

2016 Ipsos MORI poll summary

The Restorative Justice Council (RJC) commissioned Ipsos MORI to conduct polling on public awareness of and attitudes to restorative justice. This involved placing questions in the Ipsos MORI Omnibus, the regular Ipsos MORI face to face survey of the general public.

A nationally representative sample of 1,792 respondents aged 15 and over was interviewed throughout England and Wales between 22 April 2016 and 9 May 2016. All data was weighted to the known profile of adults aged 15 or older in England and Wales. Similar polling has been conducted regularly on behalf of the RJC since 2013 although some of the 2016 questions have not been asked previously.

NB - where figures do not add up to 100% this is due to computer rounding of individual responses. Asterisks denote figures which are between 0 and 0.5
Please note that the questions were not asked in the order given here.

1. Have you heard of restorative justice?ⁱ
 - Yes 28%
 - No 71%

For those respondents who had been a victim of crime, the responses to this question were:

- Yes 32%
- No 68%

2. Should victims of crime have the right, if they want to, to meet their offender and tell them the impact of the crime?
 - Yes 80%
 - No 16%
 - Don't know 3%

When the same question was asked by Ipsos MORI in 2015, the answers were as follows:

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

In 2016, for those respondents who had been a victim of crimeⁱⁱ, the responses to this question were:

- Yes 85%
- No 13%

- Don't know 2%

For those respondents who were aware of restorative justice priorⁱⁱⁱ to participating in this research, the responses to this question were (figures in brackets indicate respondents who were unaware of restorative justice, for comparison):

- Yes 93% (76%)
- No 6% (21%)
- Don't know *% (4%)

3. Do you think that restorative justice should be available to all victims and offenders, provided they both want to take part and the offender admits their guilt?^{iv}

- Yes 80%
- No 17%
- Don't know 3%

For those respondents who had been a victim of crime, the responses to this question were:

- Yes 84%
- No 15%
- Don't know 1%

For respondents who were aware of restorative justice prior to participating in this research, responses to this question were (figures in brackets indicate respondents who were unaware of restorative justice, for comparison):

- Yes 89% (77%)
- No 11% (19%)
- Don't know *% (4%)

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

- Yes 45%
- No 45%
- Don't know 10%

When the same question was asked in 2015, the answers were as follows:

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

In 2016, for respondents who were aware of restorative justice prior to participating in this research, responses to this question were (figures in brackets indicate respondents who were unaware of restorative justice, for comparison):

- Yes 50% (43%)
- No 38% (49%)
- Don't know 12% (8%)

5. To what extent do you agree or disagree, if at all, that restorative justice would help victims to put the crime behind them and move on?

- Agree 54%
- Disagree 14%
- Neither agree nor disagree 28%
- Don't know 3%

For those respondents who had been a victim of crime, the responses to this question were:

- Agree 59%
- Disagree 14%
- Neither agree nor disagree 26%
- Don't know 2%

For respondents who were aware of restorative justice prior to participation in this research, results were as follows (figures in brackets indicate respondents who were unaware of restorative justice, for comparison):

- Agree 66% (50%)
- Disagree 10% (16%)
- Neither agree nor disagree 24% (30%)
- Don't know *% (3%)

6. To what extent do you agree or disagree, if at all, that restorative justice would make an offender less likely to reoffend?

- Agree 38%
- Disagree 28%
- Neither agree nor disagree 31%
- Don't know 3%

For respondents who were aware of restorative justice prior to participation in this research, results were as follows (figures in brackets indicate respondents who were unaware of restorative justice, for comparison):

- Agree 50% (34%)
- Disagree 21% (31%)
- Neither agree nor disagree 29% (32%)
- Don't know 1% (4%)

ⁱ Ipsos MORI have confirmed that these figures are not statistically significantly different from last year's findings

ⁱⁱ Respondents were asked whether they had been a victim of one of a range of crime types within the past two years.

ⁱⁱⁱ These are the respondents who answered 'yes' when asked if they had heard of restorative justice

^{iv} By this point in the survey, a basic explanation of restorative justice had been given to participants.