



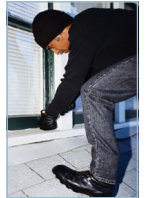
Crime Against Business

Client: **British Chambers of Commerce (BCC)**
Scope of services: **Quantitative postal and web survey**
Location: **UK WIDE**



Challenge

Crime against business has always been a major problem for the business community and contrary to popular belief, it is not a 'victimless' crime. The cost implications can be considerable; business crime not only has direct cost implications in terms of physical damage to property or the theft of stock and equipment, but it can also have very damaging indirect costs in the form of higher insurance premiums and/or disruption to trading activity. The impact of crime can be devastating, affecting the bottom line and ultimately acting as a barrier to business growth.



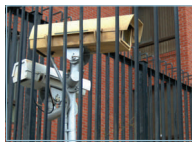
It is therefore imperative that the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) keeps abreast of the extent and nature of crime against business and does everything it can to help its members and influence government and policy makers in this respect.

Research

Research by Design Ltd was commissioned to undertake a national survey with business members across the Accredited Chamber Network. It looked at measuring the extent, nature and impact of crime experienced by businesses and the extent to which they report crimes committed against them to the police. Further, the survey sought to understand the prevalence and nature of computer related and e-crimes and the steps that businesses have taken to prevent them.



The survey was implemented via the Chambers of Commerce accredited to the BCC. 46 Chambers supported the survey, and over 2,700 completed questionnaires were received from their member businesses.



Mixed methodologies were used to maximise response rates yet ensure the survey was executed as cost effectively as possible. It was designed as a four-page booklet questionnaire, enabling it to be posted out to members, and as an online survey, giving Chambers the flexibility to promote and encourage participation within their regular email communication.

Outcome

The findings of the survey have been used by the Regional Business Crime Reduction Advisers to inform their work on assessing business crime priorities for the regions, with a view to placing these on the agendas of local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.

Additionally, the Home Office is now actively investigating the recording of crime against business as a separate statistic, a policy that was called for on the back of the survey. Pilot schemes in South Wales and Greater Manchester are currently being run by the police. The BCC is pushing for the scheme to be rolled out nationally, requiring all police forces to record crime against business separately, providing a more accurate picture of the problem regionally and, moreover, forcing them to devote sufficient resources towards tackling the issue.

A further outcome of the study and subsequent Home Office lobbying is the seat that the BCC has secured on the Board of the Action against Business Crime Group (AABC), which aims to roll out business crime partnerships across England and Wales. The BCC's membership of the group and the wider involvement of the Chamber network are vital in order to ensure that the partnerships reach businesses of all sectors of the economy.



[Click here](#) to read the BCC press release and [here](#) to access the full report.