

### AC1.3 Explain the consequences of unreported crime

Impact	Explanation of the consequences – Is this positive or negative	Relevant Example
<b>NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES</b>		
<b>The Ripple Effect</b>	Is a <b>NEGATIVE</b> consequence as is based on the idea of a pebble being dropped into a pond, creating ripples that spread out across the pond's surface. In the case of crime, this means that an unreported crime (the 'pebble') may affect not just the immediate or primary victim, but will spread across a whole community or society (the 'ripple') to affect secondary victims.	For example, domestic abuse may become normalised for the children who have witnessed it and they may become abusers themselves. Similarly, the victim of a street robbery may become too scared to venture out on their own and eventually become house bound.
<b>Cultural Consequences</b>	Cultural differences mean that some cultures within Britain have different norms, values and beliefs. This means that some members of that culture will ignore the law, believing their criminal actions are justified by their belief. Other members of the community may agree that the action is justified, and thus not report it. This can lead to a cycle of crime being committed within the community; This is another <b>NEGATIVE</b> consequence.	Examples of this include the crimes of Female Genital Mutilation, forced marriage. FGM is very rarely reported in the UK, in fact only one person has ever been prosecuted but we know it is a significant problem in some communities, particularly some from East Africa and parts of the Arab world. Similarly prosecutions for forced marriage are very rare but its existence in some parts of some Asian communities is generally accepted as a real phenomenon.
<b>Unrecorded Crime</b>	Another <b>NEGATIVE</b> consequence is unrecorded crime; this involves crimes that are reported to the police but are not recorded by them as offences. This means an investigation into the alleged crime is unlikely to happen and the offender will not be punished, or other crimes prevented.	One consequence is the DARK figure of crime – that is a reference to the fact that we can never know the true level of crime, we only ever see the tip of the iceberg. The real level of crime is the RECORDED LEVEL of CRIME + the DARK FIGURE of CRIME. One crime which is frequently unrecorded is domestic abuse – Police officers sometimes fail to record it as an actual crime and log it (put in on the system) as a domestic incident.
<b>Cultural change:</b>	The 'Broken Windows' theory suggests that when we allow an area to become rundown (broken windows, graffiti and so on), the area itself can act as a magnet for more criminal behaviour. The argument goes that broken windows attract drug users and dealers, pimps and sex workers and eventually, robbers, murders and rapists.; again this is a <b>NEGATIVE</b> consequence.	In New York, the broken windows theory was implemented in the 1990s under Mayor Giuliani and Police Commissioner Bratton, focusing on cracking down on minor offenses to prevent major crimes. While it was credited with helping reduce crime, critics argued it led to over-policing and racial profiling, particularly in Black and Latino communities. Although crime rates dropped, other factors like economic recovery also played a role. Recently, New York has shifted away from strict broken windows policing toward community-based approaches, and the theory's impact remains debated.
<b>Police Prioritisation</b>	Police forces prioritise crimes based on reported statistics, to try and ensure that issues in a given local area are addressed. However, this means crimes which go unreported can remain low on a police force's list of priorities. This is a <b>NEGATIVE</b> consequence of non-reporting of crime.	This is true of white-collar crime. The public is generally unconcerned about crimes such as Tax Evasion when compared to crimes such as robbery, murder, rape, burglary and so on. 'Serious' crimes such as murder represent a more direct and immediate threat than some white-collar crime and appear the public does not want the police to prioritise these crimes.

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POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES		
<b>Procedural Change</b>	This is a <b>POSITIVE</b> consequence of the non-reporting of crime. This happens when the police are concerned with severe under-reporting of a certain crime, they may adapt their procedures to encourage victims to come forward. The process of reporting many crimes has changed in recent years and become much simpler with online reporting and even apps dedicated to this purpose.	Generally reporting of crime has got easier, nowadays there are dedicated helplines for all sorts of crimes including hate crime ; fraud and general crime (crime stoppers). One important development was the introduction of CHILDLINE – this grew from a freephone number to an organisation dedicated to stopping child abuse in all it's form.
<b>Decriminalisation</b>	Decriminalisation is when policies or laws are adapted so that an action is no longer treated as a criminal offence. This happens when the action becomes normalised within society, and people do not see it as a crime and thus don't report it. The police or government then adapt to the normalisation of the action as the law cannot be enforced. This is generally regarded as a <b>POSITIVE</b> consequence of non-reporting.	Examples of decriminalisation include the moral crimes of abortion, homosexuality, gambling, prostitution and drug use. All of these crimes have generally gone through a process where the police and prosecuting authorities turn a 'blind eye' to them.
<b>Legal Change</b>	Another <b>POSITIVE</b> consequence. Legal change is similar to decriminalisation, and can be seen as the endpoint of a process. The key difference is that rather than an action being made non-criminal, it is made fully legal and not just decriminalised.	An example is same sex relationships in England and Wales. A change in the law in 1967 meant same relationships were allowed for the first time. In 2001, the Age of consent was equalised with heterosexual people and in 2004 The Civil Partnership Act 2004 was introduced, this which eventually led to the Marriage Act for Same Sex Couples in 2004.