

London's Voice: In Focus

MOPAC Public Attitude Survey
Quarter 1 2023-24

VAWG update 23/24
Understanding Londoners' experiences and perceptions of unwanted attention

Executive summary

A suite of VAWG-related questions is included in the MOPAC Public Attitude Survey in Quarter 1 each year. These questions focus on experiences of unwanted attention in public and online, and the associated impact on how Londoners live their lives. This pack provides the latest update of results from Q1 23-24 and also includes a new set of questions about the Mayor's 'Have a Word' campaign.

Unwanted attention in public

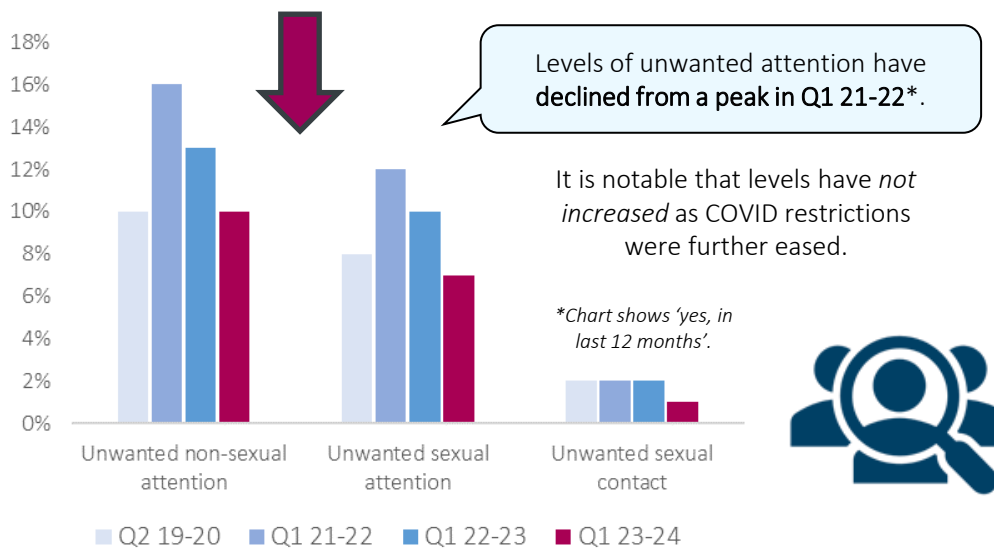
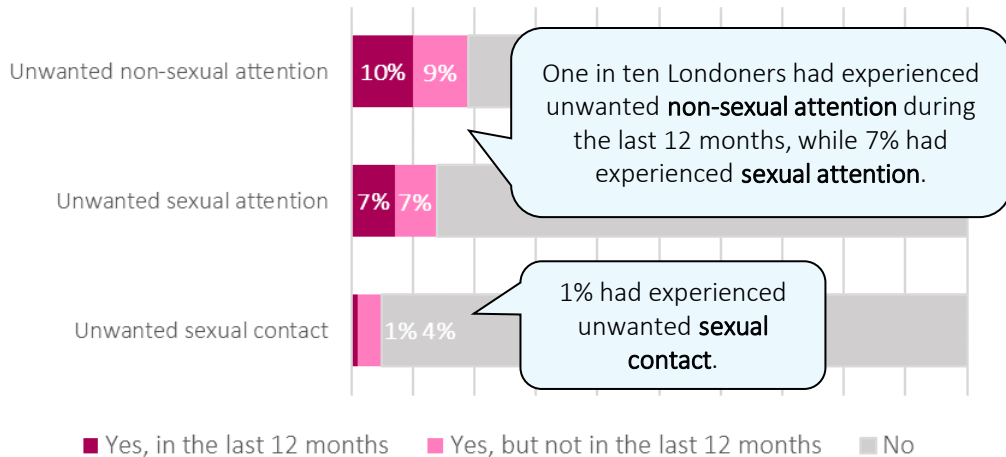
- **One in ten Londoners had experienced unwanted non-sexual attention during the last 12 months**, while 7% had experienced sexual attention. 1% had experienced unwanted sexual contact. Some groups of Londoners remain more likely to have experienced unwanted attention - **prevalence was particularly high amongst LGBT+ Londoners**.
- **Experiences of unwanted attention impact how Londoners live their life** – most often by making them avoid certain places or going out alone. In line with previous years, Q1 23-24 results show females were far more likely than males to avoid places or going out alone as a result of unwanted attention. Despite this impact, **reporting to the police remains low** - only one in eight Londoners experiencing unwanted attention (13%) said they reported it to the police.
- In terms of dealing with the issue, **4 in 5 Londoners (81%) believe it is the responsibility of police to deal with incidents of unwanted attention**. However, just 2 in 5 (42%) feel the police take such incidents seriously.

Unwanted sexual behaviours online

- In Q1 23-24, Londoners were also asked about their experiences of unwanted sexual behaviours online. **6% had received unwanted sexual content online in the last 12 months**, while 1% said their intimate content had been shared without their consent.
- Positively, the proportion of Londoners receiving unwanted sexual content has declined over the last two years (14% in Q1 21-22, 9% in Q1 22-23). However, many unwanted online behaviours were not reported to the police - **just 5% of those receiving unwanted sexual messages or pictures said they reported their experience to police**.

The proportion of Londoners experiencing unwanted attention in public spaces has declined for the second year; but some groups continue to be at increased risk...

In Q1 23-24, Londoners were asked whether they had experienced **unwanted attention or contact in public spaces** such as parks, shops and public transport.

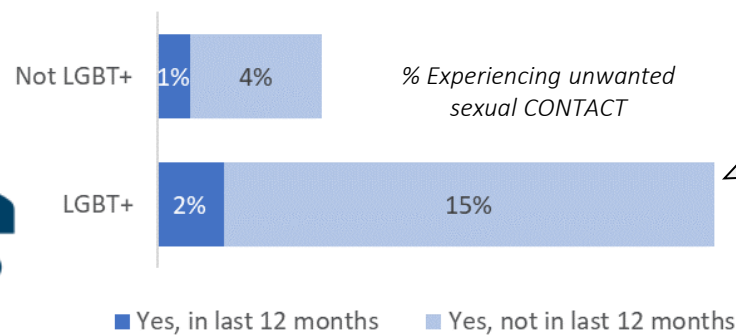


During the last 12 months		Non-sexual attention	Sexual attention	Sexual contact
MPS		10%	7%	1%
Gender	Female	14%	13%	2%
	Male	6%	1%	0%
LGBT+	LGBT+	32%	26%	2%
	Not LGBT+	10%	7%	1%
Age	16 to 24	16%	15%	2%
	25 to 34	16%	14%	3%
	35 to 64	8%	4%	1%
	65+	3%	0%	0%
Ethnicity	White British	13%	9%	2%
	White Other	12%	8%	1%
	Mixed	17%	17%	3%
	Asian	6%	4%	1%
	Black	6%	7%	1%
	Other	7%	1%	0%
Disability	Disabled	11%	4%	1%
	Not disabled	10%	8%	1%

Some groups of Londoners remained more likely to have experienced unwanted attention.

Prevalence was **particularly high amongst LGBT+ Londoners**, with a third experiencing 'non-sexual attention' and a quarter experiencing 'sexual attention' during the last 12 months.

Females, younger Londoners, and those from a Mixed Ethnic Background also saw increased risk.

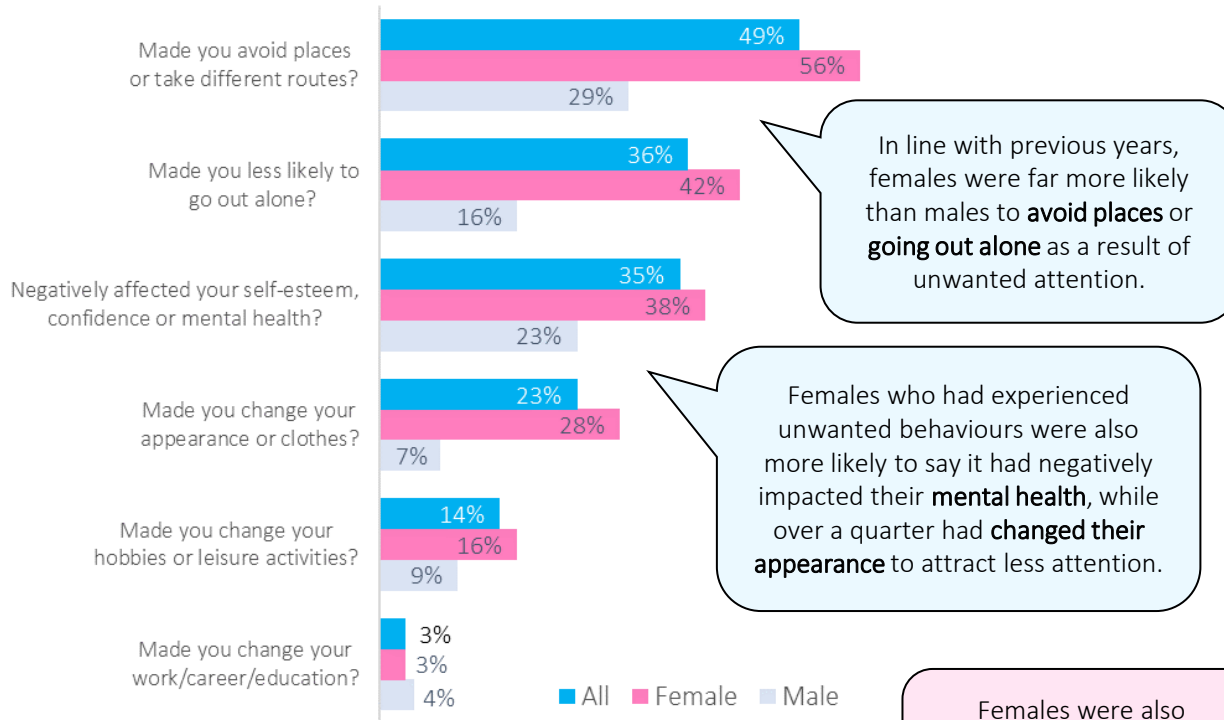


Experiences of **unwanted sexual contact in the last 12 months** were relatively rare across demographic groups.

However, 15% of **LGBT+ Londoners** said they had experienced sexual contact prior to this – levels nearly **4x higher** than non-LGBT+.

Experiences of unwanted attention continue to impact on how Londoners live their lives. Despite this, levels of reporting are low – and remain broadly in line with previous years...

Many Londoners who had experienced unwanted attention* said it had **impacted on their life** – most often by making them avoid certain places or going out alone. A smaller proportion had changed their hobbies or work/career/education choices as a result.

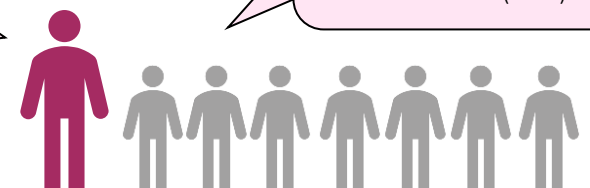


In line with previous years, females were far more likely than males to **avoid places** or **going out alone** as a result of unwanted attention.

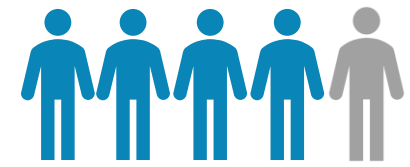
Females who had experienced unwanted behaviours were also more likely to say it had negatively impacted their **mental health**, while over a quarter had **changed their appearance** to attract less attention.

Females were also significantly *less likely* to report to police (11%) than males (18%).

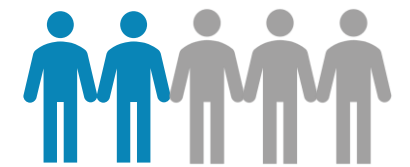
Despite this impact, only one in eight Londoners experiencing unwanted attention (13%) said they **reported it to the police** – consistent with results seen the last time these questions were asked in in Q1 22-23.



*Includes during the last 12 months and prior.



4 in 5 Londoners (81%) believe it is the **responsibility of police** to deal with incidents of unwanted attention...

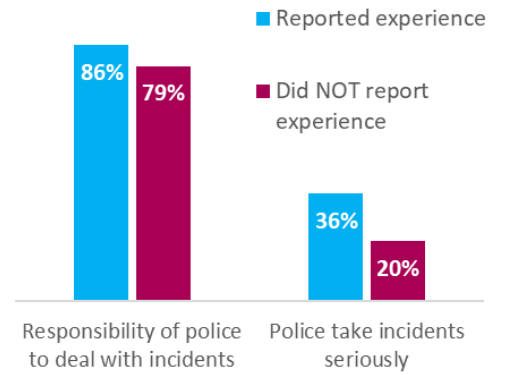


...but **just 2 in 5** (42%) feel **the police take such incidents seriously**.

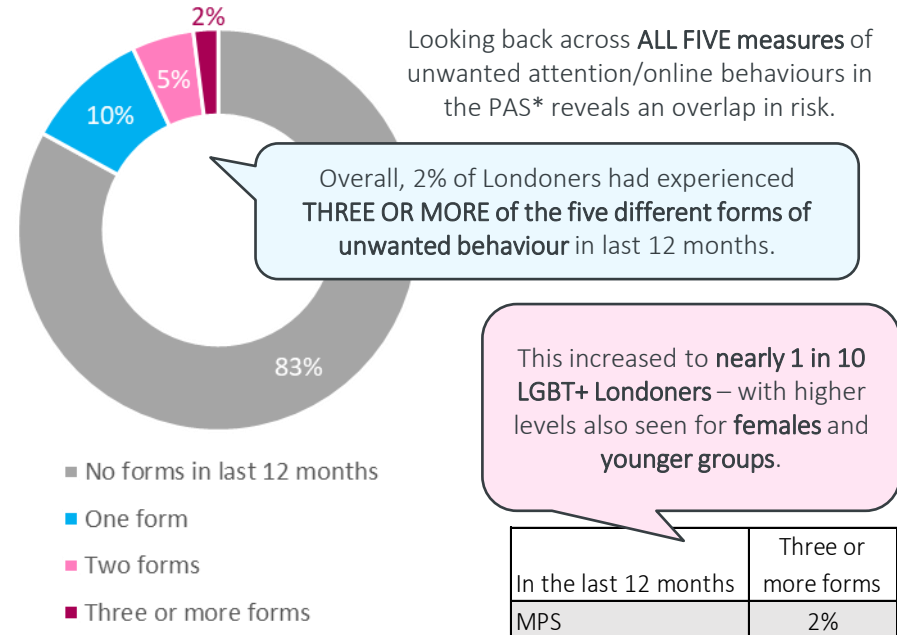
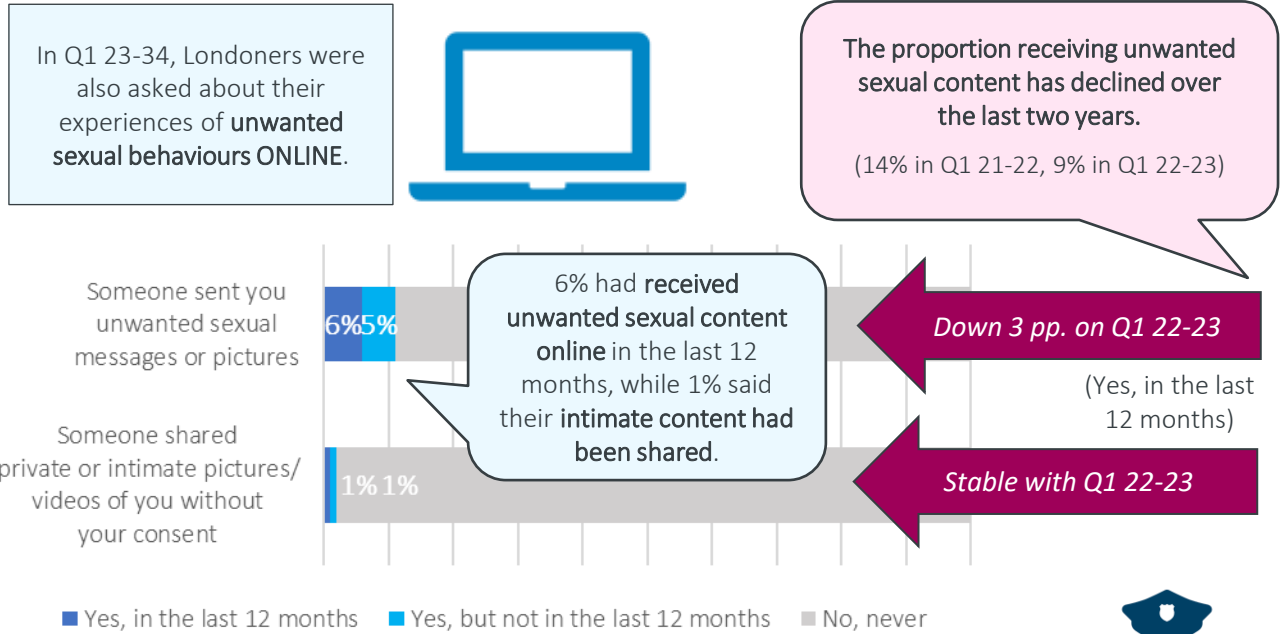


Levels seen for these two questions are broadly in line with those in previous years.

Those who **DID NOT** report their experience of unwanted attention to the police were **significantly less likely to believe police take such incidents seriously** – suggesting this may form a **barrier to reporting**.
However, only small differences were seen in agreement that it is the police's responsibility to deal with incidents.



A minority of Londoners have experienced unwanted sexual behaviours online. There is an overlap across unwanted behaviours - with some Londoners experiencing multiple different forms.



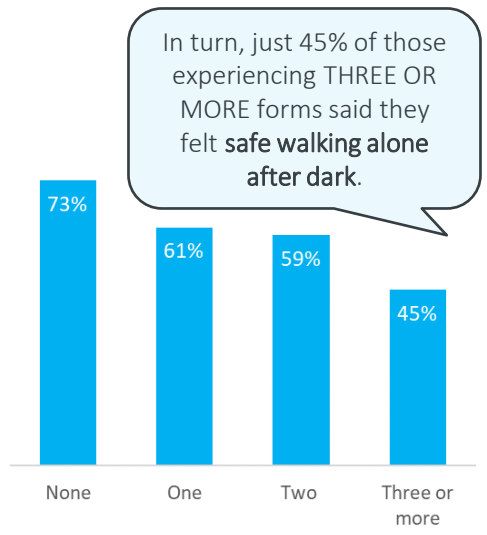
This increased to **nearly 1 in 10 LGBT+ Londoners** – with higher levels also seen for **females** and **younger groups**.

In the last 12 months		Three or more forms
MPS		2%
Gender	Female	4%
	Male	0%
LGBT+	LGBT+	9%
	Not LGBT+	2%
Age	16 to 24	4%
	25 to 34	4%
	35 to 64	1%
	65+	0%

Looking at demographic groups, it is notable that **a quarter of LGBT+ Londoners** said they had received unwanted sexual messages or pictures online during the last 12 months (25%).

However, many unwanted **ONLINE** behaviours were not reported to the police.

Just 5% of those receiving unwanted sexual messages or pictures said they reported their experience to police – in line with last time these questions were asked (Q1 22-23).



*Calculated for those who had experienced unwanted non-sexual attention, sexual attention, sexual contact, received sexual content online, or had sexual images shared **DURING THE LAST 12 MONTHS** - excluding don't know, refused and prefer not to say.