Yes 77%
- No 20%
- Don't know 4%

For those respondents who had been a victim of crime (base=403)<sup>2</sup>, the responses to this question were:

- Yes 83%
- No 15%
- Don't know 2%

When Question 2 was asked by Ipsos MORI in 2013, 74% of all respondents said 'yes'.

#### 3) If 'Yes' to (2), why should victims of crime have the right to meet the offender of the crime?

- It will help offenders see what their crime does to victims 59%
- It would help victims to get some closure 53%
- Victims might want to tell the offender about the impact of the crime 52%
- It might stop offenders carrying out further crime 38%
- Victims might want to understand why they had been a victim/targeted 37%

<sup>1</sup> Please note that this is a summary of the results and the questions were not asked in the order given here.

<sup>2</sup> Respondents were asked whether they had been a victim of one of a range of crime types within the past two years.

- Other 2%
- Don't know 1%

4) If 'No' to (2), why should victims of crime not have the right to meet the offender of the crime?

- It wouldn't be suitable in all circumstances 31%
- I don't know enough about what would be involved 26%
- It doesn't help the victim 16%
- The process is too soft on offenders 14%
- Offenders are only in it for themselves 7%
- Other 8%
- Don't know 7%

5) If you became the victim of a crime, and the offender pleaded guilty or accepted responsibility, would you want to meet the offender?

- Yes 38%
- No 52%
- Don't know 10%

For those respondents who had been a victim of crime (base=403), the responses to this question were:

- Yes 46%
- No 46%
- Don't know 8%

6) To what extent do you agree or disagree, if at all, that offenders need to see the real impact of their crimes and face the people they've harmed?

- Agree 69%
- Disagree 10%
- Neither agree nor disagree 19%
- Don't know 2%

For those respondents who had been a victim of crime (base=403), the responses to this question were:

- Agree 74%
- Disagree 10%
- Neither agree nor disagree 15%
- Don't know 1%

7) To what extent do you agree or disagree, if at all, that if an offender takes part in restorative justice they should receive a lighter sentence?<sup>3</sup>

- Agree 13%
- Disagree 63%
- Neither agree nor disagree 22%
- Don't know 2%

<sup>3</sup> By this point in the survey, a basic explanation of restorative justice had been given to participants.

8) To what extent do you agree or disagree, if at all, that restorative justice is suitable for all types of crime?

- Agree 22%
- Disagree 53%
- Neither agree nor disagree 22%
- Don't know 3%

9) To what extent do you agree or disagree, if at all, that victims should be able to meet their offender even if the crime took place many years ago?

- Agree 51%
- Disagree 19%
- Neither agree nor disagree 26%
- Don't know 3%