



Public attitudes towards violent crime in London

July 2021

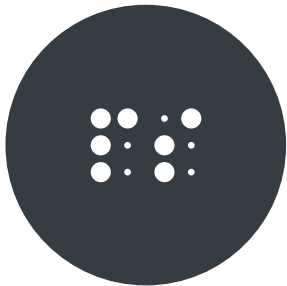
Methodology



This survey was carried out by YouGov for the GLA between 23rd –28th July 2021, with a response of 1,123 London residents aged 18+.



Some figures have been compared against a previous survey carried out by YouGov for the GLA between 30th July – 2nd August 2018, with a response of 1,191 London residents aged 18+.



The figures have been weighted to be representative of all London adults.



Respondents completed the surveys online from an email link.

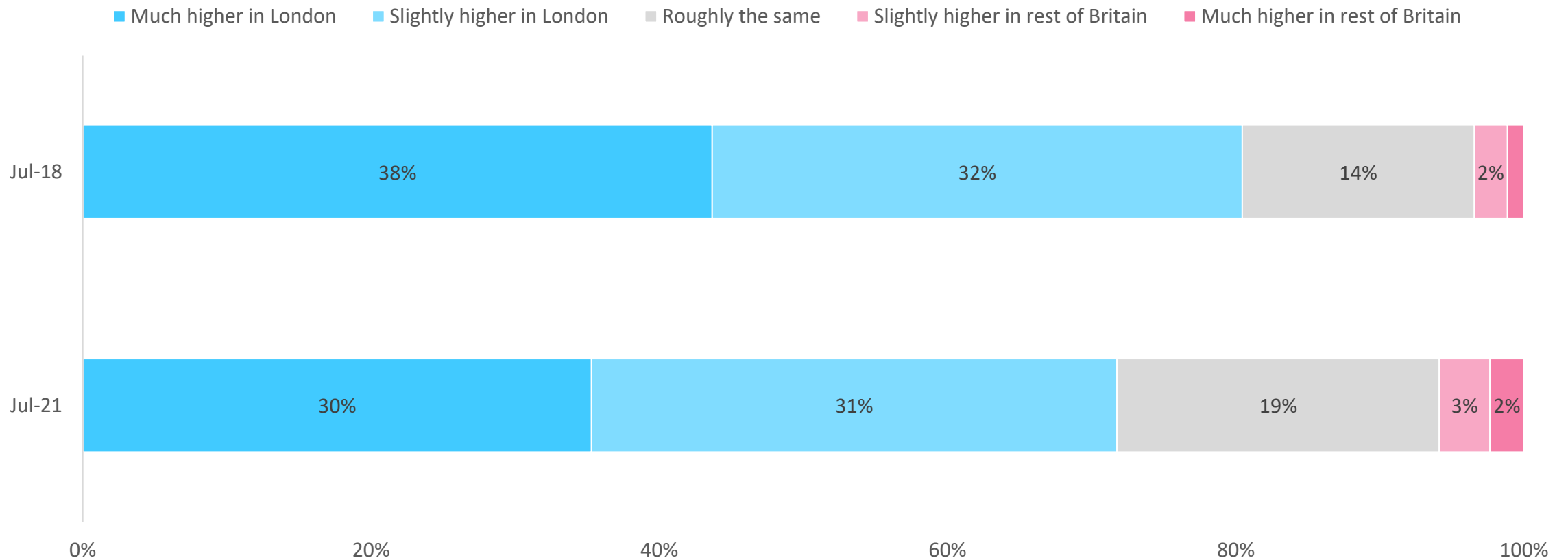
Headlines

- The majority of Londoners continue to think that violent crime is higher in London than the rest of Britain, though at a reduced proportion than in 2018 (-9pp to 61%).
- Londoners are now considerably more likely to attribute violent crime levels in London to decreased funding for preventative services (+9pp to 31%), where previously they were most likely to say a reduction in police numbers (-11pp to 16%).
- Londoner's perceived cause of violent crime mirrors their perceived reasons for violent crime, with a considerable move away from attributing it to decreased police numbers (-14pp to 21%) and instead a move towards blaming decreased funding for preventative services (+16pp to 43%).
- 2021 versus 2018 sees a small decrease in the proportion of Londoners holding the Mayor of London responsible for tackling violent crime (from 23% down to 20%), a large decrease in the proportion seeing the National Government (42% to 30%) responsible and an increase in those seeing the Met Commissioner / Met Police most responsible (14% to 36%).
- Londoners highest ranked policies in terms of effectiveness are largely preventative measures (in-line with 2018 polling); activities to divert young people away from crime (69%) and support to divert Londoners from gang activity and into employment, education or training (68%).
- Liberal Londoners top three measures remain “support to move away from gang activity”, “more activities to divert young people”, “police working more in partnership” whereas Authoritarian Londoners top two remain the same (“increased use of stop and search” and “more knife arches”), but a “Met Police taskforce” and “support to move away from gang activity” are now equal third.

The majority of Londoners continue to think that violent crime is higher in London than the rest of Britain, though at a reduced proportion than in 2018 (-9pp to 61%).

In turn, an increased amount of Londoners now feel that violent crime is roughly the same in both areas (+6pp to 19%).

Perceived violent crime levels in London compared to the rest of Britain

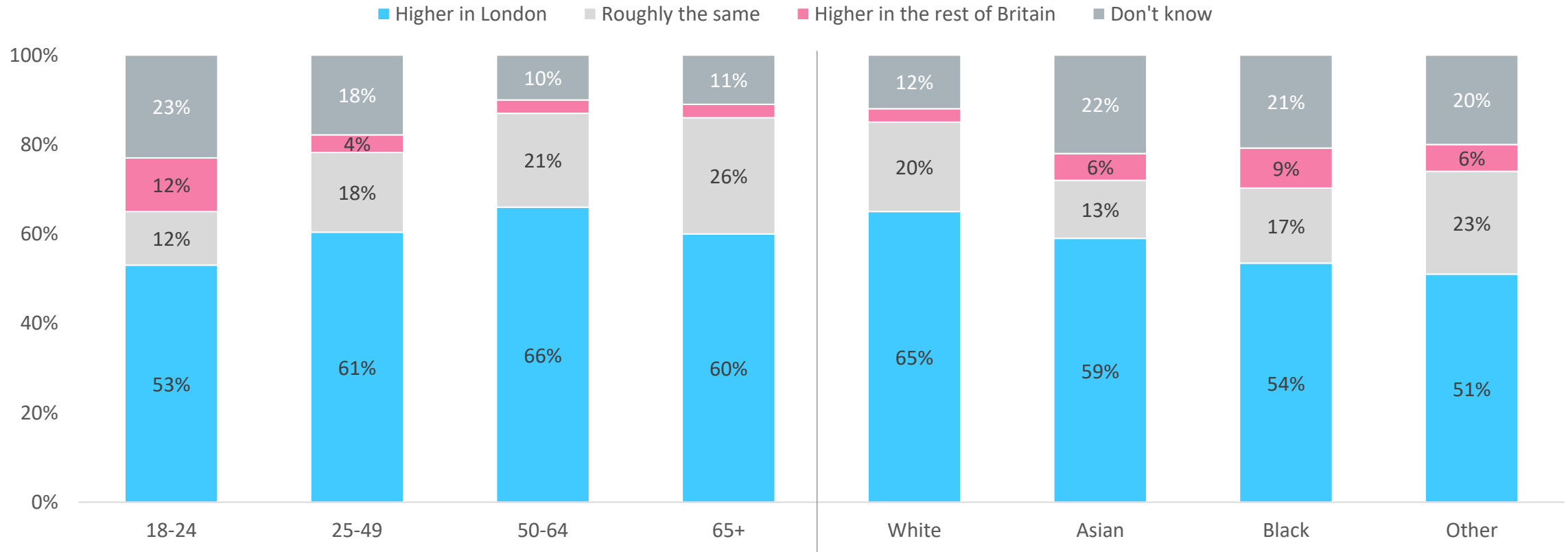


Question: Which of the following comes closest to your view? For this question think specifically about violent crime, where the offender uses or threatens to use force upon a victim.

Reflective of sentiment seen in 2018, the older a Londoner is the more likely they are to say that crime is higher in London (peaking in the 50 – 64 age group). U25's are particularly more likely to say that it is higher in the rest of Britain (-2pp to 10%), or to simply say that they don't know (+6pp to 23%).

All minority ethnic groups are 3-6pp more likely to say that it is higher in the rest of Britain, and are also 8-10pp more likely to say that they don't know.

Perceived violent crime levels in London compared to the rest of Britain: age and ethnicity

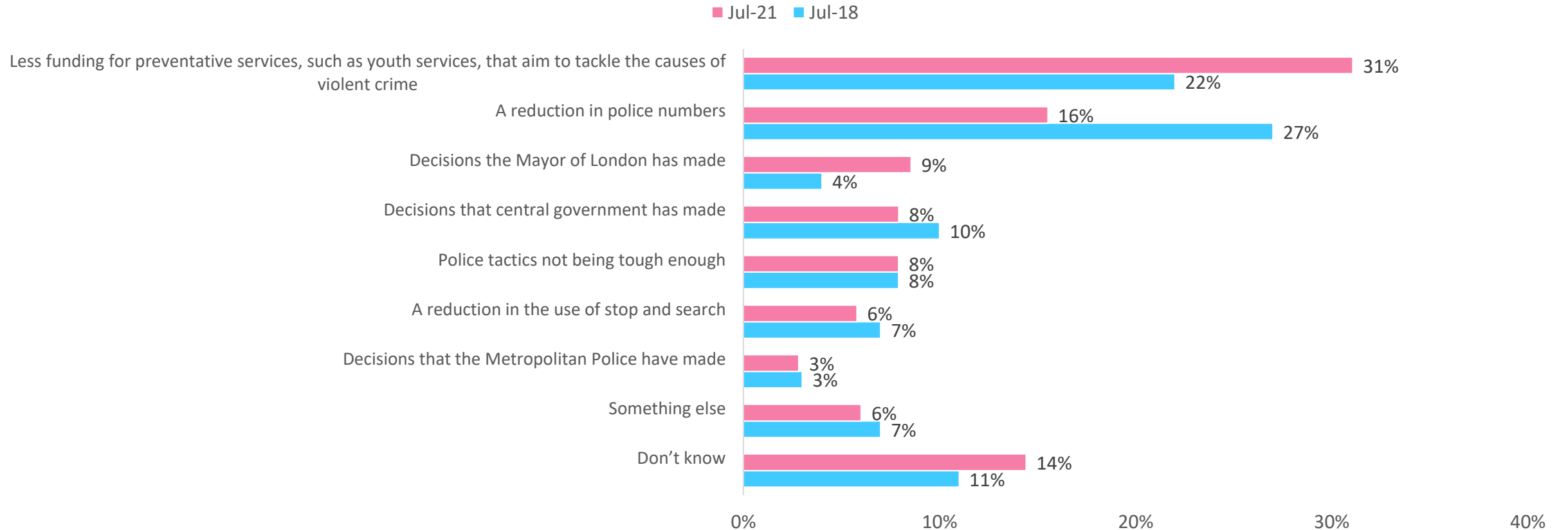


Question: Which of the following comes closest to your view? For this question think specifically about violent crime, where the offender uses or threatens to use force upon a victim.

Londoners are now considerably more likely to attribute violent crime levels in London to decreased funding for preventative services (+9pp to 31%), where previously they were most likely to say a reduction in police numbers (-11pp to 16%).

Londoners are now also more likely to see the MoL's decisions as the biggest reason (+5pp to 9%) than they were in 2018.

Biggest reason for violent crime in London



Question: Which of the following, if any, do you think is the biggest reason for violent crime in London?

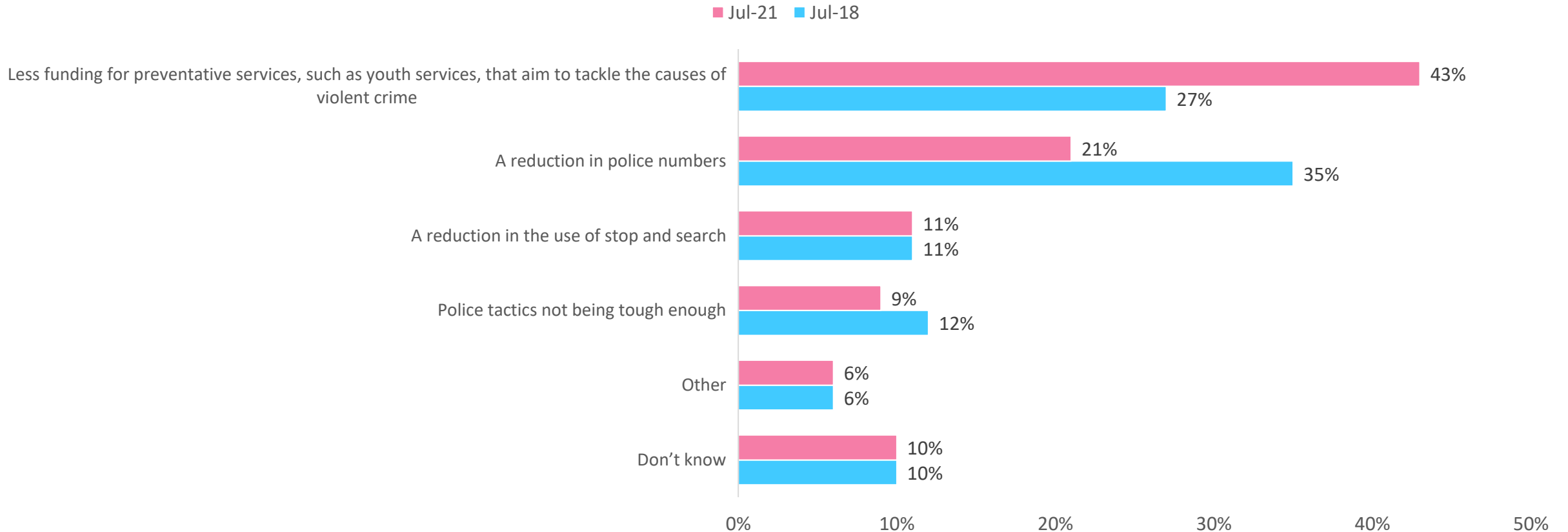
Demographic analysis

- The older a Londoner is the more likely they are to blame reduction in police measures; particularly police numbers. In turn, the younger a Londoner is the more likely they are to blame decreased funding in preventative services.
- White and Asian Londoners are more likely to say that decreased police numbers are the biggest reason, where black and mixed Londoners are more likely to say decreased funding in preventative services.
- Inner Londoners are significantly more likely to say decreased funding for preventative services than outer Londoners (40% vs 27%). Outer Londoners are more likely to attribute crime levels to the reduction of police measures: both reduced police numbers (18% vs 11%) and reduced stop and search (7% vs 4%).
- Females are more likely to say that decreased funding for preventative services are the biggest reason (35% compared to 27% of males), whilst males are more likely to blame the Mayor (11% compared to 7% of females).
- Higher social grades are more likely to say decreased funding for preventative services than lower social grades (37% of ABC1 vs 22% of C2DE) are the biggest reason for violent crime in London.

Londoner's perceived cause of violent crime mirrors their perceived reasons for violent crime, with a considerable move away from attributing it to decreased police numbers (-14pp to 21%) and instead a move towards blaming decreased funding for preventative services (+16pp to 43%).

This is roughly the same for each demographic group.

Biggest cause of violent crime in London

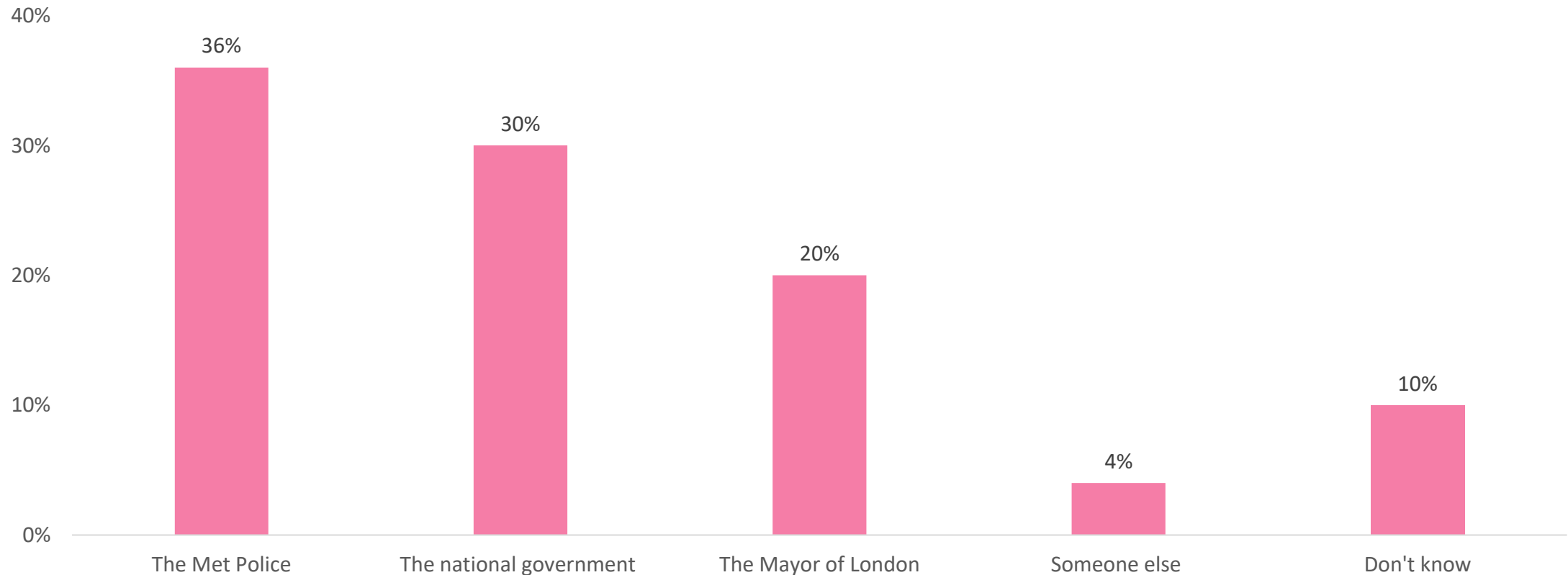


Question: Which of the following, if any, do you think is the biggest reason for violent crime in London?

Londoners are most likely to say that the Met Police are most responsible for tackling violent crime (36%), somewhat closely followed by national government (30%).

They are least likely to hold the Mayor of London responsible (20%),

Most responsible for tackling the rise in violent crime in London

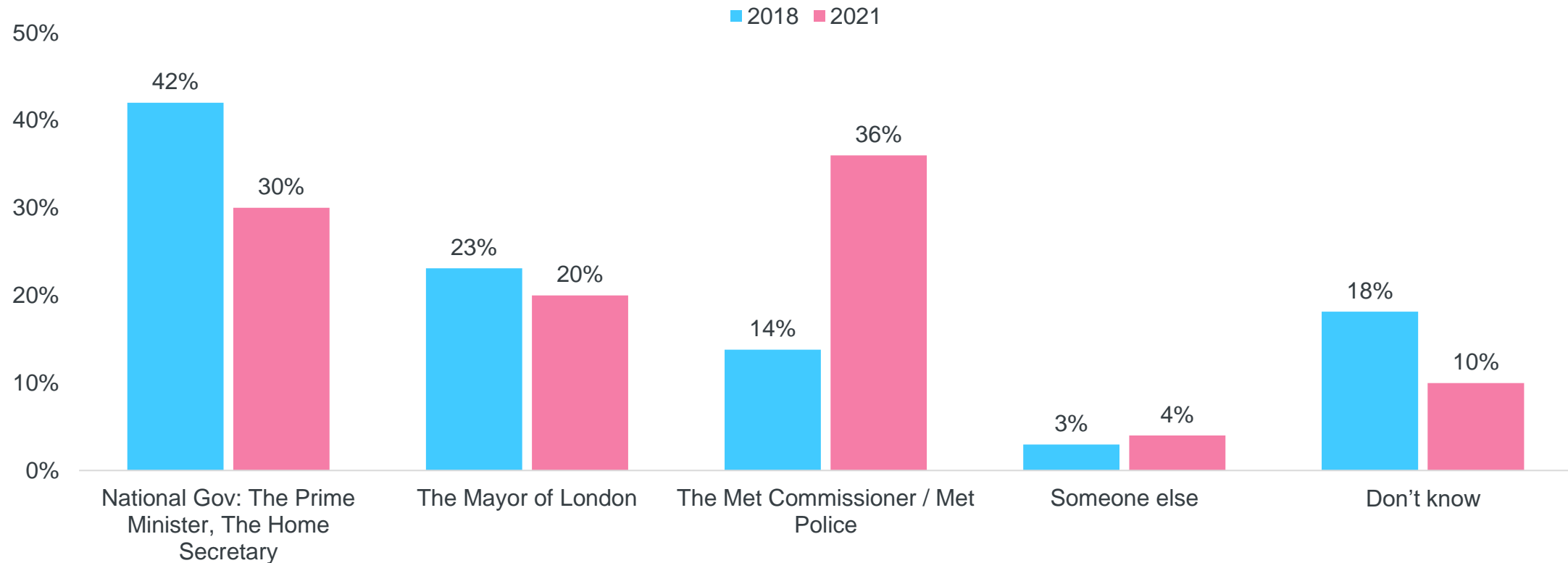


Question: Who do you think is MOST responsible for tackling violent crime in London?

2021 versus 2018 sees a small decrease in the proportion of Londoners holding the Mayor of London responsible for tackling violent crime.

The biggest transition has been away from seeing the national government as most responsible for tackling violent crime to seeing the Met Police responsible.

Most responsible for tackling violent crime



Question: Who do you think is MOST responsible for tackling violent crime in London?

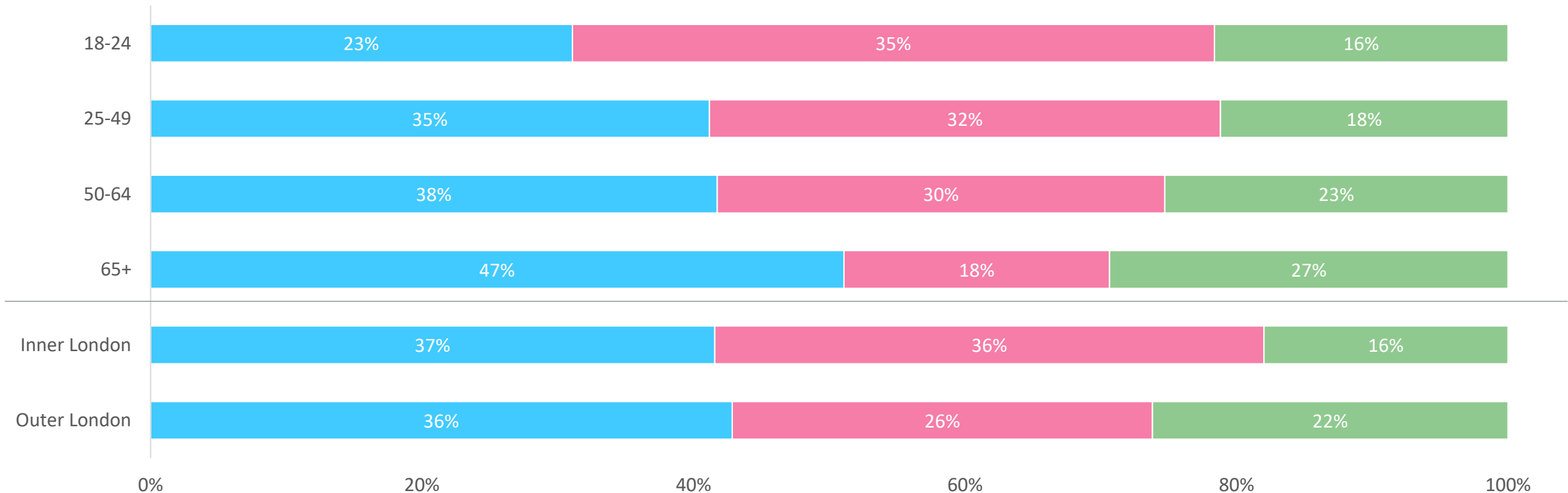
Note: Response options differed in 2021 versus 2018

The older a Londoner is the more likely they are to hold the Met Police responsible, as well as the MoL - albeit to a lesser extent. In turn, younger Londoners are more likely to hold the national government responsible.

Inner Londoners are more likely to hold the national government responsible whilst outer Londoners are more likely to hold the MoL responsible.

Most responsible for tackling the rise in violent crime in London: age and inner / outer split

■ The Met Police ■ The national government ■ The Mayor of London



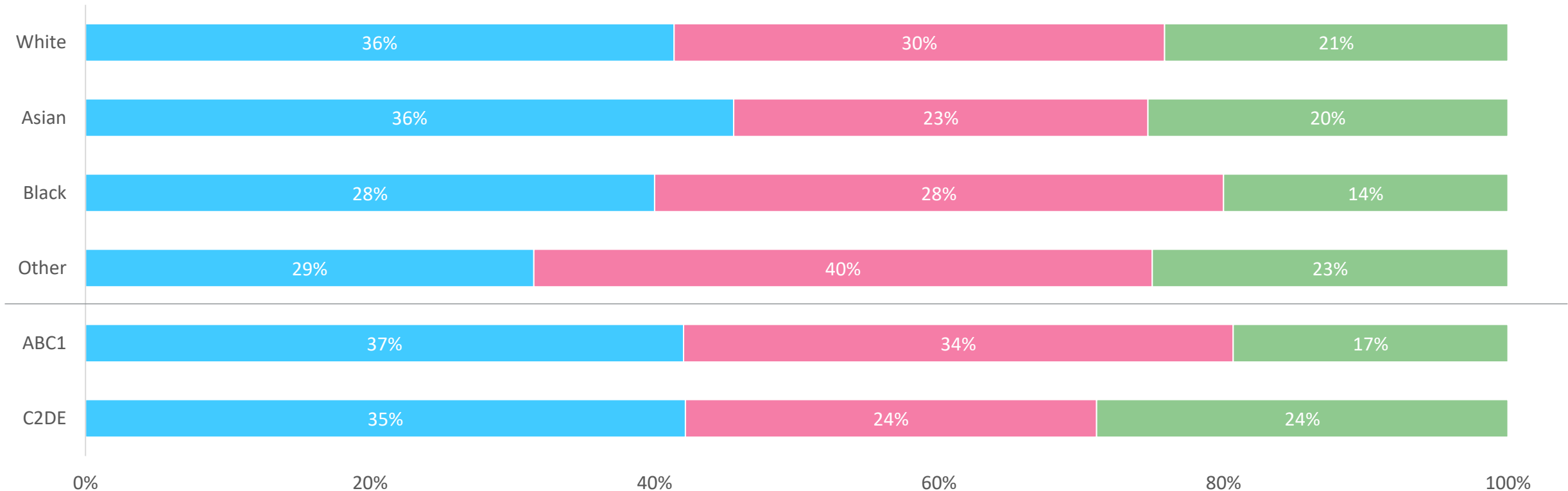
Question: Who do you think is MOST responsible for tackling violent crime in London?

White and Asian Londoners are more likely to hold the Met Police responsible than other ethnic groups. Mixed and other ethnicity Londoners are particularly likely to say the national government.

Opinion of ABC1 Londoners roughly resemble that of inner Londoners, with increased accountability towards national government, whilst their counterparts are more likely to hold MoL responsible.

Most responsible for tackling the rise in violent crime in London: ethnicity and social grade

■ The Met Police ■ The national government ■ The Mayor of London

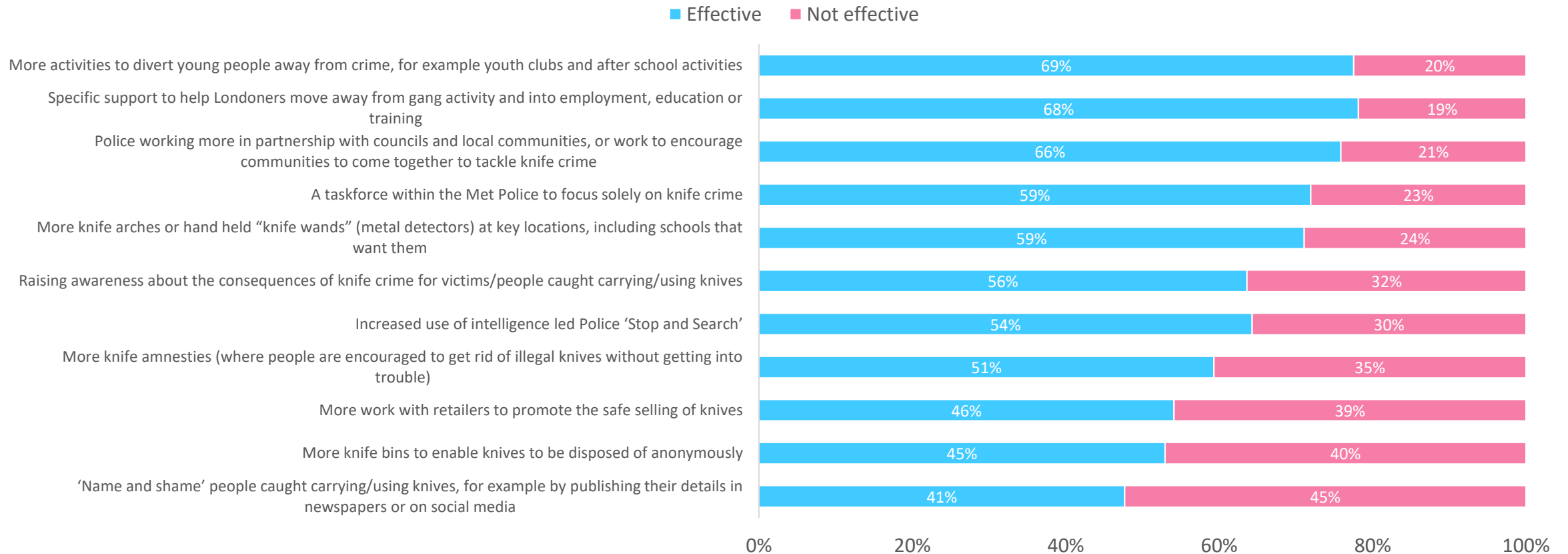


Question: Who do you think is MOST responsible for tackling violent crime in London?

Londoners highest ranked policies in terms of effectiveness are largely preventative measures; activities to divert young people away from crime (69%) and support to divert Londoners from gang activity and into employment, education or training (68%). Police working with local communities / council (66%) and a knife crime task force (59%) are also seen effective.

The only policy that is ranked as overall ineffective is 'name and shame' (45%).

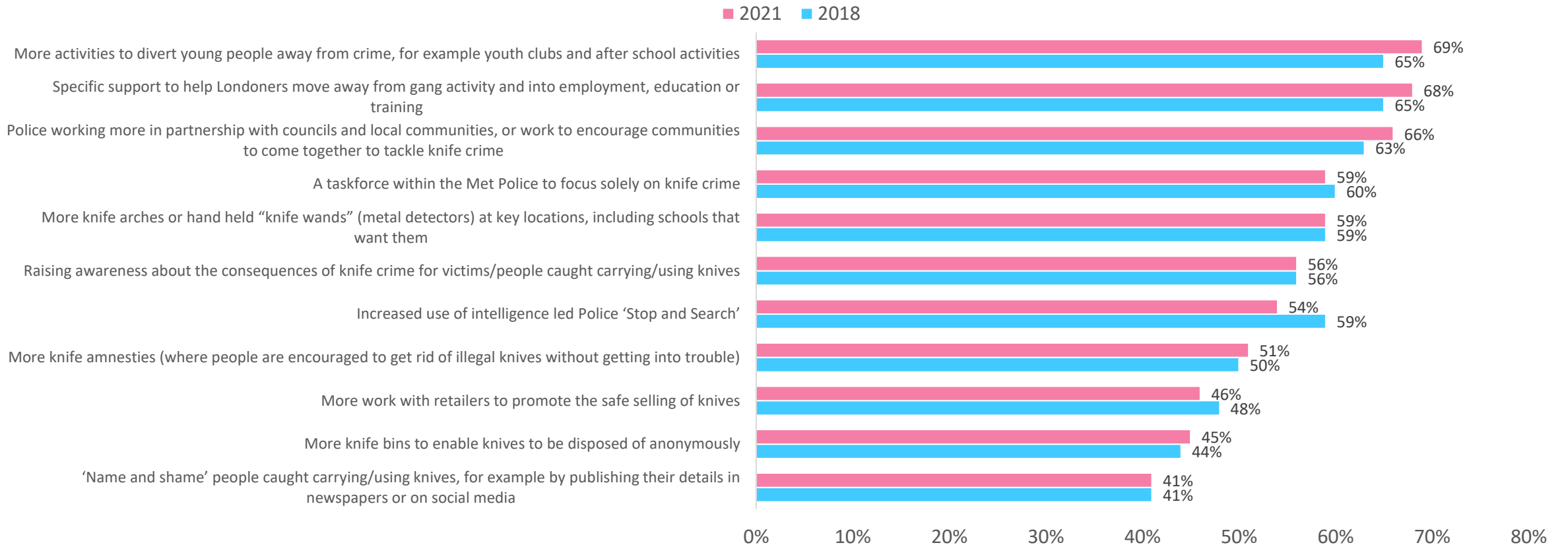
Effectiveness of knife crime policies



Question: How effective or ineffective do you think the following policies are for reducing knife crime in London?

Ranking of policies is very much in line with 2018 polling; the only notable change is a decrease in perceived efficacy of 'stop and search' (-5pp to 54%).

Effectiveness of knife crime policies



Question: How effective or ineffective do you think the following policies are for reducing knife crime in London?

Demographic analysis

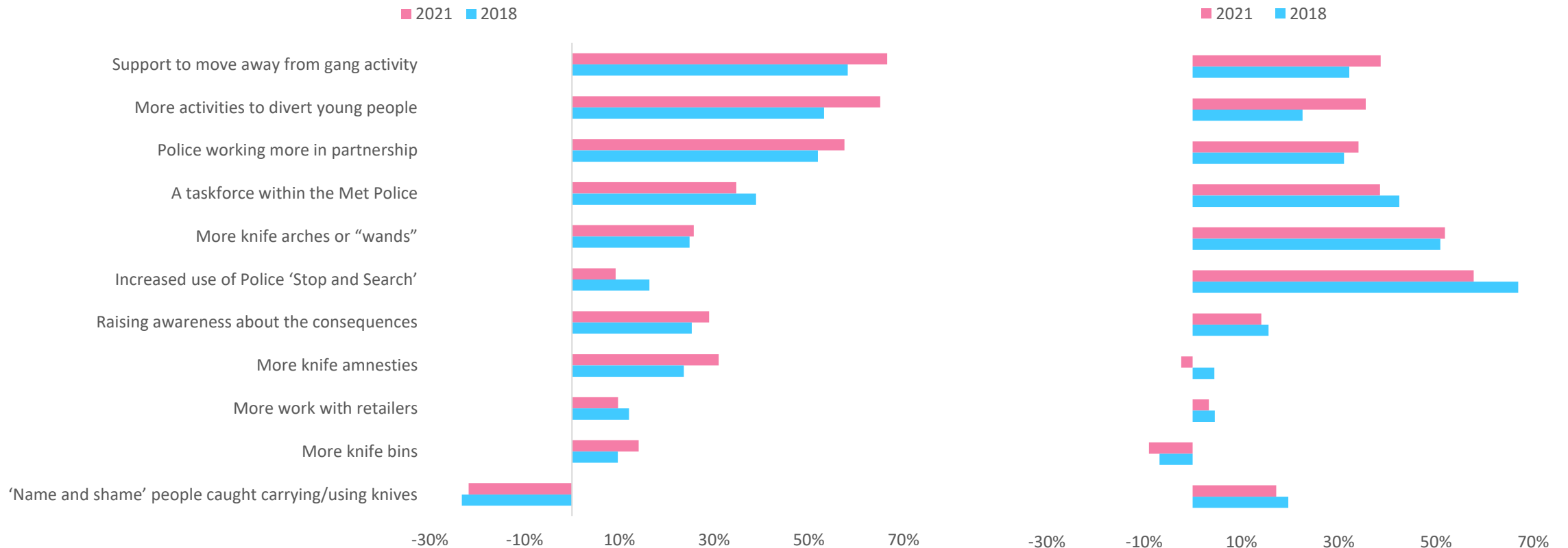
- Older Londoners are more likely to support “increased use of stop and search”, “activities to divert young people away from crime”, a “Met Police taskforce to focus on knife crime”, knife bins and “name and shame” as effective ways to tackle knife crime. 18-24 year olds are more likely to consider use of “stop and search”, and knife bins to be ineffective.
- ABC1 and Inner Londoners are more likely to consider support to move away from gang activity, youth activities and working with local councils and communities as effective policies for reducing knife crime. ABC1 Londoners are also likely to consider knife bins effective whereas Inner Londoners are more likely to support a policy of working with retailers.
- Females are more likely to consider knife bins and working with retailers as policies effective at reducing knife crime whereas males are more likely to support increased use of “stop and search” and the use of “name and shame”
- Asian Londoners are particularly likely to support the use of knife arches or wands, knife amnesties, “name and shame” and working with retailers. Black and Other Minority ethnicity Londoners are more likely to support the use of knife bins and the police working in partnership with local communities. Black Londoners also support the use of knife amnesties and raising awareness of the consequences. White Londoners are more likely to consider policies ineffective (knife amnesties, working with retailers and working with local communities), they are most likely to consider a Met Police taskforce effective.


Liberal Londoners top three measures remain “support to move away from gang activity”, “more activities to divert young people”, “police working more in partnership”.

Authoritarian Londoners top two measure remain the same (“increased use of stop and search” and “more knife arches”), but a “Met Police taskforce” and “support to move away from gang activity” are now equal third.

NET effectiveness over time: Liberal

NET effectiveness over time: Authoritarian





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