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UNDERGRADUATE DISSERTATION RESEARCH PROPOSAL FORM

Please complete the following research proposal and submit it to Turnitin.
Please get rid of the red writing for your final submission.

NAME: Jamie Gough

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DRAFT RESEARCH TITLE QUESTION:

A critical evaluation into the understanding if response policing is becoming more demanding and analysing the pressures of being on the front line.

INTRODUCTION: -

Firstly, I am going to be undertaking the 8000-word dissertation option throughout this final year of study and response policing is my chosen subject area.

Response policing is the centralisation of all aspects of policing, it incorporates all types of crime, victims, suspects and much more. Being a response police officer for just over two years now, I want to document and express the demand and pressures around being on the front line. By evaluating the demand, it enables areas to be identified that are being overwhelmed and to incorporate measures to support these areas. Demand is being assessed by many forces due to the previous cuts in resourcing over the years. Critically, by recruitment being put on hold and other areas within the force being reduced in staffing, acceptability as well as value of work is now questioned.

1. Spending on the police has fallen by 18% since 2009/10.

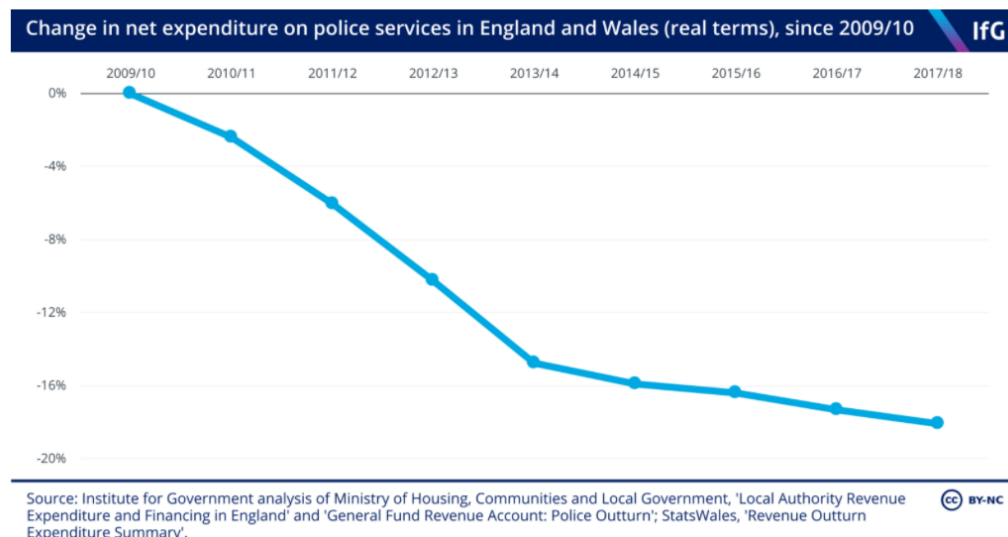


Figure 1 – Source: (*Institute for Government, 2019, (A)*)

Furthermore, throughout different forces we are seeing a change in how operations are run. Therefore, looking at ways to reduce the demand, as well as reducing the high level of work that is being enforced on the police service. (NPCC, 2017) “crime, accounts for less than a quarter of ‘demand’ through calls for service” (College of Policing 2015, as cited in NPCC, 2017)

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

Compare through research whether response policing is becoming more demanding over time either through calls, loss of officers or administration.

Identify the key areas of response policing and to discover what areas are the most time consuming.

To discover if front line policing is changing and therefore effecting demand, what are the considerations around future change.

To find out what pressures front line officers face as well as the policies and procedures in place to provide support.

LITERATURE REVIEW: -

Complex crimes are on the rise and therefore take a longer period of time to investigate. Thereby, causing more demand for officers with reduced numbers, however due to resourcing violent crimes are being prioritised over complex. All crimes range in threat, risk and harm and due to the reduced numbers of officers, higher risk incidents get prioritised. However, administration can also be overwhelming with referrals to external services being required for calls that don't involve crime such as missing people and mental health calls (*Institute for Government, 2019, (B)*).

“A lack of data combined with changing trends in crime and crime-related work makes it hard to measure demand on the police. While the overall picture is unclear, there is enough evidence to suggest that some crimes – including complex and serious crimes – are placing increasing demands on the police” (*Institute for Government, 2019, (C)*). From this, I can demonstrate that through this body of work I will be able to investigate and gather more research to support how police response and recourses are being challenged.

“*The recruitment of an additional 20,000 police officers in England and Wales by March 2023*” (*Gov.uk, 2022*). This statement has caused controversy within policing and Martin Hewitt who is a former Metropolitan Police assistant commissioner has an interesting response. Offenders being prosecuted is at an all time low, statistics state just 7 per cent of reported offences lead to a charge. (*Independent, 2020, (A)*) “Bringing in the 20,000 is not the answer to all the challenges we have around policing,” Mr Hewitt said “it was “very difficult” for police to tell devastated victims that perpetrators would not be charged, and that years of rising demand and falling resources had damaged officers’ mental health”. (*Mr Hewitt, as cited in, Independent, 2020*)

An evaluation into a report in 2020 from The Independent stated that 999 calls were not being answered for more than two minutes. Furthermore, due to cuts demand on the police has

increased and there are concerns around forces being overwhelmed and therefore causing huge pressures to the front line. As well as this, the answering target for 999 calls is a 10 second time frame. However, HMICFRS have evidence to suggest that 999 calls had increased in Wales and England by 11 per cent. Therefore, this answering time frame is being missed (Independent, 2020 (B)).

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH –SURVEY METHOD:

Different research methods will be used throughout this dissertation such as questionnaires, journals, news articles and government figures. These methods will be used as I believe they will provide the best supporting evidence towards my title. Government figures will be key as they will show the different areas of demand and thereby providing statistics around my dissertation. Furthermore, journals and news articles provide additional information towards highlighted areas that will offer supporting evidence.

SUMMARY OF SAMPLING FRAMEWORK:

The intended participants throughout this dissertation will be towards front line officers and the public. The reason for this is because they will be able to provide valuable evidence towards the main question for this dissertation. Front line officers deal with the demand and will reflect the pressures they face by answering the questions provided, and that is why they're best suited for my research. Therefore, providing key statistics which will be presented via a graph showing the comparisons between each chosen subject area. To add to this, I do intend to also develop a questionnaire towards the public around their views on what they think police demand and pressures are for front line officers. Thereby, showing an interesting comparison between front line officers and the public's perception.

ETHICAL ISSUES:

Throughout my proposal I will ensure that there are no ethical issues by following the steps I have put in place. Firstly, by ensuring that the questionnaire is voluntary and that no one will be forced into taking part. Furthermore, my questionnaire will not be provided to any vulnerable people or victims of crime. Also, ensuring that none of the questions are offensive and by checking with my supervisor prior to handing out my questionnaire. Finally, I will act upon any feedback provided from this proposal to ensure that the topics I am researching into have been approved.

TIME SCALE:

Due to being a full-time response officer while completing this degree my time is limited and therefore I need to dedicate days to complete my degree. A table has been created below which documents a rough guide on the days I intend to complete each research and sections of my dissertation.

Timetable

		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 23
Submission Dates	Dissertation Titles										
16 th May 2022	Proposal and Ethics										
25 th July 2022	Literature Review										
5 th September 2022	Research Methods										
24 th October 2022	Analysis of Results										
28 th November 2022	Findings Chapter										
2 nd January 2023	Final Project										

Proposal and ethics – 4 PLT days throughout May. I will be dedicating at least 5 days of my own time between April and May.

Literature review- 5 PLT days throughout June and July. I will be dedicating at least 10 days of my own time.

Research method- 6 PLT days throughout August and September. I will be dedicating at least 10 days of my own time.

Analysis of research- 6 PLT days throughout September and October. I will be dedicating at least 10 days of my own time.

Findings Chapter- 7 PLT days throughout October and November. I will be dedicating at least 10 days of my own time.

Final Project- 4 PLT days throughout October and November. I will be dedicating at least 10 days of my own time.

REFERENCE LIST:

Gov.uk, 2022. *Police officer uplift, England and Wales, quarterly update to 31 March 2022*. [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-officer-uplift-quarterly-update-to-march-2022/police-officer-uplift-england-and-wales-quarterly-update-to-31-march-2022>

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The Independent, 2020(A). *Boris Johnson's promise of 20,000 officers isn't enough to solve crime problems, says Britain's most senior police chief*. [online] Available at: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/boris-johnson-police-officers-cuts-austerity-tory-crime-martin-hewitt-a9269481.html>

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