

## Tekst 5

### Fear itself

**The police are supposed to reduce fear of crime as well as crime. That's hard when there's little relationship between the two**

1 THE release of the national crime  
statistics this week brought mixed  
news to those in the law-and-order  
business. Contrary to reports in the  
5 national newspapers, the actual  
number of crimes committed has  
fallen by around 2%; an apparent  
increase is explained by new  
recording practices. But there was bad  
10 news, too. Thanks in part to the  
aforementioned newspaper reports,  
fear of crime is on the rise.

2 According to the British Crime  
Survey, 38% of people believe that  
15 crime has risen "a lot" in the past two  
years – up from 25% for those  
surveyed two years ago. A further  
third of the population reckons crime  
has gone up a little, while only 4%  
20 take the optimistic (and accurate)  
view that it has fallen. The number of  
people who worry about walking the  
streets at night and perceive their  
neighbourhoods to be disordered is  
25 also up.

3 For a government that concerns  
itself as much with perception as with  
reality, this is a problem; and the  
government has made it a problem for  
30 the police. Police forces have to keep  
track of fear levels and think up ways  
of calming people down. In the  
coming year, watch for a lot more  
bobbies on the beat.

4 35 All this will be of little use. Fear of  
crime is a serious matter – when  
keenly felt, it can prevent people from  
living productive and fulfilling lives.  
It is, however, hard for police to do  
40 much about it. Ask people their

feelings about crime, and you will  
dredge up a mess of concerns about  
things like society falling apart, sexual  
permissiveness, immigration and  
45 racial mixing. As Elizabeth Stanko,  
professor of criminology at Royal  
Holloway College, London, says, "fear  
of crime is like a sponge: it absorbs all  
kinds of social anxieties."

5 50 A further problem with targeting  
people's fears is that they scarcely  
bear a relation to patterns of crime.  
This year's figures show that 16% of  
women over 60 think they are likely to  
55 be mugged – a fate that actually  
befalls fewer than one in two  
hundred. Meanwhile young men, who  
are victimised at more than three  
times the national rate, are unusually  
60 unbothered. So allocating police  
resources to people who are afraid  
may mean taking them away from  
people who are really likely to be  
victims.

6 65 What's more, gathering  
information about fear may generate  
more of the stuff. Stephen Farrall, a  
Keel University criminologist who has  
surveyed Glaswegians, says that one  
70 man, who had reported very low  
levels of anxiety, rang a few weeks  
later to report that he had thought  
about nothing else in the intervening  
period. Mr Farrall has persuaded the  
75 Home Office to start surveys by  
asking people about how many times  
they actually experienced fear in the  
past year. Under this line of  
interrogation, levels of fear fall by

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80 around half – by more among the over-60s.

7 Given the intangible and messy nature of crime fears, it hardly seems reasonable to expect the police to  
85 relieve them. To try to do so may even turn out to be counter-productive. After all, much the easiest way to reduce fear of crime is not to cut crime itself, but to convince people that bad  
90 things are unlikely to happen to them. At first glance, that sounds reasonable; but it risks turning the police into public relations officers and lowering people's natural  
95 defences against crime.

*The Economist*

## ■ Tekst 5 Fear itself

- “But there was bad news, too.” (regels 9-10)
- 1p 18  Wat was dan het *goede* nieuws?
- 1p 19 ■ Which of the following phrases is paragraph 2 meant to illustrate?
- A “mixed news” (lines 2-3)
  - B “the actual number of crimes committed has fallen” (lines 5-7)
  - C “fear of crime is on the rise” (line 12)
- 1p 20 ■ What is the main point made in paragraph 3?
- A The government is more worried about its image than about fighting crime.
  - B The government is very serious in its efforts to bring down crime rates.
  - C The police and the government do not agree on how to prevent crime.
  - D The police have been given the task of tackling public anxiety about crime.
- “All this will be of little use.” (line 35)
- 1p 21 ■ Why is that, according to paragraph 4?
- Because fear of crime
- A has been ignored by the authorities for too long.
  - B is often based on negative personal experiences that cannot be undone.
  - C is often caused by worries about developments in society.
  - D will only go down if crime levels go down.
- 1p 22 ■ What is the information in the sentences “This year’s ... unusually unbothered.” (lines 53-60) meant to illustrate?
- A Many people misjudge the risk they run of becoming crime victims.
  - B Older people are more likely to become victims of crime than younger people.
  - C The official statistics on crime are not in accordance with the facts.
  - D The police tend to give some groups of people more protection than others.
- 1p 23 ■ Which of the following is true according to paragraph 6?
- A Levels of fear are higher in one part of the country than in another.
  - B Statistics about levels of fear are influenced by the way the data are collected.
  - C Stephen Farrall is the first scientist who has conducted research into levels of fear.
  - D University research shows that levels of fear have been going down lately.
- 1p 24 ■ How can the last paragraph be characterised?
- A It expresses a view.
  - B It offers solutions.
  - C It urges the police to take action.
  - D It warns the public.
- In het artikel *Fear itself* zijn de volgende drie tekstgedeelten te onderscheiden:
- 1 inleiding
  - 2 bezwaren
  - 3 conclusie
- 1p 25  Wat is de laatste alinea van het tekstgedeelte waarin de schrijver de bezwaren uitwerkt? Noteer het nummer van deze alinea.