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Anti-Social Behaviour: Understanding the Perception of Anti-Social Behaviour by South Wales Police Officers When Compared to The Prevalence of Anti-Social Behaviour in Report Crime Statistics.

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Declaration

This work has not previously been accepted in substance for any degree and is not being concurrently submitted in candidature for any degree.

Signed: *Scott Pearson* Date: 03/07/2023

STATEMENT 1

This dissertation is being submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of BA.

Signed: *Scott Pearson* Date: 03/07/2023

STATEMENT 2

This dissertation is the result of my own independent work/investigation, except where otherwise stated.

Other sources are acknowledged by footnotes giving explicit references. A bibliography is appended.

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Abstract

Despite a great deal of academic literature surrounding Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and the perceptions of ASB in general, it is fair to suggest that the issues of anti-social behaviour have not gone away.

The aim of this dissertation was to explore police officer perceptions of anti-social behaviour in South Wales Police compared to the available statistics of ASB related crime in South Wales and prevalence and nature of such behaviour. Community perceptions have a role in perpetuating assumptions about anti-social behaviour, young people's involvement and what responses are required. These are often counter-productive (Walsh, 2019).

This study aims to understand what the drivers of this perception are, how these perceptions differ from the available literature of public perceptions of anti-social behaviour and what can be done to redress perceptions that do not align with the prevalence of anti-social behaviour.

The police play a crucial role in addressing and managing the serious issues that antisocial behaviour poses for society. However, how police officers view antisocial behaviour may affect how they approach issues, utilise resources, and interact with the public.

The researcher conducted a thorough evaluation of relevant academic literature about how anti-social behaviour is perceived. A survey was used by the researcher to collect quantitative data, which was then compared to the secondary data to determine if any general trends appeared.

The project's findings were then documented, and suggestions were made to help increase police-community engagement and raise awareness of the concerns by better understanding anti-social behaviours.

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1. Introduction

Antisocial behaviour (ASB) poses significant challenges to local communities, impacting the quality of life, safety and social cohesion of the people who make up those communities (Home Office, 2023a). It includes a variety of harmful and disruptive behaviours that can have a negative impact on people and neighbourhoods, such as vandalism, noise complaints, public intoxication, and harassment. Accurate perceptions and understanding of ASB's prevalence, seriousness, and underlying causes are necessary for effective response and management. Research, however, points to potential inconsistencies between people's perceptions of ASB and the reality of such behaviours on the overall crime statistics. According to Wikström (2009), it is important to assess if society's worries about anti-social behaviour are motivated by a reasonable reaction to antisocial activities or by subjective perceptions affected by non-behavioural reasons. Unfortunately, there isn't much solid data to support the hypothesis that recorded ASB crimes and perceived anti-social behaviour are related. There are difficulties surrounding how to interpret such data because reporting and policing concerns, which may also be influenced by social attitudes, have an impact on crime statistics (MacKenzie et al. 2010).

1.2 Background

South Wales Police (2023) published via their website that there are three main categories for antisocial behaviour, depending on how who is affected. The three types being Personal, Nuisance and Environmental.

Personal antisocial behaviour is when a person targets a specific individual or group. Nuisance antisocial behaviour is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community. Environmental antisocial behaviour is when a person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings. South Wales Police further categorises anti-social behaviour under thirteen different types which include vehicles, rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour, littering or drugs paraphernalia, issues involving animals, trespassing and street drinking. South Wales Police also includes activities related to prostitution, begging and misuse of fireworks under the umbrella term of Anti-social behaviour.

ASB is not a crime itself however the police frequently refer to the kinds of activities that comprise ASB as "low-level crime" when explaining them. This is made more difficult by the Metropolitan Police's description of ASB as a "minor crime" (Metropolitan Police, 2019). Describing ASB as 'low-level' may give the impression that ASB related incidents should not be treated as seriously as recorded crime.

Donoghue (2013) stated the prevalence of ASB in England and Wales is empirically debated. This is further supported by the ONS (2020) who state police-recorded ASB is controversial since these incidents could still be classified as crimes under the law but have not been deemed serious enough to be recorded as a notifiable offence.

It is understandable then that what one person see's as ASB another person may see as a 'low level crime'. This change in perception from one person to the next may be the reason why the prevalence of ASB is so debated. Since 1992, the Crime Survey for England and Wales has gathered data on perceptions of ASB. Over time, the proportion of respondents who perceive high levels of ASB has fluctuated, reaching a record high of 21% in 2002/03 and the most current score of 7% (ONS, 2022).

1.3 Aims And Objectives

The aim of this dissertation was to explore police officer perceptions of anti-social behaviour in South Wales Police compared to the available statistics of ASB related crime in South Wales and prevalence and nature of such behaviour.

This study aims to understand what the drivers of this perception are, how these perceptions differ from the available literature of public perceptions of ASB and what can be done to redress perceptions that do not align with the prevalence of ASB.

1.4 Structure

The researcher carried out a comprehensive analysis of relevant research on the topic of ASB perception. The researcher next conducted their own primary study, using surveys to gather quantitative data that was compared to the secondary data to see if any trends emerged. The findings of which aid the researcher in understanding the factors affecting police officers' perceptions and how those perceptions affect how they react to antisocial behaviour. The results of this study will help researchers better understand the relationships between police officers' perceptions of ASB nd its actual occurrence.

1.5 Conclusion

The finding from this project were then documented, and as a result, recommendations were made to assist in ensuring the perceptions of ASB don't determine the response.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

The phrase "anti-social behaviour" was first used within studies focusing on the psychological imbalances which cause abnormal behaviour (Pruette 1929). Anti-Social behaviour was also a term coined in studies on health, social justice and poverty in the 1990s (Pihl and Peterson, 1991; Lewis and Bucholz, 1991; McLeod, Kruttschnitt and Dornfeld, 1994). These studies referenced how some behaviours negatively impacted the lives of those who resided in deprived areas. In recent memory, tackling ASB has remained high on the political agenda and this is apparent in the amount of legislation introduced to combat ASB (Hodgkinson and Tilley, 2011).

Anti-social behaviour is a response to a state-identified 'justice gap'. HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (2003) states this is the difference between the number of crimes recorded and the number of crimes where the offender is brought to justice perception that most offenders aren't brought to justice, they don't go to court for harmful or wrongdoing behaviour and seem to get away with perpetrating anti-social behaviour. Stephen and Squires (2005) advise that anti-social behaviour can do lasting harm. There were 17 documented deaths between 1991 – 94 in neighbourhood noise disputes (Victor, 1994)

Anti-social behaviour has also received an increasing amount of media attention and with increased public concerns regarding the long-term implications of ASB, the police and local authorities are now under pressure to act (Hodgkinson and Tilley, 2007). The emphasis by the government and media was originally on nuisance neighbours but this has since become firmly focused on concerns over youth disorder (Burney, 2002).

Anti-social behaviour is a significant element of the demands faced by South Wales police. ASB ranks as the 2nd highest reported crime type across South Wales for the last three years, ahead of crimes such as theft, public order or criminal damage (Police. UK, 2022).

2.2 Antisocial Behaviour: Definitions and Types

Contrary to the high levels of public interest and political attention in combatting anti-social behaviour, there remains no clear definition of what the term means. Nixon et al (2007) stated the term anti-social behaviour can mean different things to different people and covers a wide range of behaviours.

Anti-social Behaviour legislation was an attempt to close the justice gap - by introducing measures to prevent, control and restrict such behaviour.

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) defines anti-social behaviour as acting "in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household" (Crime and Disorder Act, 1998).

This was further updated in Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act (2014) where it defined anti-social behaviour as “conduct that has caused or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person, conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person about that person’s occupation of residential premises, or capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person”.

The term – Anti-Social Behaviour refers to a variety of behaviours that disturb social order, intimidate groups and distress people. Although ASB is defined differently in different jurisdictions, it typically refers to actions like vandalism, disorderly conduct, harassment, and public intoxication (Heap, 2020).

Antisocial behaviour can affect everyone, especially the most vulnerable members of society. It's a significant issue that has the potential to destroy people lives. Although the government views protecting victims of anti-social behaviour as a priority, police agencies are not required to implement anti-social behaviour processes, and the government does not keep track of how frequently they are utilised. (Heap, 2016).

There is also research that set out to define a concept such as social harm being the negative impact of crime and anti-social behaviour on a communities’ security, well-being and resilience. This found that levels of harm vary markedly and do not necessarily correspond to levels of crime. Some places have very low crime levels but very high social harm (Innes and Leigh, 2011).

2.3 Police Officers and Anti-Social Behaviour

Police officers play a crucial role in addressing and managing incidents of antisocial behaviour. Their perceptions of such behaviour heavily influence their approach to prevention, response, and community engagement. Research suggests that police officers often have direct contact with individuals involved in antisocial acts. ASB is a significant element of the demands faced by South Wales police. ASB ranks as the 2nd highest reported crime type across South Wales for the last three years, ahead of crimes such as theft, public order or criminal damage (Police. UK, 2022).

This gives them valuable insights into the nature and extent of the problem. However, it is crucial to examine whether these perceptions align with the actual prevalence and characteristics of antisocial behaviour.

2.4 Factors Influencing Perception

Without diminishing the actual and severe effects that chronic anti-social behaviour may have on people and communities, what one person experiences as harassment, alarm, or distress may not be the same for another. According to Von Hirsch and Simester (2006), this may be related to the perceived severity the injury or offence committed against the victim.

According to Millie (2007), public perception of antisocial behaviour may also be influenced by expectations for how a public space should appear and feel. In addition, it may be linked to public standards of politeness and respect, as noted by Flint and Powell (2009).

Central to understanding the experiences of ASB is public perception. Squires (2008) states "Anti-social behaviour is emphatically about perceptions, relationships and interactions and contexts. It is important for what it signals".

Regardless of the acts, it appears that the continued behaviour produces harassment, alarm, or distress, and it is this recurrent behaviour that renders them antisocial (Campbell, 2002; Bottoms, 2006).

Additionally, it has been discovered that perceptions of ASB are not particularly dependent on any presumed objective measures of ASB-related activity (Sampson, 2009). That is, decreasing crimes associated with anti-social conduct does not always result in decreasing perceptions of the prevalence of ASB.

The British Crime Survey has asked questions about perceived anti-social behaviour since 2001/02. An overview of the trends in perceived anti-social behaviour was generated by the British crime survey (Flatley, Moley and Hoare, 2008). This report shows a generally constant trend for ASB linked to noise and a modest increase in the measures relating to intoxicated behaviour. Perceptions of ASB in areas like vandalism, graffiti, drugs, and littering trend slightly lower. The overall headline measure of perceived anti-social activity is generally showing a moderate decrease.

According to Flatley et al. (2008), living in the most deprived areas, having low levels of community cohesion, having experienced a crime in the previous year, being your age, and having lived in a place for three years or longer are all linked to greater perceptions of ASB.

There is also an association between the perception of ASB and confidence in the effectiveness of the police and local authorities in dealing with crime and ASB-related issues. Perceived anti-social behaviour tends to be lower when confidence in the police rises (Myhill and Beak, 2008; Thorpe, 2009).

According to YouGov (2023) as of January 2023, 55% of respondents in the UK, did not believe the police treated anti-social behaviour-related incidents seriously enough (fig 1). This increases to 65% when the respondents are aged 65 years or over. This supports previously aforementioned research that indicates that age is a factor in perceived levels of anti-social behaviour.

Does the police take anti-social behaviour seriously enough?

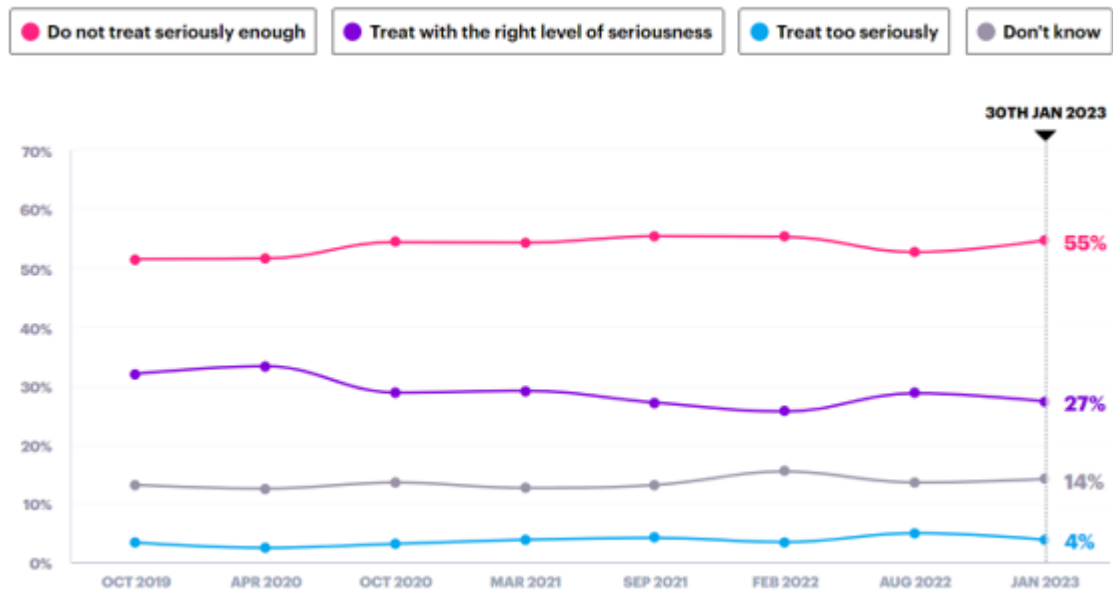


Fig 1 – YouGov poll (2023)

2.5 Factors Influencing Police Perception

Like other members of the communities impacted by anti-social behaviour, the police officers' perceptions of ASB may be influenced by a variety of circumstances. To understand this, we must first understand the term perception. Perceptions are cognitive processes that are triggered by external events. It's important to remember that perception encompasses both the event's sensory details and how we interpret them (Jones and Gerard, 1967). An attitude can be defined as “a relatively enduring organisation of beliefs, feelings, and behavioural tendencies towards socially significant objects, groups, events or symbols” (Hogg and Vaughan 2008). This suggests that attitudes may affect the way an event/object is perceived, consequently influencing behaviour (Baron, Byrne and Johnson, 1998).

Firstly, a police officer's professional experiences and education might influence how they define anti-social behaviours. The amount of exposure to ASB related incidents can affect how those behaviours are seen since people tend to overemphasise certain behaviours when they encounter them frequently. It is this frequency of interaction with anti-social behaviour by police officers that may cause them to become so familiar with a deviant behaviour that they no longer view it as deviant, even while it violates their norms. This is referred to as the social normalisation of deviance (Vaughan. 2010). The more frequently the abnormal action occurs, the more police officers may get accustomed to it.

Secondly, media representation and public discourse around ASB can influence police officers' perceptions. There is a lot of research on how the media can influence a person's perceptions of crime and crime rates (Reiner, 2007; Esbensen and Tusinski, 2007). According to O'Connell (1999), media coverage frequently focuses on sensational instances rather than

the prevalence or actual characteristics of antisocial behaviour. Police officers may develop an inflated impression of ASB as a result of this selective and sensational reporting.

Thirdly, community dynamics and local context can shape police officers' perceptions. According to a comparison of data between perceived anti-social behaviour in the British crime survey and recorded cases of ASB reported to police, South Wales is showing as having higher levels of reported anti-social behaviour and low perceptions (Innes and Weston, 2010). This is seen in figure 2 below.

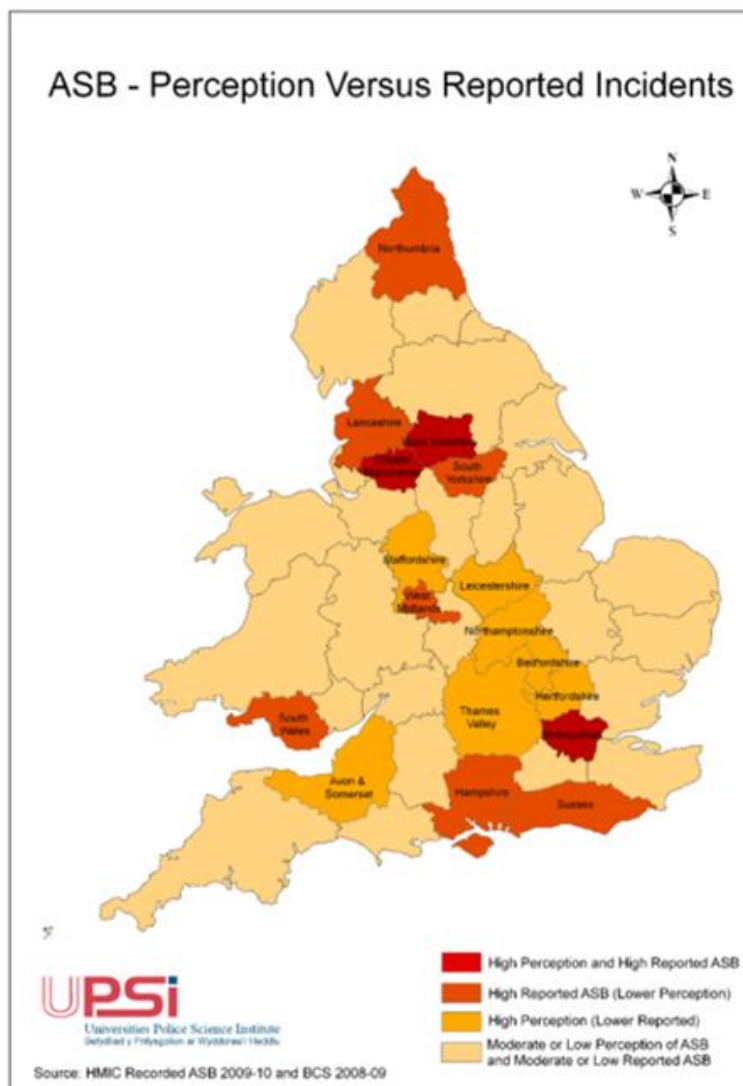


Fig 2 – The contrast between recorded ASB and Perceptions of ASB.

Officers who work in high-crime areas may have a different perception of ASB compared to those in low-crime areas. Community expectations, cultural norms, and social dynamics can influence the way officers perceive and respond to antisocial acts.

2.6 Impact of Perception on Policing Strategies

The perception of police officers regarding antisocial behaviour has significant implications for policing strategies. If police officers perceive certain types of ASB as more prevalent or

severe than they are, it may lead to an allocation of resources that is disproportionate to the actual problem. This misalignment between perception and reality can hinder the effectiveness and efficiency of policing efforts.

Moreover, the perception of police officers can impact their interactions with the community. If officers believe that ASB is widespread, they may adopt an aggressive or confrontational approach when engaging with individuals suspected of such acts. According to Innes and Weston (2010), this may improve the public's perception of police dealing with anti-social behaviour however does not resolve anti-social behaviour in the long term. Having more boots on the ground dealing with anti-social behaviour as it arises which is part of zero-tolerance policing has its roots in Broken Windows theory (Kelling and Wilson, 1982). This theory has largely been shown to be an ineffective long-term solution to anti-social behaviour as zero-tolerance policing strategies have not had a statistically significant effect on crime (College of Policing, 2022). This can strain police-community relations and perpetuate a cycle of distrust.

Conversely, if police officers underestimate the prevalence or seriousness of antisocial behaviour, they may fail to allocate sufficient resources or take appropriate action. This can result in a lack of response to incidents, leading to public dissatisfaction and a perception of inadequate policing.

2.7 Knowledge Gap

While there is a substantial body of literature on anti-social behaviour and the perception of ASB, there is a relative lack of research specifically focusing on police officers' perceptions of and the prevalence of ASB.

There is a need for comprehensive and comparative studies that explore the perceptions of police officers across different regions, departments, and demographic backgrounds. Such studies would provide valuable insights into the factors that shape perceptions and the potential impact on policing strategies and community relations.

The literature highlights the need for a deeper understanding of the factors that shape police officers' perceptions of ASB and the potential discrepancies between perception and reality. It emphasises the importance of considering the influence of professional experiences, media representation, and local context when examining police officers' perceptions.

Misalignment between perception and reality can lead to misallocation of resources, ineffective response to incidents, and strained relations between police the communities they serve. Conversely, underestimating the prevalence or seriousness of antisocial behaviour can result in inadequate policing, public dissatisfaction and a perception of neglect.

Despite the existing body of research on antisocial behaviour and policing, there is a notable knowledge gap concerning the specific topic of police officer perception compared to the reality of antisocial behaviour.

In summary, the literature on perception of ASB indicates that peoples believe may not always align with the realities of such behaviour. Factors such as professional experiences, media representation, and community dynamics can influence police officers' perceptions. These perceptions, in turn, have significant implications for policing strategies and community relations.

Understanding the perception of police officers regarding antisocial behaviour and comparing it against the prevalence of such behaviour is crucial for effective policing. The literature highlights the importance of considering various factors that shape perceptions and the potential consequences of perception-reality gaps. Further comprehensive and comparative research will provide valuable insights for enhancing policing strategies and promoting positive community engagement in addressing antisocial behaviour.

3. Methodology

3.1 Introduction

This chapter will describe how the research will be conducted. This can be summarised as the methodology. A methodology is a group of processes, principles, techniques, or systems used to conduct the research process for a body of work (SAGE Publications, 2023). To advance the field of study, it is important to produce a distinctive and noteworthy set of findings. For understanding and learning, research is crucial. It is about improving one's own awareness about a specific topic and expanding the knowledge pool available to draw upon through identification of strengths and weaknesses of a set of ideas (Saunders et al., 2016).

There are two types of research that the researcher will conduct as part of this dissertation. These are primary and secondary research. According to Bryman (2016), primary research is when information is gathered from people directly by the researcher, as opposed to secondary research using pre-existing information that has been gathered from earlier studies.

The literature review in this study presents a distinct lack of academic research and studies on police officer perception of ASB when compared to comparative crime data. This study will choose to conduct primary research to provide answers to the questions. This kind of research will contribute to the body of knowledge while also aiding in a better comprehension of current social perceptions of ASB. It is hoped that by learning more from those who take part in this study, improvements can be found and put into place to ensure that police officers' impressions of ASB more properly reflect the overall impact of ASB on statistics for all recorded crimes.

3.2 Research Approach

The researcher has decided to use an online survey that will be made accessible to other South Wales Police officers via shared hyperlinks. This method offers confidentiality for opinions on this subject that contributors might be reluctant to express if it were done in person or in a more open forum. By conducting it in this manner, complete anonymity should persuade people who might otherwise be reluctant to participate. There is a risk to conducting primary research this way. According to Lelkes et al. (2012) complete anonymity may diminish the accuracy of this form of self-reporting therefor reducing credibility in the overall results.

This approach allows for the collection of quantitative data from a large sample of participants in a standardised and efficient manner. It is the most cost-effective way of allowing a large volume of quantitative data that can be collected.

3.3 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations are essential when conducting research. This study will adhere to principles such as informed consent, privacy and confidentiality principles as set out by Glatke (2017).

Prior to participating in the survey, participants will be provided with a clear explanation of the study's purposes. They will have the option to provide informed consent by ensuring their voluntary participation. Confidentiality and anonymity will be assured by data being reported in non-identifiable manner.

Throughout the study, participant confidentiality and privacy will be upheld. All information gathered will be safely preserved and only the researcher will have access to it. To maintain anonymity, personal identifiers will be taken out of the dataset. Data will be reported in a form that makes it impossible to identify specific participants. Other principles which are of importance and will be observed throughout this process include researcher impartiality, transparency and data protection.

The researcher conducting the study will remain impartial and avoid any personal biases that may influence data collection or analysis. The survey instrument will be designed to be neutral and unbiased, ensuring that participants feel comfortable providing honest responses.

The handling and storage of the data gathered for this project will be done in compliance with data protection laws. Only the researcher will have access to the data, and any potential engagement of third parties will be done in accordance with data protection agreements.

The study will aim to provide transparency regarding the research process. This will include the methodology, data collection procedures and data analysis techniques. This will allow for the replication and verification of the study's findings.

By adhering to these ethical considerations, this study ensures the protection of participants' rights, privacy, and confidentiality while promoting the integrity and validity of the research findings.

3.4 Duration of Study

The cross-sectional method will be employed for this research project because it is the most effective model for carrying out population-based surveys (Hassan, 2022). This is due to the brief duration of the investigation, making this approach the most suitable.

3.5 Techniques: Data Collection and Analysis

The researcher will carry out between 50 and 100 questionnaires to get necessary quantitative data. The data will then be evaluated and presented in a variety of graphs and charts to highlight the results and determine whether any trends can be found.

The survey questionnaire will consist of approximately 15 questions, designed to assess police officer perception of ASB and its alignment with the prevalence of reported ASB.

Participants will be asked to provide their age, rank and years of service. This information will help identify potential variations in perception based on demographic factors.

Participants will be asked to estimate the prevalence of ASB. This can be measured using a Likert scale, where participants rate the perceived frequency of different types of anti-social acts. The Likert scale is a questionnaire where the respondents should know that the response of “strongly disagree” is a negative response, working its way up to a positive response of “strongly agree” (Jamieson, 2010).

Participants will be asked about their perception of the age group most involved in ASB. This question aims to identify any overemphasis on youth offenders and potential underestimation of other age groups.

Participants will be asked to rate the level of criminality associated with various forms of ASB. This will help assess the perception of severity and whether certain acts are perceived as less criminal than others.

Participants will be asked about the extent to which media coverage influences their perception of ASB. This question aims to gauge the awareness of potential biases and stereotypes perpetuated by media portrayals.

Participants will be asked about their exposure to ASB incidents and whether it has influenced their perception. This question will explore the potential impact of first-hand experiences on perception.

Participants will be asked about their perceptions of resource allocation for addressing ASB. This will assess whether their perceptions could lead to over or under allocation of resources.

Participants will be asked about their interactions with the community ASB. This question aims to capture their understanding of community concerns and their role in addressing such issues.

Lastly participants will be provided with an open-ended question to share any suggestions or ideas they may have for improving the alignment between perception and reality of ASB.

3.6 Sample

The target participants for this study will be police officers from within South Wales Police. The participants will be openly invited by sharing a link on an internal intranet page and sending out links via various groups. This is done in the expectation of representation from different ranks, years of service, and stations.

3.7 Reliability and Validity

The reliability and validity of this research will be improved by attracting a large enough sample size to collect sufficient quantitative data to determine the outcome (Biemer and Lyberg, 2003).

Reliability and validity are two of the most crucial and fundamental factors to consider when assessing any measuring method used for data gathering in a successful study. Despite the common confusion between the term's validity and reliability, they differ significantly. While validity shows if the tests assess what they are meant to measure, reliability shows consistency. To characterise and investigate the variables and concepts of interest, survey research is an effective and acceptable method (Ponto, 2015).

3.8 Limitations

This approach has several shortcomings. It will take time to review the results and quantify the data if a sizable number of people respond to the survey. In contrast, I might only have a small sample because the survey received a small number of responses. If this is the case, the overall impact of the findings might be lessened. Results from surveys with low response rates, however, should be taken into consideration on their own merits because they may still reflect the attitudes of the public (Meterko et al., 2015). Low response rates should therefore not be used as rationale to disregard the result.

There are always limitations or potential issues that are outside the researcher's control, as there are with every study. There is no perfect recipe for research methodology or data analysis. Most methods are difficult to accurately reproduce, making it impossible to confirm them. It is predicted that the breadth of this study would be limited by the wordcount of 8,000 words. Time restraints, work and family commitments may also have an impact on study outcomes and participation rates. Furthermore, it is difficult to identify patterns because there is not enough research available to the researcher regarding police officer perceptions of anti-social behaviour. Recognising the previously mentioned elements is important because they may all affect the outcomes.

3.9 Conclusion

In conclusion, this section outlined the research design, sample, participant selection and ethical considerations for the study. The purpose of the questionnaire is to evaluate police officers' perceptions of anti-social behaviour and how closely they match the data from reported crime statistics. It will be closely adhered to ethical norms including informed consent, privacy protection, voluntary participation, and researcher objectivity. These factors will support maintaining the study's ethical integrity and defending the participants' rights and welfare.

4. Analysis of Results

4.1 Introduction

The methodology of the study was covered in the previous chapter. This chapter looks at police officer perceptions on anti-social behaviour and the factors that contribute to such perceptions. The literature review for this study made clear that perception of ASB does not correspond to its frequency. Studies investigating police views and whether they are related to the occurrence of anti-social activity are noticeably lacking. To answer these questions, primary research in the form of a survey has been conducted. This study will help close a gap in the literature and give researchers a better understanding of current police officer opinions.

The gathering, analysis and presentation of the results from the study's primary research will be the focus of this chapter. Data analysis is the process of evaluation of raw data in order to derive useful details, with the goal being to summarise the gathered data and organise in such a manner as to give answers to questions Mohamed Ibrahim (2015). 50 people responded to a poll that the researcher created online. The Appendix contains all the primary survey's question and result findings.

4.2 Advantages and Disadvantages of Using Google Forms

Using the Google Forms survey tool to gather data and support data analysis had several benefits. For instance, it encouraged participants to respond quickly. It made it possible for larger participation rates, which was crucial for obtaining the quantitative data required for this study. Additionally, it permitted anonymity, which promoted involvement. The format was very straightforward and simple to follow, and the information gathered was simple to comprehend and share.

One of the drawbacks of using this format is that participants may not feel obligated to provide genuine or accurate answers that reflect their true attitude. It's also possible that respondents won't feel confident giving answers that reflect poorly on them. Another consideration when reviewing this research is that individuals who did respond to the poll may have given different answers than those who did not.

There were examples when responders didn't answer all the questions due to not making every question compulsory. This suggests that larger changes could emerge because of question non-responses due the data set is already small.

4.3 Questionnaire Findings

4.3.1 Police Officer Perception of Antisocial Behaviour?

The findings of this study indicate that police officer perception of anti-social behaviour tends to overestimate the actual prevalence of such behaviour. 57.1% of officers responded to the survey stating they believed anti-social behaviour was the highest crime type in terms of volume reported in Gorsienon, Swansea. This goes against data gathered by (Police.uk, 2023) which ranks Violence and sexual offences as the highest reported crime type.

Several factors contribute to this underestimation, with two key factors emerging as influential: the age of offenders and the low level of criminality associated with ASB related acts.

4.3.2 Age of Offenders?

One significant finding is that police officers often perceive ASB as primarily driven by youth offenders. 73% of respondents believed anti-social behaviour was being driven by persons under the age of 18. This is broken down into 40% believing it was being carried out by persons 14yrs and younger with the remaining 33% believing it was being carried out by persons aged between 15-17. The later correlating more closely with research conducted by (Moffitt, 2018) which stated peak ASB offending was among 15–19-year-olds. This perception may be influenced by various factors, including media portrayals, community stereotypes, and personal experiences. The prevalent belief among police officers is that young people, particularly adolescents, are more likely to engage in antisocial acts.

However, research has shown that ASB is not limited to young offenders alone. According to Moffitt (2018), anti-social related behaviour often began between the ages of 8 and 14 and ended between the ages of 20 and 29. While youth involvement in ASB is significant, there is evidence of substantial participation by individuals across various age groups. The underestimation of ASB by focusing primarily on youth offenders can lead to a skewed perception and an inadequate response to the problem.

4.3.3 Low Level of Criminality?

Another key finding is that police officers often perceive anti-social behaviour as less serious or criminal in nature compared to other types of criminal activities. Anti-social acts are commonly viewed as nuisance behaviour or minor disturbances rather than serious offenses. This is evident in the survey where 52% of respondents recognised that all behaviours/ offences listed were in fact related to anti-social behaviour as defined by South Wales Police. Furthermore, of the 24 respondents that did not select the 'All of the above' option, nobody recognised vehicle abandonment and misuse of fireworks being considered anti-social behaviour related. This perception is influenced by the belief that ASB falls on a

continuum, with more severe crimes at one end and less severe acts at the other (Rubin et al., 2006).

The perception of ASB as less criminal can be attributed to a combination of factors. Firstly, the absence of direct victims in many instances of ASB. This is evidenced in the survey results where vehicle abandonment, begging and prostitution where only 2% of respondents thought either of them were related to anti-social behaviours. This may contribute to the perception that these acts are less harmful. Secondly, the relatively low level of harm or immediate danger associated with some forms of ASB, compared to violent crimes or drug offenses, may contribute to the underestimation.

4.4 Factors Influencing Police Officer Perception of Antisocial Behaviour?

4.4.1 Media Influence

The media plays a significant role in shaping police officers' perception of ASB. Media coverage tends to focus on sensational and extreme cases, often portraying ASB as more widespread and severe than it is. This selective representation can create a distorted perception among police officers, who rely on media sources for information and are more likely to encounter and remember high-profile cases. Research by the Scottish Government (2009) found it was clear that the media at national and local levels has a considerable role to play in the promotion of positive stories and furthermore must not be found to be predicated on sensationalism in the media (Welch, Price and Yankey, 2002).

The media's influence can also extend to perpetuating stereotypes about the age of offenders involved in ASB. News stories and public discourse often emphasise the involvement of young people, reinforcing the perception that youth are the primary perpetrators of such acts. This media-driven perception can lead to an underestimation of ASB among older age groups which is still prevalent as research discussed earlier by Moffitt (2018) has shown. Furthermore, evidence suggests that media overexposure is partly responsible for the discrepancy currently seen between perceived crime frequency and actual crime rates (Travers, 2017).

4.4.2 Professional Experience and Exposure

Police officers' perceptions of anti-social behaviour are significantly influenced by their professional experiences and exposure to different types of incidents. Officers who predominantly are not front line and who have limited exposure to ASB may underestimate the prevalence and seriousness of such behaviour. This is prevalent in the 20% of respondents who were of inspector or sergeant rank, only one believed that ASB was the most reported crime type and all responded that there was enough resources allocated

to addressing ASB. This limited exposure can create a skewed perception that does not accurately reflect the broader reality of ASB.

Conversely, officers who frequently engage with individuals involved in anti-social acts may develop a perception that overemphasises the occurrence of such behaviour. The frequency of encounters can create a distorted view where antisocial behaviour appears more prevalent than it is. This is evident in the survey results where those more closely associated to the community such as police community support officers ranked ASB as their most important priority. This group also tended to select ASB being the highest reported crime type. Contrary to officers of the rank of sergeant or higher, 62% of respondents of a lower rank stated they did not agree that enough resources are allocated to addressing ASB within the police.

4.5 The Impact of Perception on Policing

The underestimation of anti-social behaviour by police officers has significant implications for policing approaches. When officers perceive ASB as less serious, they may allocate fewer resources and adopt a less proactive approach in addressing such incidents. This is especially important given the influence they can have on policy and resource allocation. Results from the survey suggest only 37.5% of the respondents of sergeant rank or above believe tackling ASB was a priority. Furthermore 90% of this cohort said that police were doing enough to tackle ASB and instead iterated that other agencies could be doing more. This idea of partnership working is echoed in a report by the Home Office (2023) which summarises that no one organisation can address the range of underlying causes or drivers of crime and ASB and that effective partnership working is vital to reducing crime and disorder and ASB.

4.6 Conclusion

In conclusion, the survey results identified that there is a split between frontline officer perceptions of ASB and that of higher-ranking officers. This study has supported some of the secondary research conducted in the literature review. This chapter effectively analysed the data obtained on police officers' perceptions of ASB. The following chapter will examine the data in greater depth to discover distinct trends, allowing for recommendations to be made.

5. Conclusion

5.1 Introduction

The research project was directed through the introduction, literature review, and methodology stages of the research process in the earlier chapters of this dissertation. The most current chapter of this dissertation analysed the findings from the main data gathered through the quantitative study. This chapter will offer suggestions to ensure that police officers' perceptions of anti-social activity are more accurately reflective of its prevalence. This chapter will also include a conclusion and discuss the study's shortcomings as well as potential directions for further academic investigation in this area.

5.2 The objectives

The researcher conducted a thorough examination of relevant research on the perceptions of anti-social behaviour. The researcher then carried out their own primary study, gathering quantitative data from surveys and comparing it to the secondary data to see if any patterns arose. The research's conclusions help to comprehend the variables influencing police officers' perceptions and how their views influence how they respond to ASB. Researchers will gain a better understanding of the relationships between police officers' perceptions of ASB and its actual occurrence as a result of the findings in this study.

The main objectives of this study were to compare police officers' views of anti-social behaviour to the frequency of such behaviour in reported crime data. The goals of this study have been met. The first goal was to examine the literature on how ASB is perceived. The second goal was to find and assess secondary data on ASB. The third goal was to carry out primary surveys among police officers and to evaluate the findings.

Objectives one and two were achieved by performing a literature review focusing on locating existing research and statistics relating to perceptions of ASB and reported crime. Previous studies illustrated the existence of perceptions of ASB that do not correlate to the prevalence of ASB, the current study attempted to analyse what police officers' perceptions were and how that correlated to recorded ASB.

Objective three was achieved by the creation of a survey with fifty respondents. The results of which give a representative sample of police officer. The first and second objectives were accomplished by conducting a literature review with an emphasis on locating current research and data pertaining to perceptions of ASB and reported crime. Previous studies had shown the existence of perceptions of ASB that do not correlate with the prevalence of such behaviour. This research attempted to evaluate police officers' perceptions and how it associated with observed ASB.

5.3 Implications for Police Practices

The underestimation of anti-social behaviour by some police officers and the overestimation by others has practical implications for policing practices. Acknowledging and addressing these implications can help improve responses to ASB related incidents, improve outcomes for victims and strengthen police-community relations.

5.3.1 Recommendation One: Perception Training to Include Anti-Social Behaviour.

Firstly, it is vital to provide comprehensive and accurate training for police officers regarding the nature, prevalence, and the consequences of ASB. This training should encompass the various age groups involved, highlighting that antisocial acts are not limited to youth offenders. Additionally, training should emphasise the varied nature of acts that are captured under scope of ASB.

5.3.2 Recommendation Two: Evidence-based Approach to Resource Allocation

Police organisations should promote a balanced and evidence-based approach to resource allocation. This requires a shift away from targeting younger age groups and a recognition of the broader scope of ASB. Allocating resources based on an accurate understanding of the issue will allow for a more effective and equitable distribution of preventive measures, interventions, and community engagement initiatives.

5.3.3 Recommendation Three: Enhance Police-Community Engagement

There should be greater emphasis on fostering positive police-community relations. Police officers should engage in open and transparent communication with community members and leaders by acknowledging their concerns regarding ASB. By actively listening and addressing community perceptions, police can bridge the gap between perception and reality, improving trust and collaboration.

5.4 Limitations

While this study provides valuable insights into police officer perception of ASB, there are certain limitations that should be acknowledged.

Firstly, the study is limited by its focus on a specific geographic area, in this case, South Wales and South Wales Police. Different regions and policing practices may yield different results. Therefore, caution should be exercised when comparing these findings to others.

Second, only a quantitative method was used in the research design. In the future, the use of a qualitative approach such as interviews may offer an alternative understanding of the subject.

It is also critical to recognise that the sample size may have an impact on how well the results may be applied to subsequent research. To improve the reliability and representativeness of the findings, larger and more diverse samples should be considered in future research.

The use of police officers' self-reported information carries a further limitation. A variety of biases may have an impact on how anti-social activity is perceived. It's possible that the comments the police gave were based on what they thought would be more socially or professionally acceptable. To provide a more thorough understanding of the subject, future study may consider using a variety of data collection techniques, such as observational studies or interviews.

Lastly, this study also focused on police officers' perceptions and how they could influence policing practises. The viewpoints and experiences of community members impacted by disruptive behaviour must be considered. To develop a more complete picture of the interactions between police officers, community members and the realities of ASB, future research could incorporate community perspectives.

Despite these drawbacks, this study adds to the body of literature by highlighting police officers' perceptions of ASB, especially considering the offenders' ages and the low level of criminality connected to such behaviours.

To improve policing strategies, resource allocation and community relations, the findings emphasise the significance of correcting these misconceptions and enhancing the accuracy of police officers' perceptions.

5.5 Self-Reflection

The researcher has developed a thorough understanding of the literature surrounding the perception of ASB as well as the statistics on crime related to ASB throughout the course of the investigation.

The researcher has occasionally faced challenges with this work in terms of time management and self-study. The researcher has learned how to self-learn independently and the value of time management through the dissertation. By utilising a range of programmes to finish the dissertation and questionnaire, the researcher has gained new abilities.

The researcher has also become attuned to the requirements of critical thinking which will enhance their ability to conduct future research.

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7. Appendices

7.1 Appendix One: Questionnaire

Section 1 of 3

Anti-Social Behaviour - Perceptions Vs Reality

The survey questionnaire will take approximately five minutes and is designed to assess police officer perception of antisocial behaviour and its alignment with the prevalence of reported anti-social behaviour.

What is your rank?

☐ Inspector

☐ Sergeant

☐ Police Officer

☐ Police Community Support Officer

What is your length of service?

1. Less than 2 years

2. 3-5 years

3. 6-10 years

4. 11-15 years

...

What is your age?

1. 18 to 24
2. 25 to 34
3. 35 to 44
4. 45 to 54
5. 55 to 64
6. 65 to 74
7. 75 or older

What behaviours/offences do you most associate with anti-social behaviour? Free type your answer below

- ☐ 1. Abandoned Vehicles (not Stolen or causing an Obstruction)
- ☐ 2. Animal problems
- ☐ 3. Begging / Vagrancy
- ☐ 4. Hoax calls to Emergency Services
- ☐ 5. Inappropriate Sale / Use / Possession of Fireworks
- ☐ 6. Malicious / Nuisance Communications
- ☐ 7. Noise
- ☐ 8. Prostitution Related Activity
- ☐ 9 Environmental Damage / Littering
- ☐ 10. Rowdy or Nuisance Neighbours
- ☐ 11. Rowdy or Inconsiderate Behaviour in public
- ☐ 12. Street Drinking
- ☐ 13. Solvent Misuse
- ☐ 14. Trespass
- ☐ 15. Vehicle Nuisance / Inappropriate Use

Of the options provided, select the highest crime type in terms of volume reported in Gorsienon, Swansea

- ☐ Violence and sexual offences
- ☐ Anti-social behaviour
- ☐ Public order
- ☐ Criminal damage and arson
- ☐ Shoplifting

If someone wanted to access local crime statistics, would you know where to refer them?

- ☐ Yes, I know the appropriate source(s)
- ☐ I have a general idea but would need to verify
- ☐ No, I'm unsure where to refer them

Where would you rank ASB as a priority?

- ☐ The most important priority
- ☐ A priority, but not the most important
- ☐ Not very important
- ☐ Not important at all

What is the average age of offenders that carry out ASB where you work?

- ☐ Under 10
- ☐ 11-14
- ☐ 15-17
- ☐ 18-25
- ☐ 26-35
- ☐ 35+

How does media coverage of anti-social behaviour affect your perception of it?

- | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Media coverage of anti-social behaviour does not effect my perception at all | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | My perception is changed due to the media coverage of anti-social behaviour |

Does length of service within the police affect your perception of anti-social behaviour?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No



Section 2 of 3

How much do you agree with the following statements



Description (optional)

Enough resources are allocated to addressing anti-social behaviour within the police?

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

Other agencies could be doing more to tackle anti-social behaviour

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

The communities believe police are doing enough to tackle anti-social behaviour.

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

After section 2 Continue to next section



Section 3 of 3

Suggestions for improvements on policing anti-social behaviour



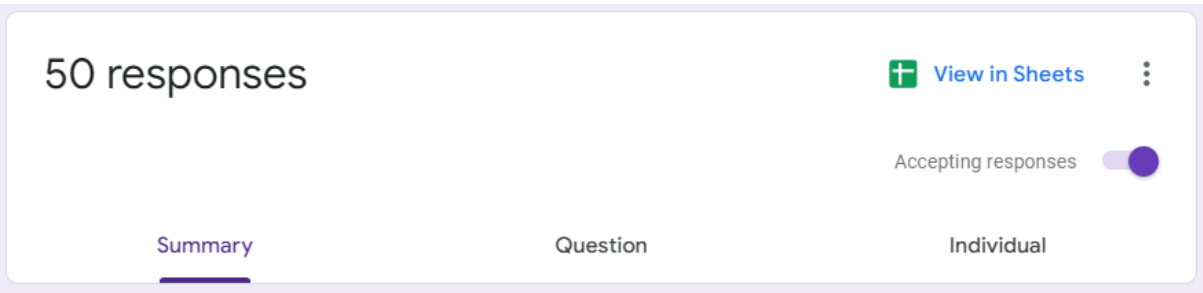
Open ended section for any suggestions you have that you believe could reduce anti-social behaviour.

Suggestions for improvements on policing anti-social behaviour

Short-answer text

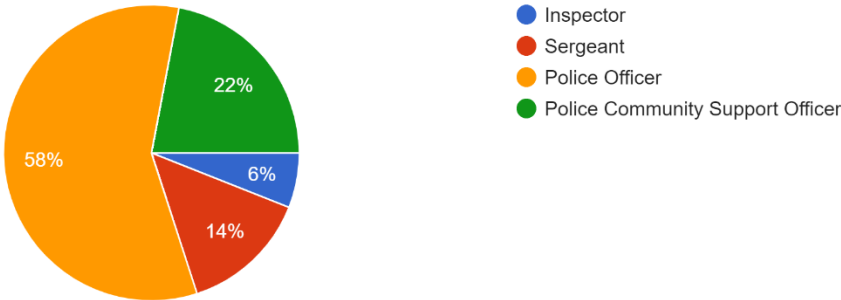
.....

7.2 Appendix Two: Questionnaire Results



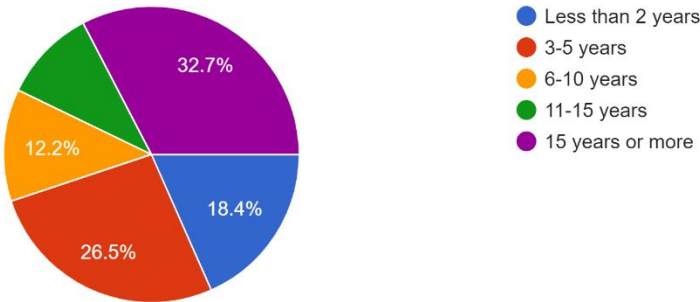
What is your rank?

50 responses



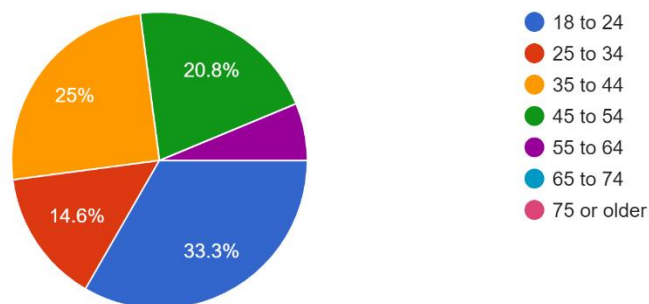
What is your length of service?

49 responses



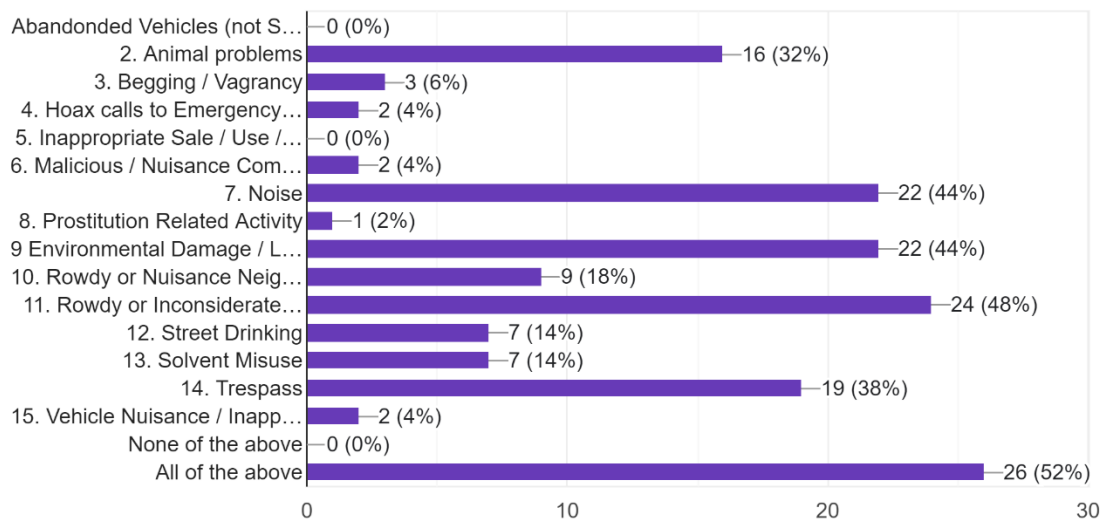
What is your age?

48 responses



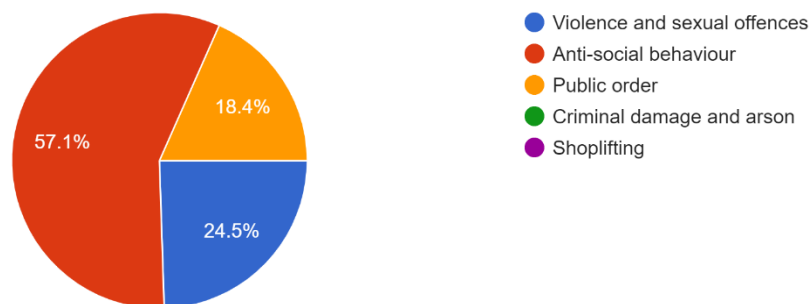
What behaviours/offences do you most associate with anti-social behaviour?

50 responses



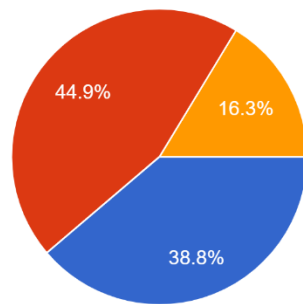
Of the options provided, select the highest crime type in terms of volume reported in Gorsienon, Swansea

49 responses



If someone wanted to access local crime statistics, would you know where to refer them?

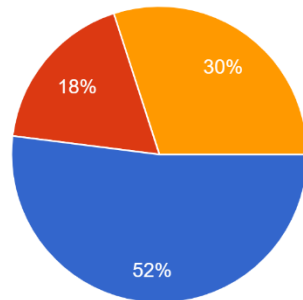
49 responses



- Yes, I know the appropriate source(s)
- I have a general idea but would need to verify
- No, I'm unsure where to refer them

Where would you rank ASB as a priority?

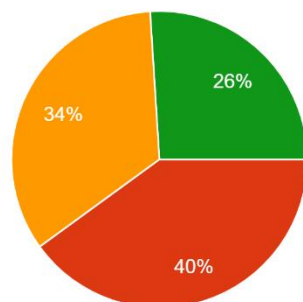
50 responses



- The most important priority
- A priority, but not the most important
- Not very important
- Not important at all

What is the average age of offenders that carry out ASB where you work?

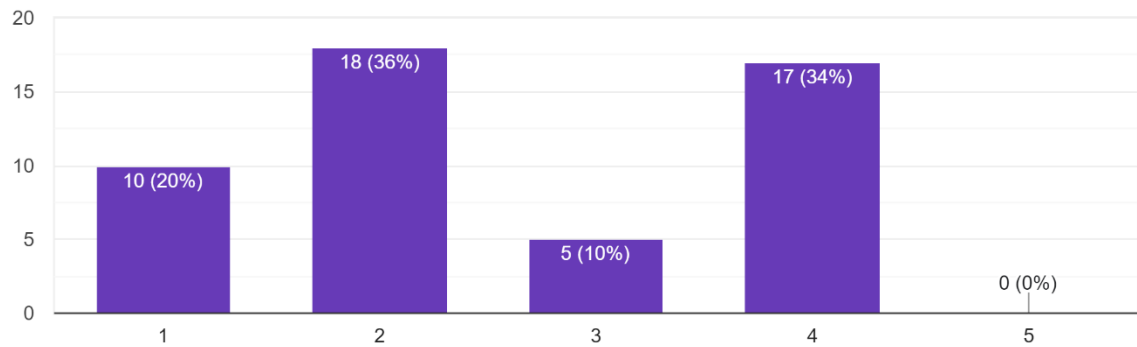
50 responses



- Under 10
- 11-14
- 15-17
- 18-25
- 26-35
- 35+

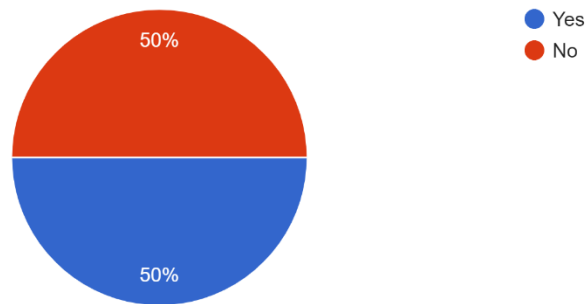
How does media coverage of anti-social behaviour affect your perception of it?

50 responses



Does length of service within the police affect your perception of anti-social behaviour?

50 responses

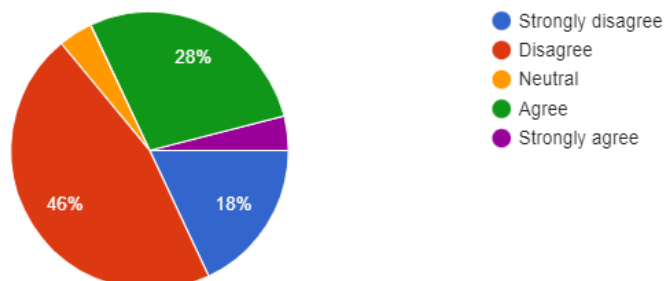


How much do you agree with the following statements

Enough resources are allocated to addressing anti-social behaviour within the police?

 Copy

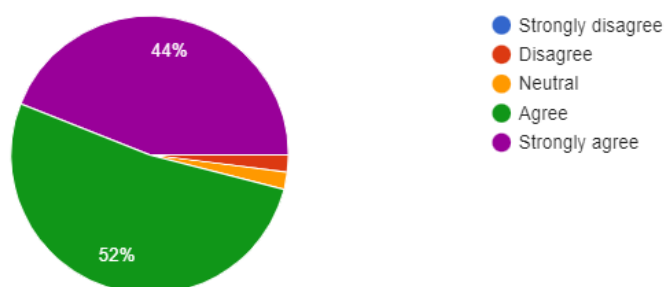
50 responses



Other agencies could be doing more to tackle anti-social behaviour

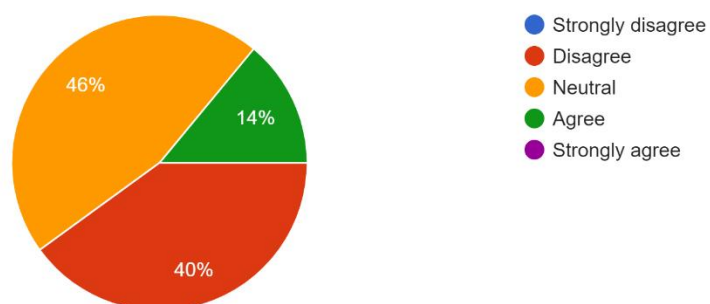
 Copy

50 responses



The communities believe police are doing enough to tackle anti-social behaviour.

50 responses



Suggestions for improvements on policing anti-social behaviour

Suggestions for improvements on policing anti-social behaviour

 Copy

30 responses

activities
appropriate
suggestions
powers
pcsos
stronger
working
increased
officers
calls
behaviour
tolerance
police
npt
cctv
additional
harm
partnership
antisocial
improvements
potential
disperse
punishments
funding
grade
youth
isperial

7.3 Appendix Three: Dissertation Proposal



UNDERGRADUATE DISSERTATION RESEARCH PROPOSAL FORM

Please complete the following research proposal and submit it to Turnitin.

Which project option are you taking? Please tick:

8,000 word project: ☒ X

OR

4,000 word project and presentation:

NAME: Scott Pearson	STUDENT ID No.: 2016444
DRAFT RESEARCH TITLE QUESTION: <i>Anti-Social Behaviour: Understanding The Demand Anti-Social Behaviour Is Having On Policing in South Wales and The Tools Available To Reduce Its Effect On Communities.</i> INTRODUCTION: This dissertation will look at the difficulties that South Wales Police face in dealing with Anti-Social behaviour. It will seek to understand the demand that is being created by anti-social behaviour on South Wales Police and explore whether the tools available to South Wales Police are having an impact in reducing its effect on local communities. This subject was chosen by the researcher as it is something that every person within a community will have first-hand experience of or know someone who is suffering the ongoing effects of. In recent memory, tackling anti-social behaviour has remained high on the political agenda and this is apparent in the amount of legislation introduced to combat anti-social behaviour (Hodgkinson and Tilley, 2011). Anti-social behaviour has also received an increasing amount of media attention and with increased public concerns regarding the long-term implications of anti-social behaviour, the police and local authorities are now under pressure to act (Hodgkinson and Tilley, 2007). The emphasis by the government and media was originally on nuisance neighbours but this has since become firmly focused with concerns over youth disorder (Burney, 2002). Contrary to the high levels of public interest and political attention in combatting anti-social behaviour, there remains no clear definition of what the term means. Unsurprisingly, the term can mean different things to different people and covers a wide range of behaviours (Nixon et al., 2007).	

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) defines anti-social behaviour as acting “in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household” (Crime and Disorder Act, 1998).

This was further updated in Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act (2014) where it defines anti-social behaviour as “conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person, conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person’s occupation of residential premises, or capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person” (Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, 2014).

One element of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act (2014) is the introduction of the Case Review. This gives victims of persistent anti-social behaviour the right to request a review of their previously reported incidents should they feel the actions taken have not been adequate (South Wales Police and Crime Commissionaire, 2022).

The purpose of the case review is to give victims and communities the right to request a review a local threshold is met, and to bring agencies together to take a joined up, problem-solving approach to find a solution.

Despite the powers being available to police and local authorities, some two million reports between 2019-2021, representing 55% of all calls relating to anti-social behaviour went attended by police (BBC News, 2022).

Anti-Social behaviour is not specific to one place, and it can affect all persons, especially the most vulnerable in society. It is an important subject which can have devastating effects on people and one in which I believe more awareness is needed. Protecting anti-social behaviour victims is seen as a government priority however implementation of ASB processes is not mandatory for police forces while the government keeps no record of how widely it is being used (Heap, 2016).

Research that set out to define a concept such as social harm being the negative impact of crime and anti-social behaviour on communities’ security, well-being and resilience. This study found that levels of harm vary markedly and do not necessarily correspond to levels of crime. Some places having very low crime levels but very high social harm (Innes and Leigh, 2011).

Lastly, anti-social behaviour is a significant element of the demands faced by South Wales police. Anti-Social behaviour ranks as the 2nd highest most reported crime type across South Wales for the last three years, ahead of crimes such as theft, public order or criminal damage (Police.UK, 2022).

It would be extremely beneficial for local communities to know the tools available to them in addition to the powers front line police officers have to help tackle anti-social behaviour.

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

The aims of the study are;

1. Understand the demand Anti-Social Behaviour is creating South Wales Police.
2. It will seek to understand the demand that is being created by anti-social behaviour on South Wales Police

3. Explore whether the tools available to South Wales Police are having an impact in reducing its effect on local communities.

The aims of the research will be met by the following objectives

7. Review the literature surrounding Anti-Social behaviour.
8. To research and evaluate secondary data regarding levels of Anti-Social Behaviour in South Wales.
9. To conduct questionnaires or surveys with friends, family, Police officers and interested third parties to ascertain their thoughts, feelings and ideas on what is working and what is not.
10. To collate, analyse and present both primary and secondary data to identify trends and areas for improvement.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH –SURVEY METHOD:

The researcher will seek to utilise a survey / questionnaire when collecting data and will obtain the responses through the use of online tools such as survey websites or social media.

This is best suited to my research as it conforms to the time constraints available and the limited resources at the researchers disposal.

SUMMARY OF SAMPLING FRAMEWORK:

The researcher will seek to obtain the responses via a questionnaire of between 50-100 persons consisting of South Wales Police staff and police officers in addition to members of the public. This will allow the researcher the ability to observe individual's perceptions of the impact of anti-social behaviour on them personally in addition to the wider community.

A sample size smaller may effect the integrity of the overall trend as individual responses would then have a greater impact on the results. Gathering and analysing a sample size larger than this range, may result in additional time and resources being required to complete than is currently available to the researcher.

Receiving responses from between 50-100 people should be more than sufficient as the primary data gathered from the results of the questionnaires will be used to undertake quantitative research and then comparisons made to secondary data to gain insights.

ETHICAL ISSUES:

The researcher will state there will be no significant ethical issues foreseen as a result of this study as victims nor perpetrators of anti-social behaviour will not be specifically targeted. Permission will be requested from persons participating in the study to utilise their anonymised answers all personal details will be excluded, guaranteeing no individuals can be identified.

Where as a result of the questions raised in the study, persons present themselves as being victims of anti-social behaviour, the researcher will signpost them to the local authorities most appropriate.

TIME SCALE:

Will be presented in the form of a Gantt chart

Research proposal & Ethics Form - 21/11/2022

Literature Review - 23/01/2023

Research Methodology & Planning -13/03/2023

Analysis of Results - 01/05/2023

Findings & Conclusion - 05/06/2023

Final Project Submission - 03/07/2023

I aim to complete all work ahead of the submission dates, allowing me adequate opportunity to communicate with my supervisor and make changes to my academic work as the project advances.

REFERENCE LIST:

BBC News (2022). Anti-social behaviour: Two Million Police Reports Go Unattended. BBC News. [online] 1 Apr. Available at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-60947149>.

Burney, E. (2002). Talking Tough, Acting Coy: What Happened to the Anti-Social Behaviour Order? The Howard Journal of Criminal Justice, 41(5), pp.469–484. doi:10.1111/1468-2311.00258.

Heap, V. (2016). Anti-social Behaviour Policy Is Still Not Putting Victims First. [online] British Politics and Policy at LSE. Available at: <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/70591/>.

HODGKINSON, S. and TILLEY, N. (2007). Policing Anti-Social Behaviour: Constraints, Dilemmas and Opportunities. The Howard Journal of Criminal Justice, 46(4), pp.385–400. doi:10.1111/j.1468-2311.2007.00484.x.

Hodgkinson, S. and Tilley, N. (2011). Tackling anti-social behaviour: Lessons from New Labour for the Coalition Government. Criminology & Criminal Justice, 11(4), pp.283–305. doi:10.1177/1748895811414594.

Innes, M. and Leigh, C. (2011). MAPPING AND MEASURING THE SOCIAL HARMS OF CRIME AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR: TOWARD AN OUTCOMES BASED APPROACH TO COMMUNITY SAFETY IN WALES. [online] Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-08/130121-mapping-measuring-social-harms-crime-anti-social-behaviour-en.pdf>.

Nixon, J. (2008). Anti Social Behaviour and Disability in the UK. People, Place and Policy Online, 2(1), pp.37–47. doi:10.3351/ppp.0002.0001.0005.

Police.UK (2022). Your Area - South Wales Police. [online] www.police.uk. Available at: <https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/> [Accessed 2022].

South Wales Police and Crime Commissionaire (2022). Anti-social Behaviour. [online] commissioner.south-wales.police.uk. Available at: <https://commissioner.south-wales.police.uk/en/our-work/anti-social-behaviour/> [Accessed 21 Nov. 2022].

Legislation

Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

7.4 Appendix Four: Ethics Form

APPLICATION FOR ETHICAL APPROVAL

In order for research to result in benefit and minimise risk of harm, it must be conducted ethically. A researcher may not be covered by the University's insurance if ethical approval has not been obtained prior to commencement.

The University follows the OECD Frascati manual definition of **research activity**: "creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications". As such this covers activities undertaken by members of staff, postgraduate research students, and both taught postgraduate and undergraduate students working on dissertations/projects.

The individual undertaking the research activity is known as the "principal researcher".

Ethical approval is not required for routine audits, performance reviews, quality assurance studies, testing within normal educational requirements, and literary or artistic criticism.

Please read the notes for guidance before completing ALL sections of the form.

This form must be completed and approved prior to undertaking any research activity. Please see Checklist for details of process for different categories of application.

Delete the Guidance Notes at the end of the form BEFORE submitting your application

SECTION A: About You (Principal Researcher)

Full Name:	Scott Pearson			
Tick all boxes which apply:	Member of staff:	☐	Honorary research fellow:	☐
Undergraduate Student	☒	Taught Postgraduate Student	☐	Postgraduate Research Student
Institute/Academic Discipline/Centre:	University Of Wales Trinity Saint David			
Campus:	Swansea			
E-mail address:	2016444@student.uwtsd.ac.uk			
Contact Telephone Number:	07875729784			
For students:				
Student Number:	2016444			
Programme of Study:	BSc (Hons) Professional Policing Practice			
Director of Studies/Supervisor:	Dr Jonathan Edwards, BA (Hons), LLB, PgDip, PGCE, MBA, MPhil.			

SECTION B: Approval for Research Activity

Has the research activity received approval in principle? (please check the Guidance Notes as to the appropriate approval process for different levels of research by different categories of individual)	YES	☒	NO	☐
			Date	
If Yes, please indicate source of approval (and date where known): Approval in principle must be obtained from the relevant source prior to seeking ethical approval	Research Degrees Committee	☒		
	Institute Research Committee	☐		
	Other (write in)	☐		

SECTION C: Internal and External Ethical Guidance Materials

Please list the core ethical guidance documents that have been referred to during the completion of this form (including any discipline-specific codes of research ethics, and also any specific ethical guidance relating to the proposed methodology). Please tick to confirm that your research proposal adheres to these codes and guidelines.	
UWTSD Research Ethics & Integrity Code of Practice	☒
UWTSD Research Data Management Policy	☒
	☐

SECTION D: External Collaborative Research Activity

Does the research activity involve collaborators outside of the University?	YES	☐	NO	☒	
If Yes, please provide the name of the external organisation and name and contact details for the main contact person and confirmation this person has consented to their personal data being shared.as part of this collaboration.					
Institution					
Contact person name					
Contact person e-mail address					
Has this individual consented to sharing their details on this form?	YES	☐	NO	☐	
Are you in receipt of a KESS scholarship?	YES	☐	NO	☒	
Is your research externally funded	YES	☐	NO	☒	
Are you specifically employed to undertake this research in either a paid or voluntary capacity?	Voluntary	YES	☐	NO	☒
	Employed	YES	☐	NO	☒
Is the research being undertaken within an existing UWTSD Athrofa Professional Learning Partnership (APLP)	If YES then the permission question below does not need to be answered.	YES	☐	NO	☒
Permission to undertake the research has been provided by the partner organisation	(If YES attach copy) If NO the application cannot continue	YES	☐	NO	☒

Where research activity is carried out in collaboration with an external organisation

Does this organisation have its own ethics approval system?	YES	☐	NO	☐
If Yes, please attach a copy of any final approval (or interim approval) from the organisation				

SECTION E: Details of Research Activity

Indicative title:	Anti-Social Behaviour: Understanding The Demand Anti-Social Behaviour Is Having On Policing in South Wales and The Tools Available To Reduce Its Effect On Communities.		
Proposed start date:	21/11/2022	Proposed end date:	03/07/2023
Introduction to the Research (maximum 300 words) Ensure that you write for a Non-Specialist Audience when outlining your response to the three points below: • <i>Purpose of Research Activity</i> • <i>Proposed Research Question</i> • <i>Aims of Research Activity</i> • <i>Objectives of Research Activity</i> Demonstrate, briefly, how Existing Research has informed the proposed activity and explain • <i>What the research activity will add to the body of knowledge</i> • <i>How it addresses an area of importance.</i>			
Purpose of Research Activity The purpose of this research topic is to understand the reasons for high levels of anti-social behaviour in the communities covered by South Wales Police. It will seek to understand the tools available to South Wales Police in reducing the effects of Anti-Social behaviour on local communities. Lastly, what are the difficulties facing South Wales Police when dealing with Anti-Social behaviour. (this box should expand as you type)			
Research Question What demand is Anti Social Behaviour creating South Wales Police. What are the difficulties, South Wales Police face when dealing with Anti-Social behaviour What tools are available to South Wales Police in reducing the effects of Anti-Social behaviour on local communities. (this box should expand as you type)			
Aims of Research Activity The aims of the study are; 4. Understand the demand Anti Social Behaviour is creating South Wales Police.			

5. It will seek to understand the demand that is being created by anti-social behaviour on South Wales Police
6. Explore whether the tools available to South Wales Police are having an impact in reducing its effect on local communities.

(this box should expand as you type)

Objectives of Research Activity

The aims of the research will be met by the following objectives

1. Review the literature surrounding Anti-Social behaviour.
2. To research and evaluate secondary data regarding levels of Anti-Social Behaviour in South Wales.
3. To conduct questionnaires or surveys with friends, family, Police officers and interested third parties to ascertain their thoughts, feelings and ideas on what is working and what is not.
4. To collate, analyse and present both primary and secondary data to identify trends and areas for improvement.

(this box should expand as you type)

Proposed methods (maximum 600 words)

Provide a brief summary of all the methods that **may** be used in the research activity, making it clear what specific techniques may be used. If methods other than those listed in this section are deemed appropriate later, additional ethical approval for those methods will be needed.

The researcher will seek to utilise a survey / questionnaire when collecting data and will obtain the responses through the use of online tools such as survey websites or social media. This is best suited to my research as it conforms to the time constraints available and the limited resources at the researchers disposal.

The researcher will seek to obtain the responses via a questionnaire of between 50-100 persons consisting of South Wales Police staff and police officers in addition to members of the public. This will allow the researcher the ability to observe individual's perceptions of the impact of anti-social behaviour on them personally in addition to the wider community.

A sample size smaller may effect the integrity of the overall trend as individual responses would then have a greater impact on the results. Gathering and analysing a sample size larger than this range, may result in additional time and resources being required to complete than is currently available to the researcher.

Receiving responses from between 50-100 people should be more than sufficient as the primary data gathered from the results of the questionnaires will be used to undertake quantitative research and then comparisons made to secondary data to gain insights.

(this box should expand as you type)

Location of research activity

Identify all locations where research activity will take place.

Swansea

(this box should expand as you type)

Research activity outside of the UK

If research activity will take place overseas, you are responsible for ensuring that local ethical considerations are complied with and that the relevant permissions are sought. Specify any local guidelines (e.g. from local professional associations/learned societies/universities) that exist and whether these involve any ethical stipulations beyond those usual in the UK (provide details of any licenses or permissions required). Also specify whether there are any specific ethical issues raised by the local context in which the research activity is taking place, for example, particular cultural and/or legal sensitivities or vulnerabilities of participants.

n/a

(this box should expand as you type)

Use of documentation not in the public domain: Are any documents **NOT** publicly available?

NO

☒

YES

☐

If Yes, please provide details here of how you will gain access to specific documentation that is not in the public domain and that this is in accordance with prevailing data protection law of the country in question and England and Wales.

(this box should expand as you type)

SECTION F: Scope of Research Activity

Will the research activity include:	YES	NO
Use of a questionnaire or similar research instrument?	☒	☐
Use of interviews?	☐	☒
Use of diaries?	☐	☒
Participant observation with their knowledge?	☐	☒
Participant observation without their knowledge?	☐	☒
Use of video or audio recording?	☐	☒
Access to personal or confidential information without the participants' specific consent?	☐	☒
Administration of any questions, test stimuli, presentation that may be experienced as physically, mentally or emotionally harmful / offensive?	☐	☒
Performance of any acts which may cause embarrassment or affect self-esteem?	☐	☒
Investigation of participants involved in illegal activities?	☐	☒
Use of procedures that involve deception?	☐	☒
Administration of any substance, agent or placebo?	☐	☒
Working with live vertebrate animals?	☐	☒
Other primary data collection methods, please explain in this box For example, 'focus groups'. Please indicate the type of data collection method(s) in this box and tick the accompany box.	☐	☒
Details of any other primary data collection method: (this box should expand as you type)		

If NO to every question, then the research activity is (ethically) low risk and **may** be exempt from **some** of the following sections (please refer to Guidance Notes).

If YES to any question, then no research activity should be undertaken until full ethical approval has been obtained.

SECTION G: Intended Participants

Who are the intended participants:	YES	NO
Students or staff at the University?	☒	☐
Adults (over the age of 18 and competent to give consent)?	☒	☐
Vulnerable adults?	☐	☒
Children and Young People under the age of 18? (Consent from Parent, Carer or Guardian will be required)	☐	☒
Prisoners?	☐	☒
Young offenders?	☐	☒
Those who could be considered to have a particularly dependent relationship with the investigator or a gatekeeper?	☐	☒
People engaged in illegal activities?	☐	☒
Others (please identify specifically any group who may be unable to give consent) please indicate here and tick the appropriate box.	☐	☒
Other – please indicate here: (this box should expand as you type)		

Participant numbers and source	
Provide an estimate of the expected number of participants. How will you identify participants and how will they be recruited?	
How many participants are expected?	50-100 persons (this box should expand as you type)
Who will the participants be?	The researcher will seek to obtain the responses via a questionnaire of between 50-100 persons consisting of South Wales Police staff and police officers in addition to members of the public. (this box should expand as you type)
How will you identify the participants?	Seek out perspective participants via internal email within organisation. (this box should expand as you type)

SECTION H: Anticipated Risks

Outline any anticipated risks that may adversely affect any of the participants, the researchers and/or the University, and the steps that will be taken to address them.							
If you have completed a full risk assessment (for example as required by a laboratory, or external research collaborator) you may append that to this form.							
Full risk assessment completed and appended?			<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>☒</td> </tr> </table>	Yes	☐	No	☒
Yes	☐						
No	☒						
Risks to participants For example: emotional distress, financial disclosure, physical harm, transfer of personal data, sensitive organisational information							
Risk to Participant: No risks identified <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		How will you mitigate the Risk to Participant <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>					
If research activity may include sensitive, embarrassing or upsetting topics (e.g. sexual activity, drug use) or issues likely to disclose information requiring further action (e.g. criminal activity), give details of the procedures to deal with these issues, including any support/advice (e.g. helpline numbers) to be offered to participants. Note that where applicable, consent procedures should make it clear that if something potentially or actually illegal is discovered in the course of a project, it may need to be disclosed to the proper authorities							
The researcher will state there will be no significant ethical issues foreseen as a result of this study as victims nor perpetrators of anti-social behaviour will not be specifically targeted. Permission will be requested from persons participating in the study to utilise their anonymised answers all personal details will be excluded, guaranteeing no individuals can be identified. Where as a result of the questions raised in the study, persons present themselves as being victims of anti-social behaviour, the researcher will signpost them to the local authorities most appropriate. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>							
Risks to investigator For example: personal safety, physical harm, emotional distress, risk of accusation of harm/impropriety, conflict of interest							
Risk to Investigator: No risks identified <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		How will you mitigate the Risk to Investigator: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>					
University/institutional risks For example: adverse publicity, financial loss, data protection							
Risk to University: No risks identified <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		How will you mitigate the Risk to University: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>					
Disclosure and Barring Service							
If the research activity involves children or vulnerable adults, a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate must be obtained before any contact with such participants.	YES	NO	N/A				
Does your research require you to hold a current DBS Certificate?	☐	☒	☐				

SECTION I: Feedback, Consent and Confidentiality

Feedback

What de-briefing and feedback will be provided to participants, how will this be done and when?

Participants in the survey/ questionnaire will not be actively contact following completion of the project, however should participants wish to find out the results, I will provide my contact details where results will be discussed as required.

(this box should expand as you type)

Informed consent

Describe the arrangements to inform potential participants, before providing consent, of what is involved in participating. Describe the arrangements for participants to provide full consent before data collection begins. If gaining consent in this way is inappropriate, explain how consent will be obtained and recorded in accordance with prevailing data protection legislation.

Before participants take part in the study, the terms in relation to information gathering and consent will be fully explained.

(this box should expand as you type)

Confidentiality / Anonymity

Set out how anonymity of participants and confidentiality will be ensured in any outputs. If anonymity is not being offered, explain why this is the case.

No personal data be documented in the survey/questionnaire. Participants in the project will be allocated a number which will be the method to identify them.

(this box should expand as you type)

SECTION J: Data Protection and Storage

In completing this section refer to the University's Research Data Management Policy and the extensive resources on the University's Research Data Management web pages (<http://uwtsd.ac.uk/library/research-data-management/>).

Does the research activity involve personal data (as defined by the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 "GDPR" and the Data Protection Act 2018 "DPA")?	YES	NO
"Personal data" means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.	☐	☒
If YES, provide a description of the data and explain why this data needs to be collected:		
<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
Does it involve special category data (as defined by the GDPR)?	YES	NO
"Special category data" means sensitive personal data consisting of information as to the data subjects' – (a) racial or ethnic origin, (b) political opinions, (c) religious beliefs or other beliefs of a similar nature, (d) membership of a trade union (within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992), (e) physical or mental health or condition, (f) sexual life, (g) genetics, (h) biometric data (as used for ID purposes),	☐	☒
If YES, provide a description of the special category data and explain why this data needs to be collected:		
<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
Will the research activity involve storing personal data and/or special category data on one of the following:	YES	NO
Manual files (i.e. in paper form)?	☐	☒
University computers?	☐	☒
Private company computers?	☐	☒
Home or other personal computers?	☐	☒
Laptop computers/ CDs/ Portable disk-drives/ memory sticks?	☐	☒
"Cloud" storage or websites?	☐	☒
Other – specify:	☐	☒

For all stored data, explain the measures in place to ensure the security of the data collected, data confidentiality, including details of password protection, encryption, anonymisation and pseudonymisation:		
<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
All Data Storage		
Will the research activity involve any of the following activities:	YES	NO
Electronic transfer of data in any form?	☐	☒
Sharing of data with others at the University?	☐	☒
Sharing of data with other organisations?	☐	☒
Export of data outside the European Union or importing of data from outside the UK?	☐	☒
Use of personal addresses, postcodes, faxes, emails or telephone numbers?	☐	☒
Publication of data that might allow identification of individuals?	☐	☒
Use of data management system?	☐	☒
Data archiving?	☐	☒
If YES to any question, please provide full details, explaining how this will be conducted in accordance with the GDPR and DPA (and/or any international equivalent):		
<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
List all who will have access to the data generated by the research activity:		
The researcher themselves will be the sole person to have access to the data generated.		
<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
List who will have control of, and act as custodian(s) for, data generated by the research activity:		
The researcher will have control over and act as custodian for the data generated.		
<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
Give details of data storage arrangements, including security measures in place to protect the data, where data will be stored, how long for, and in what form. Will data be archived – if so how and if not why not.		
Data generated will be stored on my South Wales Police issued laptop. This is password protected where I have the sole access.		
<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
Please indicate if your data will be stored in the UWTSD Research Data Repository (see https://researchdata.uwtsd.ac.uk/). If so please explain. <i>(Most relevant to academic staff)</i>		
N/A		
<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
Confirm that you have read the UWTSD guidance on data management (see https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/library/research-data-management/)	YES	☒
	NO	☐
	YES	☒

Confirm that you are aware that you need to keep all data until after your research has completed or the end of your funding	NO	☐
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SECTION K: Declaration

The information which I have provided is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have attempted to identify any risks and issues related to the research activity and acknowledge my obligations and the rights of the participants.

In submitting this application I hereby confirm that I undertake to ensure that the above named research activity will meet the University's Research Ethics and Integrity Code of Practice which is published on the website: <https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/research/research-ethics/>

Signature of applicant:	<i>S. Pearson</i>	Date: 21/11/2022
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For STUDENT Submissions:

Director of Studies/Supervisor:		Date:
Signature:		

For STAFF Submissions:

Academic Director/ Assistant Dean:		Date:
Signature:		

Checklist: Please complete the checklist below to ensure that you have completed the form according to the guidelines and attached any required documentation:

☒	I have read the guidance notes supplied before completing the form.
☒	I have completed ALL RELEVANT sections of the form in full.
☒	I confirm that the research activity has received approval in principle
☐	I have attached a copy of final/interim approval from external organisation (where appropriate)
☐	I have attached a full risk assessment (and have NOT completed Section H of this form) (where appropriate) ONLY TICK IF YOU HAVE ATTACHED A FULL RISK ASSESSMENT
☒	I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that the above named research activity will meet the University's Research Ethics and Integrity Code of Practice.
☒	I understand that before commencing data collection all documents aimed at respondents (including information sheets, consent forms, questionnaires, interview schedules etc.) must be confirmed by the DoS/Supervisor, module tutor or Academic Director.
☒	I have deleted the guidance notes before submitting the PG2 for consideration

RESEARCH STUDENTS AND STAFF ONLY

All communications relating to this application during its processing must be in writing and emailed to pgresearch@uwtsd.ac.uk , with the title 'Ethical Approval' followed by your name.

You will be informed of the outcome of your claim by email; therefore it is important that you check your University and personal email accounts regularly.

STUDENTS ON UNDERGRADUATE OR TAUGHT MASTERS PROGRAMMES should submit this form (and receive the outcome) via systems explained to you by the supervisor/module leader.

This form is available electronically from the Academic Office web pages:

<https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/academic-office/appendices-and-forms/>

Application Process

All staff research projects and all research students must submit the Ethical Approval Form to the **University Research Ethics Committee** via the Academic Office (pgresearch@uwtsd.ac.uk). Staff research directly in relation to personal study for taught undergraduate or Masters programmes should be submitted via the Institute procedures explained below.

Taught masters and taught undergraduate research Ethical Approval Forms are considered **within Institutes**. Institutes will provide details of the specific processes for this. Where the Ethical issues within any single ethical application are of particular concern the Institute will refer these to the University Research Ethics Committee. Any student activity that involves the collection of primary data needs to undergo Ethical approval, this includes assignment work as well as dissertations.