



PRESS RELEASE

CRIME, SAFETY & SECURITY IN THE UK

***The UK is one of the most protected countries in Europe but
“common crime” is way above the EU average.***

Significant findings

- The level of crime is decreasing – from the 1995 peak - but not as fast as in the rest of the EU
- The UK is a high crime country
 - There's a very high risk of “common crime”, it's the second highest in the EU (behind Ireland).

Rates of crime

- Highest levels of assaults (with threats, not force) in the EU (at 5%)
- The most burgled country in the EU (3%)
- A high level of hate crimes (3%) and it's above the EU average if those crimes are within the immigrant population
- High risk of theft from cars (5%, vs. 3.5% EU average)
- High risk of personal theft (5.8% vs. 3.5% EU average)
- It's one of only three countries (with Ireland and Estonia) to be above the EU average for both pickpocketing and personal theft

Ethics (corruption and consumer fraud)

- Good news – there's an extremely low chance of attempted bribery and consumer fraud is not a concern

Concerns, precautions taken and the police

- High rates of burglar alarms (only Ireland has more) and special locks
- People are not over-concerned about burglary or safety on the streets
- The population is reasonably happy with police performance

Solving the problem

- The population is more in favour of prison sentences (for recidivist burglars) than any other EU country – at 52%; over twice the EU average

From the report: - "The Burden of Crime in the EU, A Comparative Analysis of the European Survey of Crime and Safety (EU ICS) 2005". Robert Manchin, Gallup Europe, coordinated the Consortium and the project was co-financed by the European Commission under FP6.

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