

DETECTIVES IN CRISIS

Findings from the Police Federation's [Demand, Capacity and Welfare Survey 2020](#), have provided us with some insight into how detectives are feeling about their jobs.

All respondents from these data sets indicated being a detective.*

STRESS OF THE JOB



37% rated their job as 'Very' or 'Extremely' stressful.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING



78% had experienced feelings of stress, low mood, anxiety, or other difficulties with their mental health and wellbeing over the last 12 months.

FATIGUE LEVELS



54% agreed with 'I have found it difficult to carry out certain duties and responsibilities at work because I have been too fatigued'.

MORALE LEVELS



34% reported having low morale, a slightly smaller proportion than those reporting that they were not a detective (37%).

EXPOSURE TO POTENTIAL TRAUMA



95% said that they had 'attended to the victim(s) of serious sexual assault' at least once in the line of duty; five percentage points higher than those indicated not being a detective (90%).



96% said that they had 'seen the body of a person who has died, a violent or unnatural death, including accident, suicide or homicide' at least once in the line of duty; four percentage points higher than those indicated not being a detective.



62% said that they had to 'view large volumes of child sexual abuse imagery' at least once in the line of duty; over 40 percentage points higher than those that indicated not being a detective (19%).

"I still love my job, but find it harder and harder to deal with, purely because of poor staffing levels."

- Detective Constable, 18 years' service

"The nature of the offences I deal with has never been an issue. My inability to investigate them properly, due to administrative red tape, poor and unlawful decision made at rank and shocking IT is the sole cause of stress, and it is overwhelming."

- Detective Constable, 13 years' service

"There is a huge shortage of detectives/investigators which the 'job' seem to be doing very little about. This in turn results in officers working with a high workload, which then causes health issues."

- Detective Constable, 25 years' service

"It is a great job, I love being part of the policing family, but we need more officers, the right support to retain experienced officers and recognition in both the media and the criminal justice system for the incredible risk to officers on the front line, and others, are exposed to every day."

- Detective Constable, 24 years' service

"For me, it's all about detectives' workload. Being expected to manage the impossible is incredibly fatiguing. You have to choose what you can do and try to disregard what you can't. In my field, this is stressful as it's all important work. If you cared about everything, you just physically cannot compete - you would have a breakdown."

- Detective Constable, 20 years' service