

What Police Actually Do

Criminal Justice

The real demand profile, which looks little like the crime-fighting image.

Most police time goes on order maintenance, welfare and vulnerability rather than crime investigation.

FREQUENT CALL TYPES

Welfare · disorder · traffic · missing

DETECTION RATE

Varies hugely by offence type

- A large share of calls involve no criminal offence
- Mental health and missing persons take real time
- Only a minority of recorded crime is detected
- Patrol is mostly available time, not incident time
- The role widened as other services contracted

LOOK FOR IT

Domestic abuse calls are among the largest single categories of demand.

Educational reference. Demand profiles differ by force and country; any figure quoted should name its source.