

Introduction to dissertation.

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Taser usage alongside the police's use of force has been an important aspect of contention within modern times and everchanging social climates and challenges, within recent times; the influence of rising political challenges such as illegal immigration and an ever-growing division of political beliefs, the use of the "policing by consent" which the British police forces evoke in the day to day duties is sensitive to any escalation at any point, and so within these tense times, officer and public protection is needed more than ever. However, the armament (lethal or less lethal) of the police such as within countries such as America has developed a "weapon effect" which is a "psychological phenomenon in which sight of a weapon increases aggressive behaviour." (University of Cambridge 2020) which is being seen ever more growingly in the UK. Within this dissertation I aim to research the impacts of officers armed with more specifically, tasers affect decision making within the pyramid of force within British police services in scenarios which require these forms of force. With "79% of the public backing the idea of more officers being equipped with Tasers" (Chambers 2024), the growing scrutiny of taser use is becoming more important than ever within the socio-political environment of the UK and South Wales.

The primary aim of this research is to critically analyse public perception of taser usage across South Wales and Dyfed Powys Police and to examine the potential impact of how it may inform the police's use of less lethal munitions. To ensure this is done to a high standard a number of aims and objectives will be met; Firstly identifying the legislation which allows and enables officers within Dyfed Powys Police and South Wales Police to carry and use tasers, with the analysis of the legislation, primarily the 1968 firearms act which makes conducted energy devices (tasers) illegal to the public and "exempts officers from the requirements of the legislation and do not need any additional legal authority to possess CEDs" (College of Policing 2025).

This study will also analyse how the South Wales and Dyfed Powys Police services use of CED's influence the public's perception of the officers and the service with growing concerns of racial and profiling within the police within the UK an independent study shows that a "statistical relationship between ethnicity and increased use of Taser relative to other uses of force in some areas" (Savigar-Shaw 2023) This will allow the study to collate data regarding how the public perceive within South Wales perceive police officers equipped with less-lethal munitions in respect of these studies and

public pressure. On the other hand this may aid the public's ability to witness force escalation practices alongside developing general trust and positive views of Dyfed Powys and South Wales Police; to undertake this analysis of public perception first hand data will be collated within the form of surveys and interviews which will be qualitative in its questioning, and later analysed in a quantitative measure to analyse and identify any trends if any. The final objective that will be included within this study includes the examination and analyses of the strategies used when tasers are used within the public and develop proposals regarding recommendations of how tasers are used. To effectively analyse these strategies, I will critically examine notable cases across police forces within Wales and around the world to note the success rate of application of tasers and how the public perceives the usage of it within their region.

The timeframe for has been set to ensure that this dissertation to ensure that successful data collection can be completed and handled without any bias or opinion forming; the timeframe includes the introduction of the dissertation being completed by the 31st of October 2025, the literature review will be completed by the 5th of December 2025, the research methodology of the aims of my research will be completed by the 6th of February 2026 followed by the analysis and examination of the research findings to be completed by the 6th of March 2026 with the final dissertation altered for any findings and completed by the 5th of May 2026 to ensure there's is adequate time between sections for any alterations to be made and corrected to enable a prompt and efficient dissertation to be created.

The continuum of force is an everchanging tool that police officers must use within their day-to-day jobs if it is ever required within a scenario, CED's are included within this continuum when lethal force is not required but other measure may be deemed too passive; tasers are regarded as a form of less lethal munition and are "referred to weapons, devices and tactics, developed and used to minimise the need for recourse to conventional firearms." (College of Policing 2023) the word minimise is often associated with tasers as they are often deployed to preserve life in an otherwise lethal scenario. However, the use of these munitions (less lethal) may be seen as disproportionate to the other aspects of training and deescalation police officers have access to within the United Kingdom, such as negotiations and restraints. This overuse and reliance on these munitions such as taser and kinetic impact devices may affect "those who have experienced it both directly and indirectly, which can damage already fragile relationships between the police and ethnic minority communities." (Savigar Shaw 2023); these impacts which affect not just police services and ethnic minority communities but also the already fractured socio-political relationships within the country may be even more strained when under the presence of a under regulated police service. So, to understand the legislation that is within place in Dyfed Powys Police and other police services an examination of legislation will be undertook to critique the positive and negative aspects of the enforcement of the legislation to

enable a better understanding of why it is used. “Every effort should be made to exclude the use of firearms” (UN 1990) this use of the word exclusion, this terminology of a basic human right which applies to every person within the world and so the use of tasers is an often common occurrence within countries that experience social discourse and violence in attempts to mitigate the violent effects of the actions of most commonly rioters and violent individuals. So, because of “tasers being available to more officers than ever before.” (Lockwood 2021) a result of these methods and munitions being used on a great deal of the population around the world due to their availability by police may create an already biased opinion of the use of these methods and so within this research I would like to minimize my global demographic to that of people within the catchment of Dyfed Powys Police (“518,062” (HMICFRS 2025)) and South Wales Police (“1.3 million people (South Wales Police 2023)) as they are areas with a diverse populous regarding all types of social experience whether that is regarding engagement with the police or not. So, to create a firsthand source of information in the form of a survey which is qualitative in nature to gauge the opinions of a large demographic of people, the data will allow for a true representation of the feelings of the public within these diaspora groups in the two regions. This will aid in my legislative based research as it will allow me to analyse the success of the regional police services prescription of less lethal munitions, furthermore, seeing how effective they are in a possible scenario which calls for the munitions to be implemented.

The reasoning for collating this research includes the fact that the Dyfed Powys and South Wales police services are two of the largest (by area) police services within the United Kingdom and so enabling them to serve within a safe and efficient way whilst keeping themselves and the public safe is an extremely important topic, especially within recent years. Furthermore, understanding and critiquing the methods and legislation behind the use of less-lethal munitions which the police services have access too will be an important and useful resource for them in developing their methods and determining the effectiveness of those methods if change is needed to enable a safer and more manageable form of policing.

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