

Banding Analysis

March 2009



Inspecting policing
in the public interest

The Banding Analysis is a quarterly analysis of force performance. It comprises indicators in three domains (confidence, local crime and policing and protection from serious harm) and looks at force performance compared with a force's peers and compared over time. The confidence domain includes satisfaction indicators and perception indicators; the local crime and policing domain includes crime, sanction detection and offences brought to justice data for acquisitive crime, data for low level violence against the person (other wounding) and road traffic casualties; and the protection from serious harm domain includes indicators for violent crime (e.g. gun and knife crime) and sanction detections and offences brought to justice data for serious violence and serious sexual assault.

The banding analysis is used for operational/management purposes, being based on provisional data. The analysis is not released publicly until after the data on which it is drawn has been published.

The data on which the banding analysis draws is published as follows:

Satisfaction data (force surveys)	annually in November covering the previous financial year
BCS perception data	Quarterly three months after the data cut off point
BCS crime data	Quarterly three months after the data cut off point
Offences brought to justice data	Quarterly three months after the data cut off point (national figures only) and annually in July covering the previous financial year for forces
Sanction detection data	annually in July covering the previous financial year
Road traffic casualty data	annually in June covering the previous calendar year
Knife crime data	annually in July covering the previous financial year

This Banding Analysis uses one year data for the following time periods

Satisfaction data (force surveys)	to December 08 (Data to September 08 only for Durham, South Wales and Suffolk)
BCS perception data	to September 08
BCS crime data	to December 08
Offences brought to justice data	to July 08
Sanction detection data	to December 08
Road traffic casualty data	to September 08 (Gloucestershire, Gent and Nottinghamshire to July 2008)
Gun crime data	To December 08
Knife crime data	to September 08 (Knife crime data has only been collected using a consistent definition since April 2008. Therefore only 6 months of data is used and direction of travel is not assessed)

Calculating and interpreting the domain scores

Domain scores are aggregated from the performance scores of each indicator. A numeric value is given to each component grade in a domain: -1 if Poor; 1 if Fair; 2 if Good or 3 if Excellent. In cases where the grade Good/Excellent is used as noted above (where the distinction between good and excellent is statistically difficult to determine e.g. with some of the survey data), then a score of 2.5 is applied.

To aggregate individual performance scores to a domain or sub-domain score a simple unweighted average is calculated for the majority of indicators. However, where the Banding Analysis includes a sanction detection and offences brought to justice indicator for the same crime type, each of these indicators is given a half weight only.

Where the sample size or number of crimes are too small and we are unable to discriminate between change caused by chance from performance driven change, then we have chosen not to score. Consequently some smaller or rural forces may not be scored for some individual indicators.

The Direction of travel assessment determines either, an improvement in performance (e.g. reduction in crime or increase in detections), stable performance, or deterioration in performance. A stable grade is used when there has been no significant change or where changes are small compared to the spread of changes observed across all forces. Assessment of direction uses data from the most recent 12 month period compared with the 12 months a year earlier. The domain score is aggregated in a similar way to the performance scores, allocating numerical values of -1, 0 and 1 to the individual scores and calculating an average.

The scores mean that a force that scores poor in a domain is performing worse than its peer forces. A force that scores fair performs in line with its peer forces and a force that scores excellent performs significantly better than its peer forces. The Banding Analysis acts as an initial indicator to flag forces for consideration at PPSG. This initial evidence is supplemented by other assessments for example from inspection reports or other existing regimes such as the Home Office's Compass regime. PPSG is then asked to consider all the evidence about forces of concern before making a recommendation.

Banding Analysis and Police Report Card

Domain scores for the Banding Analysis and for the Police report card will be different. This is due to a number of factors

- The BA uses unpublished and unverified quarterly data, PRC uses published data, some of which is only published on an annual basis (e.g. Survey data and Sanction Detection Rates)
- The PRC local crime and policing domain is split into solving crime and reducing crime and the individual results for those two elements are then combined into one overall score
- The BA only uses only statistical data while PRC also includes inspection grades

- The BA uses some additional indicators e.g. user satisfaction for racist incidents, BCS comparator crime and indicators appear in different domains in the two products.
- Definitions differ slightly between similar indicators, e.g. vehicle crime includes interference in PRC but not in the BA

Domain scores for March 2009

	Confidence	Local Crime & Policing	Protection from serious harm
Avon & Somerset	◆	↑	↑
Bedfordshire	◆	↑	↑
Cambridgeshire	◆	◆	↑
Cheshire	◆	↑	↑
Cleveland	↑	↑	◆
Cumbria	◆	↑	◆
Derbyshire	◆	◆	◆
Devon & Cornwall	◆	◆	↑
Dorset	◆	↓	◆
Durham	◆	◆	↑
Dyfed Powys	◆	↑	↑
Essex	◆	◆	↑
Gloucestershire	◆	◆	◆
Greater Manchester	◆	↑	↑
Gwent	◆	↑	◆
Hampshire	◆	◆	◆
Hertfordshire	◆	↑	↑
Humberside	◆	↑	◆
Kent	↑	↑	↑
Lancashire	◆	↑	↑
Leicestershire	↑	◆	◆
Lincolnshire	↑	◆	↑
Merseyside	◆	↑	↑
Metropolitan Police	↑	↑	◆
Norfolk	↑	↑	↑
North Wales	↑	◆	↑
North Yorkshire	◆	◆	◆
Northamptonshire	◆	↑	↑
Northumbria	◆	◆	◆
Nottinghamshire	↑	↑	◆
South Wales	◆	↑	↓
South Yorkshire	◆	↑	↑
Staffordshire	↑	◆	◆
Suffolk	◆	↑	↑
Surrey	◆	↑	↓
Sussex	◆	◆	◆
Thames Valley	◆	↑	◆
Warwickshire	◆	↑	↑
West Mercia	◆	◆	↑
West Midlands	◆	↑	◆
West Yorkshire	◆	◆	↑
Wiltshire	◆	↑	◆

Key			
Excellent		Improving	↑
Good		Stable	◆
Fair		Deteriorating	↓
Poor			