

Question 6

The current systems of the criminal justice system have both successes and failures. Many aspects of the system are successful in tackling the issues of reoffending rates and overall crime rates. However, many create additional issues which limit the overall success of tackling crime such as overcrowding within prisons and police brutality which targets ethnic minorities and blacks. Britain's approach to tackling crime is heavily influenced through the ideologies of other countries however the government is also influenced by the general public who, as a result of the over representation of crime in the media, support punishment based approaches. The two main approaches to crime are punishment and rehabilitation, this essay will discuss both approaches and the different sentencing types within these approaches as well as other methods which aim to prevent crime. Overall, the current system isn't failing however the above statement is true that many aspects of it are due to the issues which hinder its success.

Recent criminal justice issues show that aspects of current systems are failing to a fair extent. Custodial sentencing is a popular sentence within the current criminal justice system in Scotland being described by the Ministry of Justice as 'the popular sentencing statue.' In 2015 90,000 offenders received a custodial sentence thus showing it to be a popular form of sentence within courts. This response is heavily supported by the public with 76% of the public supporting prisons. However, custodial sentencing fails to reduce reoffending rates, with reoffending rates in Britain reaching 70% in some of the worst prisons across the country. Therefore, custodial sentencing can be seen as failing when compared to more rehabilitative approaches taken in other countries which can see a much greater success rate in terms of reoffending rates. Scandinavian countries take a more rehabilitative approach, with Norway having fewer than 4,200 prisons and a 20% drop in reoffending rates. This is due to the open prison system in Norway which combines rehabilitation and punishment in order to achieve low rates of reoffending and low crime rates overall. Norway is home to Bastoy Prison an open prison which gives high risk prisoners the same chance community sentences offer however within an open prison. Bastoy Prison has a 16% reoffending rate, one of the lowest in the world, compared to America who like Britain takes a punishment based approach resulting in a 76% reoffending rate. Thereby showing that rehabilitative approaches have a greater success regarding reoffending rates, unlike prisons which continue to fail to reduce reoffending with half of all crime being committed by repeat offenders thus costing the government between £9.5 and £13 billion annually.

Despite this evidence shows that, although there are high reoffending rates, prisons do have rehabilitative programmes in place which have been proven successful in many cases. During a visit to HMP Greenock I interviewed Alex Woodside a prisoner currently serving the last year of a life sentence. We were informed by prisoner guards who worked with Alex that when he entered prison he was an extremely violent man who had no intention of changing. However through the work of the rehabilitative programmes in prisons such as Sycamore Tree and a study carried out by an art therapist from Edinburgh University Alex has vastly improved. He has gained qualifications in Advanced Higher IT, Maths and English thus ranking him with the 18.7% of Scottish pupils who leave school with Advanced Higher qualifications. These skills put Alex in a better position when leaving prison as he is more likely to find employment opportunities and thereby less likely to continue a life

of crime. Despite this, overcrowding continues to be an issue both in British prisons and internationally thus resulting in limited resources and high prisoner to low staff ratios. As a result overcrowding is seen as 'feeding crime and creating criminals,' as the rehabilitative focus within prisons has to be diverted to the issue of overcrowding. In 2015 Prison Reform Trust released statistics showing that three out of four men's prisons within the UK accommodated for more than they were designed to hold. Similar issues can be seen internationally with prisons in El Salvador exceeding prison limits by 324%. As a result of high prison numbers violence within prisons increases due to the frustration caused. This can be seen in statistics revealed by the Ministry of Justice in 2014 with self inflicted suicides reaching their highest in nine years increasing by 52%. Therefore, as a result of the overcrowding issue within prisons, prison guards are unable to ensure both their own and prisoners safety in an area which is meant to protect the public from those deemed dangerous thus proving prisons to be ineffective in their main role of protection. Similarities can again be seen in El Salvador with 14 prisoners being murdered in August 2015 as a result of high overcrowding rates and low staff numbers, thereby resulting in the inability to protect inmates from each other. Furthermore, 2015 was the peak of violent attacks within prisons in the UK, increasing by nearly a third from the previous year. Prisons are thereby shown to be ineffective in what they set out to do which is rehabilitate offenders, protect the public and lower reoffending rates. Not only do prisons create an unsafe environment for both prisoners and prison guards but they breed criminals. During an interview with Cameron Hill from the Violence Reduction Unit he stated, 'If you weren't a criminal when you entered prison, you will be when you leave.' Thereby meaning that locking up criminals with other criminals does not create a place where offenders can rehabilitate themselves but predisposes people to a life of crime on the outside, proving prisons to be ineffective in the current system as rather than deter people from a life of crime it encourages it.

Another sentence within the current system is community sentencing, which combines punishment with work in the community thus allowing offenders to benefit the community and repay those who were victimised through their offence. Community sentencing has high success rates internationally, however only 114,000 offenders received a community sentence order with in Britain representing only 9% of sentences in 2015. New Zealand however use community sentences significantly more, it being their most common form of sentence with 30,000 offenders serving community sentences compared to 9,000 custodial sentences. Despite those serving community sentences in New Zealand being nearly 90,000 less than those in Britain, New Zealand can be seen to have much lower crime rates than Britain as a result of their rehabilitative approach and low reoffending rates. In 2014 350,000 crimes were recorded in New Zealand revealing a 30% decrease from the previous year. However crime in Britain remains significantly higher with 7.5 million offences being recorded in the same year with only a 15% decrease. Therefore despite Britain's crime decreasing at half of the rate of New Zealand's our crime levels began extremely high due to failures within the current system limiting the success of lowering reoffending rates and decreases in crime rates overall.

However, it is argued by many that community sentences are too lenient and that courts should impose stricter sentences on offenders which have a stronger focus on punishment. The majority of the British public believe that community sentences fail to punish the offender with an independent charity the Centre for Crime and Justice stating, 'offenders placed on community orders left court

laughing their heads off.' This can be backed up by an article in the British Telegraph which revealed that 8 out of 10 in the general public believe community sentencing is 'too soft.' Community sentences are seen as failing to give justice to victims and punish offenders for the crime they have committed thus leading to a lack of support from the general public. However, although community sentences do not have a strong focus on punishment and are therefore unable to deter future offenders they are successful in reducing reoffending rates. BBC statistics show that community sentences in Britain have a 36% reoffending rates compared to the 70% reoffending rate of those put on custodial sentences. Furthermore, many other rehabilitative programmes have proven to be successful, one example being Virgin Trains which has teamed up with Working Chance, a British based charity, which aims to help continue to rehabilitate offenders after their sentence has finished. The partnership provides employment opportunities and has a reoffending rate of less than 5%. Not only are community sentences an effective way of rehabilitating offenders thus showing their success in current systems but programmes outside of community orders provide similar opportunities to allow offenders to have a continued support after their sentenced, something which isn't offered to prisoners after they leave which often results in them reoffending. Therefore, proving this to be a more effective sentencing type in the current system as it provides continued support after the end of their sentence thereby ensuring a high success rate.

The police are another method of tackling crime in the current system and are seen as effective due to their interaction with the public allowing them to gain a perspective on what their priorities should be within the community. Prior to now police consultations have been distributed by hand however they have now moved to a digital format and are open all year, with 19,000 people answering this year so far. Thereby showing the police to be effective in continuing to establish a strong relationship with the community. This can again be seen in Police Scotland's prioritisation of community policing. Similarly the police within New Zealand have taken a more community based approach leveraging networks to prevent repeat victimisation and protect vulnerable people. New Zealand have been successful in their community based approach with a 30% decrease in the number of repeat victims. Thereby by showing a connection between the success of community policing in interacting with the public to ensure their confidence and trust in the police. Despite this there is a lack of communication within the police force which often leads to failures to respond to calls as they are not directed to the correct departments. In 2015, a car crash off the M9 was reported to the police however a failure to respond resulted in the death of a man and the woman left in a critical condition after being trapped in the car for 3 days. This example shows the extent to which these failures to respond impact others with the lives of the general public being at risk as a result of the communication issues in the police force. Furthermore, survey's carried out showed a 20% drop in confidence and trust in the police across Scotland with similar evidence being found internationally. Studies in New Zealand show the Maori ethnic group to be 10% less likely to trust the police than the rest of the general public. The lack of trust in the police stems from police brutality and racism with there continuing to be racial inequality in the criminal justice system and police force. This can be seen by the increase in police brutality incidents against blacks and ethnic minorities in America, with unarmed blacks being shot at 5x the rate of unarmed whites. Again correlations can be seen in Britain with the Independent newspaper revealing blacks and asians to be at greater risk of being targeted by the police than whites. Therefore despite the police's success in establishing relationships within the community the failure to respond to victims and increasing

brutality within the police force results in their ineffectiveness in tackling crime and gaining public trust.

Lastly, multi-agency programmes are another example of a rehabilitative approach within the current system. They follow the view that no single agency can tackle the many complex causes of crime. MAPPA is a Scottish example of a multi agency programme, the agency is in partnership with the police, NHS, social work and prison service in order to tackle crime and rehabilitate offenders. Examples can be found internationally with the NCPC being located in Canada, combining the work of Health Canada, Public Service Canada and Correctional Service. The partnership aims involve different agencies and work together in order to tackle crime rather than prevent it with Health Canada aiming to tackle drug and substance abuse issues. However, despite both Canada and the UK implementing programmes they believe to be effective in the current system multi agency programmes do face some challenges. An article published by the Telegraph revealed that often NHS staff and doctors fail to show up at MAPPA meeting and can often be reluctant to give information due to patient confidentiality. Thereby limiting the success of the programme as individuals may have their own agendas to meet and may be unable to work in collaboration. Therefore, due to the different agendas of agencies the work of multi agency approaches are limited and unable to be successful in working in partnership to tackle crime.

In conclusion, the current system in tackling crime is effective to a fair extent with many successes stemming from current sentences in place. Community sentencing can be seen to effectively reduce reoffending rates and custodial sentencing is an effective way of getting justice for the victim and protecting the public from high risk offenders. However issues such as overcrowding, leniency and brutality limit the success of current systems with these limitations resulting in increased crime levels and little to no progress in areas such as reoffending and limited resources. Overall, the current system is fairly effective however other countries such as Norway and New Zealand have had greater success in their approaches.

Question 7

The statement, 'criminal behaviour within societies cannot be explained by one single theory of crime,' is true to a great extent. The causes of crime are made of many complex theories and evidence which falls into the three categories of sociological, psychological and physiological. This essay will discuss many aspects of these three theories such as economic strain, academic strain, nature, nurture and alcohol. Although there is no one cause of crime some aspects are of greater importance than others, this essay will analyse the different theories of Albert Cohen, Robert Merton and Adrian Raine in order to help come to the conclusion regarding the causes of crime. Furthermore the studies of theorist such as Albert Bandura and Adrian Raine will be taken into consideration in order to compare causes internationally and analyse any differences.

The economic strain placed on the lives of those in poverty often leads them to a life of crime, this idea is backed up by Robert Merton, an American criminologist. Robert Merton follows the view that is a disturbance in the social order which results in the inability to achieve socially desired aspirations such as wealth. He states, 'it is the conflict between cultural goals and the availability of using institutional means [...] which produced strain towards anomie.' Thus meaning that as a result of the economic strain placed on the lives of those in poverty they seek alternative ways to achieve relative wealth which in turn leads them to a life of crime. This can be backed up by an article in the Telegraph which showed that a third of those claiming Job Seekers Allowance had a recent criminal history. Similar evidence can be seen internationally with the US Department of Justice releasing statistics which revealed that 22.3% of female prisoners had no job prior to incarceration and of those who had a job; two thirds reported never earning more than \$6.50 an hour. This shows that those who live in poverty or unemployment are significantly more likely to end up in prison as a result of trying to achieve the wealth which they are unable to achieve due to society's structure. Furthermore, Hispanics, African Americans and Native Americans have the highest rates of poverty and similar statistics can be found regarding the American prison population. Hispanics and African Americans represented 58% of prisoners in 2008 despite only accounting for a quarter of the general US population. Thereby showing those groups who suffer high levels of poverty represent a large majority of the prison population. Similarities can be seen in Britain with geographical studies showing Jaywick, near Clacton in Essex, which was the most deprived area of 32,844 assessed has a crime rate of 76.41% compared to Hartford, one of the 10 most affluent areas in the UK, which has a crime rate of 5.3%. This shows that the link between poverty and crime can again be seen in Britain with more deprived areas suffering from significantly higher rates of crime, thus proving economic strain to be of great importance in contributing to the creation of a criminal.

Furthermore, alcohol is one of the most used and misused drugs known to man, with 37% of prisoners being inebriated at the time of their offence. Alcohol is a factor in between 50-80% of all violent attacks relating to both the consumption of alcohol of the perpetrator and the victim. Thereby showing the direct link between alcohol and crime as alcohol fuels people's criminal nature and encourages them to act irrationally. Similarities can be seen internationally with a study released by the Biomedical Journal in Santiago de Cuba in 2013 revealing that 60% of problems in the law stem from alcohol related violence. As a result of the extreme poverty in Cuba they suffer

from a negative relationship with alcohol as it is used as a cheap source of entertainment and often abused by young people who are open to peer pressure because of the society they live in. This draws a link between economic strain and alcohol as high levels of alcohol consumption can be seen in those areas with high levels of poverty, as a result of people becoming dependant on the drink in order to rid of their problems. Furthermore, alcohol has become increasingly available thereby allowing those in poverty to consume large amounts of alcohol for little to no money. Therefore alcohol and poverty are the two biggest factors in the creation of a criminal as those in poverty turn to alcohol which in turn leads to crime as alcohol provides the correct situation and circumstances for crime. During an interview with a Sheriff, who wishes to remain anonymous, he stated that he believes alcohol misuse is an issue due to 'too much cheap potent alcohol being readily available and the social context.' Thus meaning that as a result of the shift in society's attitude alcohol has become increasingly easy to obtain with the Alcohol Act 2012 revealing that you can now exceed new lower risk guidelines for alcohol (14 units per week) for less than £3. This shows that alcohol has become more and more available and as we are now more accepting people drink excessive amounts which leads them to do things they may not necessarily do when sober. Furthermore, increased alcohol consumption can be seen around the time of football games. Police Scotland releasing statistics showing the recent tie at the Old Firm match in April 2016 resulted in a 43% increase of domestic violence both prior to, during and after the match. This was as a result of the increase in alcohol consumption and heightened frustration associated with football. An IAS report revealed that 25-50% of domestic abuse cases show the perpetrator had been drinking at the time of the assault thereby again showing the relationship between alcohol and crime. Alcohol provides people with the situation and circumstances to allow a crime to be committed and due to people being intoxicated they often act irrationally as they are unable to think logically resulting in crime.

Academic strain also has an impact in the creation of criminals, with the Social Exclusion Unit revealing that prisoners often under achieve at school. Furthermore, figures released by the Prison Reform Trust in 2015 show that 46% of prisoners in England and Wales have literacy skills no higher than those of an 11 year old. Similarities can be seen internationally with 65% of inmates in Canada testing below a grade 8 level of literacy (Scottish S2 level). Thereby a connection between low literacy levels and crime can be seen with a large majority of prisoners having lower literacy skills than those expected of a young child. Albert Cohen follows the view that as a result of many working class children failing to achieve a feeling of status through educational success they develop status difficulties and feelings of guilt, shame and resentment. The solution for these feelings is to form attachments with others in similar situations e.g. through gangs. This often leads to criminal behaviour as less time is spent in school which in turn results in more time on the streets to commit crime. This can be backed up by Police Scotland figures which show that 86% of young people in police custody have previously been excluded from school compared to 2% of the wider population. Therefore showing that those who spent less time in school due to exclusion or fail to achieve success at school are more likely to commit crime in order to achieve the feelings they would gain from academic success.

However, other factors such as the nature and nurture argument also contribute to the creation of a criminal to a fair extent. The nature argument provides evidence focusing on the physical attributes and similarities in gene structure of criminals. Adrian Raine, an British theorist discusses the nature argument regarding the brain structure of criminals specifically those of a violent nature. Adrian Raine stated, 'criminals do have broken brains, the differences are substantial,' he believes that people are born as criminals and that this can be seen in the structure of their brain. In order to gather evidence Raine moved to America where he carried out a study on 41 prisoners and 41 non-prisoners which found significant deficiencies in the development of the prefrontal cortex in the prisoners brains. Prefrontal cortex deficiencies can lead to increased likelihood of several behaviours such as greater addiction risk, less control of anger and reduction in self-control. Thereby showing that those with prefrontal cortex deficiencies are more likely to commit a crime due to lacking self control. However, the American Medical Association provided evidence showing that the brain isn't fully developed until the late teens and therefore if Raine's theory was true youth crime would be significantly low. Yet British youths accounted for 16% of arrests in 2012/13, and America was significantly higher with 1 in 3 American youths being arrested by the age of 23. Therefore other factors must be of greater importance in terms of the reason behind youth crime as Adrian Raine's theory is unable to be used when discusses why those whose brains aren't fully developed commit crime. Although scientists have proven that young people are highly subjected to reward and peer pressure due to the development of their brain thus suggesting that it is because their brain isn't developed that they are easily influenced and therefore commit more crime.

However, the nurture argument discusses the environment people grow up in and what predisposes them to a life of crime. The learning theory followed by Sutherland believes that conduct is learned through coming into contact with social norms and is affected by the norms present in the association of others. Thus meaning that we follow the path of those we are surrounded by in the early years of development, through the environment we grow up in we learn what we believe to be is normal. Therefore those surrounded by violence are more likely to become of a violent nature themselves. Furthermore, Albert Bandura carried out a study in Stanford University Nursery analysing the impact watching aggressive images had on children. In order to complete his study Bandura half of the children were subjected to aggressive models and the other half non-aggressive models. The outcome of the study found that those children who witnessed aggressive behaviour reproduced the same physical and verbal aggression they had seen. Similarly during a visit to HMP Greenock I interviewed Alex Woodside, a prisoner currently serving the last year of his life sentence, who stated, 'I grew up in a way where someone hit you, you hit them back. If they're bigger you pick something up.' Thereby showing that people reproduce the same aggression and violence they are predisposed to as children with US figures revealing 68% of adult male felons to have been a victim of physical and/or sexual abuse and neglect by the age of 12. Similar figures can be seen in the UK with figures from the Violence Reduction Unit showing that 29% of a sample of the British prison population experienced abuse and a further 41% witnessed violence in the home as a child. Therefore those who have been a victim of abuse or witnesses violence as a child are increasingly more likely to be a victim of a crime. This can again be seen in a longitudinal study carried out by the Early Physical Abuse and Later Violent Delinquency which followed 574 children in the USA tracking their development from the age of 5 to 21. The study concluded that those who had been victims of physical abuse in the first five years of life were at greater risk of being arrested as juveniles. Thus

showing the impact of aggression on young people as they view this behaviour as normal and follow in the same footsteps.

Overall, there are many complex causes to crime and no sole aspect can be named the most important. Alcohol and economic strain have a connection to crime as those suffering from poverty often depend on alcohol which leads to crime due to heightened anger, frustration and irrational thoughts. Alcohol creates the situation needed for those suffering from economic strain thus creating an opportunity for them to commit crime to gain wealth thereby the relationship of alcohol and poverty are of great importance in the creation of criminals. However, other factors such as academic strain is important regarding the creation of a criminal to a moderate extent as it, like alcohol, provides the opportunity to commit crime. The nature and nurture argument are also of fair importance as the environment we grow up in contributes to who we become later in life and those trapped in the poverty cycle are thereby impacted by their upbringing.

Question 9

Covert participant observation would be an effective method for investigating crimes committed by gangs in the UK to a fair extent. Covert participant observations involve the researcher going undercover and becoming part of a gang in order to research the crime committed by such groups. This can be extremely effective in collecting such research as the researcher is a first hand witness thereby benefitting their research. However as they are a first hand witness the researcher is also at risk of becoming an associate as despite their intentions being to research the gangs crime if they become involved they are then part of the crime taking place. Although, participant observations are effective when collecting this type of information as it allows the researcher to discover information which is unrecorded by the police. This is important as a large percentage of crime which takes place goes unrecorded by the police thus limiting the effectiveness of police records and government statistics which are based on such records.

However there are many ethical issues regarding participant observations such as privacy and trust. In order for the researcher to become a part of the gang and thus carry out their research they have to gain the trust of the people thereby using their trust against them. This can be seen as unethical as those within the gang are unaware of the participants true purpose thus breaking the trust of those in the group. An example of this being when an investigation was carried out regarding several undercover officers in the Metropolitan police who took part in a participant observation of protestors. This resulted in them breaching the trust of the people they were researching and using their trust in order to become a part of their private life thus becoming an act of invasion of privacy. The investigation carried out discussed a number of ethical issues and it was deemed that the undercover officers had used their powers unethically resulting in a discussion of whether or not they should be allowed to continue working on the police force. Furthermore, issues of privacy should also be taken into account as due to the people being observed being unaware of the participant's true intentions they may disclose private or personal information which can then be used against them in a court. However as this information was taken unethically a question of whether or not the information can be used is brought about. Overall, participant observation is an effective way in collecting research on an issue such as gang crime however due to the ethics behind it many complications are drawn thereby resulting in other methods of being more effective.

Other methods such as official statistics would be a more effective method when collating research on gang crime in the UK. Official statistics collect information from the general population, ensuring there is no bias in the results. Thereby making them more useful as all groups e.g. age, gender, ethnicity are represented. However, if statistics are taken from a sample group representation must be taken into account in order to ensure that all groups are represented regarding the percentage they account for in the general population, ensuring no bias towards a certain group. When discussing the topic of gang crime it is important not to impose a bias specifically in the area of income as gang crime is more likely to take place in deprived areas. In such areas where there are high levels of poverty young people are less likely to be in school which results in more time being spent on the streets in turn leading to criminal behaviour. Therefore, if a group was made up of 70% of people from Hartford, one of the 10 most affluent areas in Britain, and 30% from Jaywick, near Clacton in Essex, the most deprived area of 32,844 assessed, those from the more affluent area take up the majority of the group. Therefore, the research will be biased towards affluent areas making it

more likely for the research to show gang crime to not be that big of an issue within the UK as gangs are less likely to commit crimes in more affluent areas.

Furthermore, official statistics can be backed up from other sources thereby ensuring their reliability. As well as allowing them to draw comparisons with not only other sources but draw comparisons across time and place. This makes official statistics a more effective method as a participant observation takes place at one time and although comparisons could be made across different areas statistics allow for comparisons to be made regarding increases and decreases in gang crime across the UK. Moreover, when researching gang crime official statistics would be a more appropriate method of research as it is a quantitative method meaning it contains factual information regarding numerical statistics which would help create an idea of how big an issue gang crime within the UK was.

However, focus groups could again be a more effective method for collating evidence on gang crime. Focus groups involve sample groups of the population, thereby again representation must be taken into account in order to ensure no bias is imposed, and the group is interviewed regarding the issue. Focus groups would allow for the public opinion to be gathered regarding the issue of gang crime in the UK and would be effective in displaying the impact gang crime has on the public. However, focus groups do not protect identity and therefore people are less likely to be honest if they are not anonymous. Also, the observer effect may come into play as people may feel compelled to give certain answers due to the presence of the researchers or even the others in the focus group thereby making the source less useful as reliability can be questioned.

Overall, covert participant observation would be effective for researching gang crime however as a result of its limitations and the ethical issues other methods such as official statistics would be more effective. Official statistics would be more effective than both participant observation and focus groups as it involved quantitative data which can be checked for reliability, representation of the population and accuracy thereby ensuring its trustworthiness. Other methods such as focus groups, too come with many limitations such as the issue of identity and the observer effect which would limit the research's reliability. Therefore, covert participant observation would be effective to a fair extent when researching gang crime in the UK however other methods such as official statistics would be more appropriate.

Question 10

Source B is trustworthy to a fair extent when researching crimes against businesses.

Source B contains different graphs and a methodology article thereby making it more useful as it contains both qualitative and quantitative information. This makes the source more useful as it has graphs and statistics to back up the information discussed in the article thereby making it more reliable. Furthermore, the graphs contained in the source are effective in drawing comparisons between 2012 and 2014. This makes the source more useful as it allows comparisons to be drawn over time revealing a slight decrease in the number of crimes committed against businesses.

The wholesale and retail graph shows that the number of shop liftings have decreased from 10,445 in 2012 to 6,695 in 2014 thus making the source more useful as it reveals that there has been a decrease. However not only does the source reveal comparisons over time but it also conveys information regarding both the different types of crime committed against businesses and the different types of businesses. The source conveys charts on the wholesale and retail sector, accommodation and food and agricultural, forestry and fishery. This again makes the source more useful as it allows comparisons to be drawn regarding what sectors experience high rates of crime. The source indicates that the highest level of crime reached for agricultural, forestry and fishery was 1,475 in 2012 compared to the wholesale and retail which had the highest rates of crime out of the three sectors in the same year with 19,701 crimes.

However despite the source being effective in drawing comparisons the dates start in 2012 thereby the source contains up to date information. This is useful to a fair extent as there is no significant time gap between the crime committed and the source being written thereby information cannot be lost over time. Although as the source contains so many cross comparisons the recent date makes the source less useful. If the source contained information from years prior to 2012, better comparisons could be drawn and charts could reveal a cycle of increases and decreases in crime against businesses which is often what happens. Despite this the source states, 'Prior to this the survey was run on 1994 and 2002,' thereby revealing that the surveys were run prior to 2012 however as they were run in a different way the same comparisons could not be made as statistics were not gathered from the same businesses or areas thereby creating inaccuracies in the data.

Furthermore, the source states, 'CVs is a telephone survey,' thus making the source more useful as it is anonymous and people are more likely to be honest. Police records of crime are often unreliable as they depend on the public reporting crime and many people fear reporting crime thereby limiting the usefulness of police records. However as this is an anonymous way of collecting data it is more likely to be accurate. Although this could increase levels of crime against businesses as due to police records only recording crime reported there may be a difference in the number recorded by CVs and the police. Therefore, if the source contained police statistics in order to show the difference, if there is one, in the number recorded by CVs and the police the source could be more useful in the research of crimes against businesses.

Moreover, the source states, 'there was an adequate number of interviews for analysis of different sized businesses within each sector.' This makes the source more useful as the source has ensured representation of all businesses. The source has included the 3 sectors of business as well as ensuring an accurate sample of businesses sizes as small businesses are more likely to be a victim of

shop lifting whereas bigger businesses may be victims of fraud or theft. However the source states, 'the survey achieved a response rate of 54%,' therefore limiting the usefulness of the source as only half of the businesses in the sample group responded. As we are unable to know what businesses didn't respond the source could be biased towards one sector and therefore not document crime rates correctly or could be unrepresentative of businesses e.g. smaller businesses.

Overall the source is fairly useful. The source documents comparisons across both time and business thereby making it more effective in providing evidence on crime on businesses. However it does have several limitations such as the time gap between years not allowing for a significant change and a failure to ensure representation of all businesses. The source would be more useful if it contained international comparisons in order to help show the scale of crimes against businesses. International comparisons would be effective in displaying whether crime against business in the UK is a big issue or not. Therefore, the source is useful to a fair extent however several aspects limit its trustworthiness.