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What the world thinks

PEEL Assessments – Survey of Local Councillors

Survey details

- Respondents were members of YouGov's online panel.
- 273 local councillors in England and Wales responded to the online survey.
- The survey ran between 26th March and 10th April 2014.
- The sample group was controlled and weighted for local authority type, region and political party to reflect the national profile in England and Wales.



Summary



Summary (1)

- Almost half of the Councillors interviewed (47%) feel well informed about the performance of the police force in their area.
- Yet 26% say they are either not well informed or not informed at all (3%), suggesting that more information about the performance of the police force could be available. A further 27% remained neutral.
- Councillors are most likely to get their information about the performance of their local police force from keeping in contact with the policing team.
- When it comes to looking for information about local police, 32% say they look for it on a weekly basis, while 82% look for information about how their local police force is performing at least once a month.
- Direct contact with the local police officers is the preferred method of getting information about how well the police force is performing (54%).
- Usage of HMIC reports is low with the vast majority (83%) of the Councillors saying they have not used the reports in the last year, and only 11% saying they have used them.
- Councillors are not as interested in getting information about the effectiveness of policing on a national level with 22% saying they would not be interested in this information in order to find out how good a job the police are doing.
- Councillors surveyed are much more interested in how well their local police force is performing (98%) as well as the policing effectiveness at a neighbourhood level (99%).

Summary (2)

- Councillors are most interested in how well the police are tackling anti-social behaviour (81%), as well as how well they respond when someone asks for their help (74%).
- When it comes to police assessments, 9 out of 10 (87%) councillors believed that information on whether the performance of their local police force has improved or got worse in the last year was important. 62% of those surveyed say a comparison between their police force and others is important when assessing how well their local police is performing.
- Councillors believed that a description of how well the local police force is doing (77%) and data about the activities of the local police force (75%) were the most important ways of making information about the performance of the police available.
- If assessments of the police force were published, the majority of the councilors (64%) would be interested in contributing their views as part of these assessments.
- Among those who said they would like to contribute their views, most (62%) would prefer online surveys as a way to share their views. Other preferred methods were workshops or meetings with other local councilors (50%) or face to face interviews with assessors (36%).