

London's Voice: In Focus

MOPAC Public Attitude Survey
Quarter 2 2022-23

Londoners' views towards criminal legislation for the sale and possession of cannabis.

Over half of Londoners support reduced criminalisation of cannabis; support is highest amongst LGBT+ Londoners.

In Q2 22-23, the PAS gathered Londoners' views towards cannabis legislation, including whether they felt criminal sanctions for sale and possession should be relaxed.

Overall, Londoners hold mixed views towards cannabis legislation.

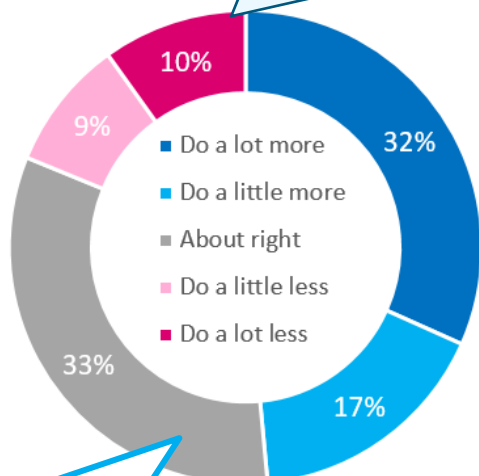
42% said they support the current legislative position; but over half advocate reduced criminalisation.

In turn, 49% believe police should **do more** to control cannabis use; while 19% believe police should **do less**. This latter group tends to be those advocating reduced criminalisation.

Certain groups of Londoners are **more likely to advocate reduced criminalisation of cannabis**.

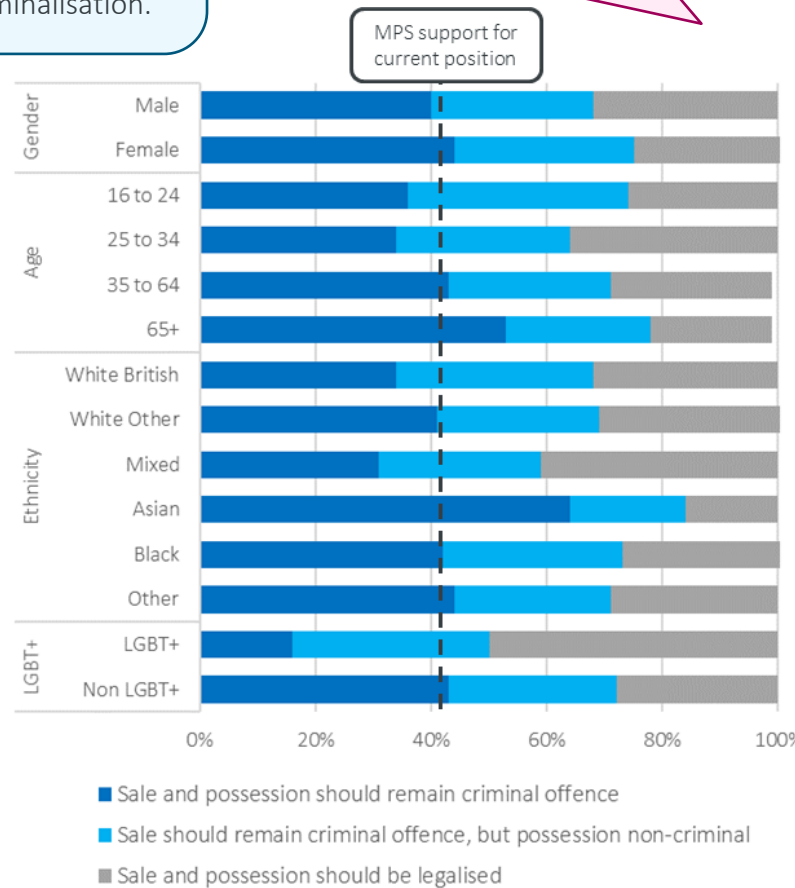
This is most pronounced for **LGBT+ Londoners**, where 84% support **lesser legislation**.

In contrast, **Asian Londoners** and those **aged 65+** are more likely to align with the **current legislative position**.



Should police do more or less to control cannabis use in your community?

Which of these statements comes closest to your view?



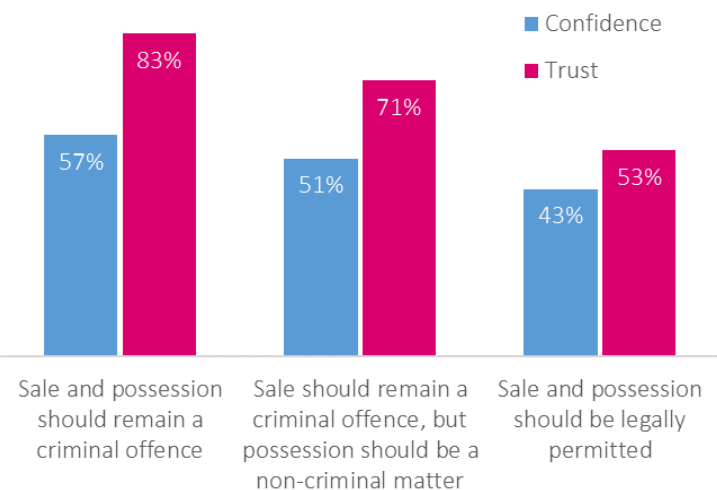
These gaps remain strong even when holding other demographics constant, i.e. when taking into account that many of these groups overlap*.

*Results from two logistic regression models predicting a) decriminalisation/legalisation vs. current, and b) legalisation vs. not from demographics including age, gender, disability, ethnicity and LGBT+.

*Results from two regression models predicting trust and confidence from two accountability measures, whilst controlling for demographics such as age, gender, ethnicity and LGBT+. **DON'T feel reassured refers to those disagreeing and neutral.

Views about cannabis legislation are linked with wider police legitimacy and lower support for operational policing tactics.

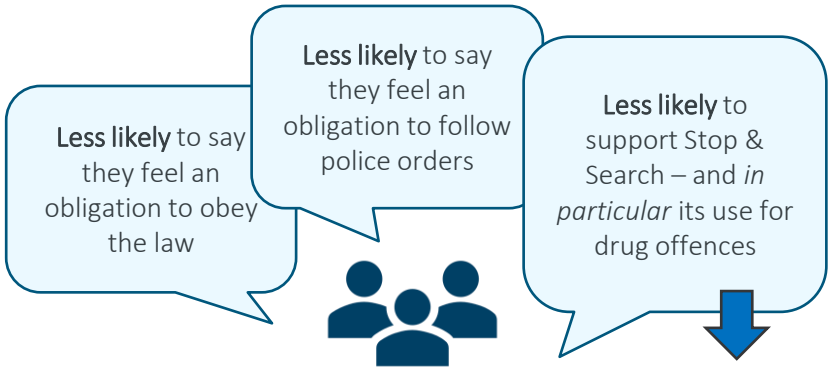
In Q2 22-23, the PAS gathered Londoners' views towards cannabis legislation, including whether they felt criminal sanctions for sale and possession should be relaxed.



Those who support reduced criminalisation of cannabis are also less likely to feel confident or to trust the police.

This effect is *more pronounced for trust than confidence* – and holds true even when controlling for demographic differences*.

In turn, Londoners who support reduced criminalisation of cannabis are less likely to support other elements of operational policing. For example, this group are...



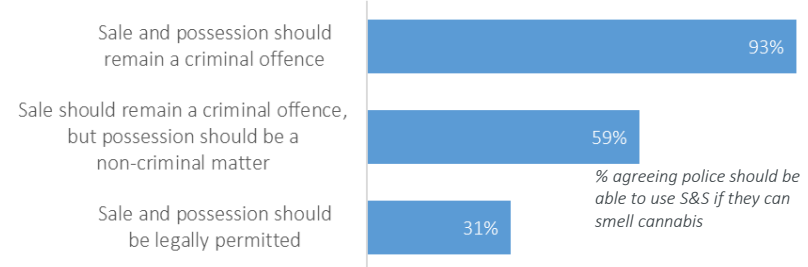
Support for reduced criminalisation of cannabis is also associated with **poorer perceptions across a range of policing measures**.

However, *particularly large effects* are seen here for...

- Feeling police treat everyone fairly
- Feeling police are sufficiently held to account
- Feeling police share the same sense of right and wrong as you do



This suggests Londoners' attitudes towards cannabis legislation are closely linked to their wider views about police legitimacy.



Further analysis suggests that these patterns are partly – *but NOT entirely* – driven by the lower levels of Trust and Confidence seen amongst this group**.

*Two regression models predicting trust and confidence from cannabis views whilst controlling for demographics.
 **Regression models predicting support for operational measures by cannabis views, controlling for demographics and wider trust and confidence in police.