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SWANSEA - ABERTAWE

The Public's Perception of the UK Police and its Impact it has on Policing the Community

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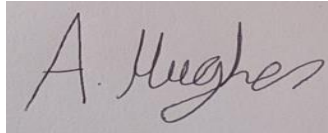
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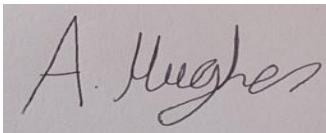
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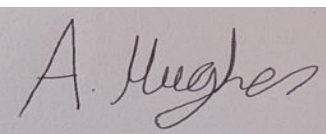
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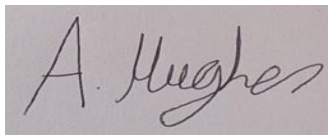
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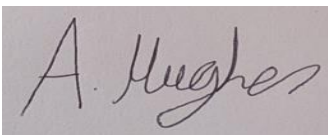
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Abstract

The aim of this dissertation is to investigate the public's perception of police officers in the UK, focusing on the factors that negatively influence community views of law enforcement and its organisations. It will also examine how these perceptions affect police officers' roles and their investigative practices, while identifying strategies to enhance public opinion of the police.

To facilitate this research, a thorough review of existing scholarly literature and surveys related to this subject will be conducted, aiming to understand the elements that shape community attitudes towards the police, both positively and negatively.

To gain deeper insights into public and police perspectives, two web-based surveys have been developed: one targeting the public with relevant questions and other aimed at police officers and staff. These surveys were disseminated via social media to assess public perception of the UK police and its implications for community policing.

The findings presented in this dissertation are supported by literature reviewed in chapter two, which highlights the challenges faced by police due to varying levels of public confidence in the UK. This analysis reveals both negative and positive influences on community perceptions and their subsequent effects on policing practices.

Upon reaching this significant milestone, the dissertation successfully fulfils its objective by addressing the question of public perception of the UK police and its impact on community policing.

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Chapter - 1 Introduction

1.1 - Introduction

The purpose of this search is to explore and assess what is the public's perception of the police in the UK. The search will also be evaluating what has an impact on the public's perception of the police in the UK whether it is a positive impact or a negative impact. It will also be exploring what impact it has on the officers that serve the community itself and what effect this has on their day-to-day policing.

Over the last few years, it has been identified by YouGov who have recently conducted a survey into how the community believes the police are currently performing. Through this survey it was identified that there has been a drop in confidence in how the community perceives how the police are currently performing. Through this survey it was identified that in February 2020, 70% of the community in Britain believed that the police were performing to a high standard. Since this assessment it has dropped to 53% of British public believe that the police are performing well. Through this survey it has been identified that the members of the community that are criticising the police force has had an increase which has gone from 15% to 37% which has more than doubled (YouGov, 2024). Through this research I will explore why this is happening and what can be done to improve the public perception of the police throughout the UK and what is already being done to combat this.

1.2 - Background and Rational

Police are governed by principles, one of these core principles is policing by consent. Policing by consent refers to a longstanding philosophy of police forces across the UK, commonly associated with nine principles established by Robert Peel. However, there is no concrete evidence linking these principles directly to Peel himself; it is more likely that the first commissioners of the Metropolitan police (Charles Rowen) formulated them. This concept is founded on the belief that the legitimacy of law enforcement arises from the consent and cooperation of the community they serve, rather than solely from governmental authority (Ministry of Justice, 2024). Due to the recent drop in confidence in the police within the community and the overall negative perception of the police throughout the UK. This could have an impact on how the police serve the public with consent and how they represent the community they serve due to the loss of confidence in the police forces throughout the UK.

Policing by consent is a strategy aimed at securing the approval, respect, and support

of the community. Police officers play a crucial role in the social structure of the neighbourhoods they serve however their effectiveness is significantly hindered without the trust and confidence of the public (Rosenbaum et al. 2005). A study by Marier et al revealed that substantial research has consistently shown that when police officers sense a deterioration in their relationship with the community, it results in their disengagement from their duties both physically and emotionally (Marier et al, 2023). In 2022 Voluntary Resignation among police personnel rose to 3,433 reflecting a 72% increase since 1996 category now represents 42% of all police departures, up from 33% the prior year, this suggests a connection between the departure of officers and a decrease in public trust (University of Portsmouth, 2024). The Institute for Government indicates that a decline in public perception of policing may be associated with widely publicised incidents of misconduct and unlawful actions by officers. Exemplified by the case of David Carrick, who pleaded guilty in February 2023 to 49 offences including twenty-four counts of rape (House of Lords, 2024). It is incidents like this that have a major impact on the perception of the police and their public confidence in the police.

The aim of this research is to explore the potential consequences of a lack of community confidence in the police, examining its effect on crime rates and other aspects within the community and police forces across the UK.

1.3 - Objective

The purpose of this dissertation is to evaluate and investigate the impact of the public perception in the police and how this can affect crime rates. This dissertation will also be exploring the effects the community relations have in the police and how this effects the community and the officers that serve the community.

Objective one. To investigate and examine existing research and literature into the public's perception and the trust they may have in the police and the impact that might have on this, due to recent incidents involving police officers.

Objective two. To analyse any data and to investigate whether, due to the trust in the police falling within the community has this had an impact on crime rates within the community in the UK.

Objective three. To analyse and interpret the collected data to comprehend the factors influencing the public relation with the police, as well as the implications that this has for both the community and the police officers that serve the communities throughout the UK.

1.4 - Research Structure

In relation to this dissertation the first chapter introduces the study and gives context to what the dissertation will be reaching and the rationale for the research the first chapter also dictates the goals this dissertation is hoping to achieve and the various objectives that will be explored.

Chapter two will be comprised of a literature review relating to the current public's perception and trust they have in the officers that serve the communities. It will also analyse whether the perception of the police is having an impact on crime rates within the community. Chapter two will be also exploring the effects this has on the police and the community and how this affects the relations.

Chapter three will be exploring the methods, and the methodology will be presented, to determine the appropriate primary research techniques for this study. This approach aims to address existing research gaps and facilitate data analysis.

Chapter four will be analysing and exploring the primary data that was gathered using the methods and methodologies that was outlined in chapter three. These findings will be shown through the means of statistical analyses.

Chapter five will focus on the examining and the evaluation of the research that was conducted and the aims and the objections that was layered out in chapter one. There will also be a discussion in relation to the primary discoveries and the recommendations and explore the limitations of the study.

1.5 - Conclusion

The first chapter aims to provide the content for the research topic addressed in this dissertation, specifically focusing on public perception of the UK police and its influence on community policing. It delineates the research aims and objectives, as well as the structure of the study, including the methods for data collection and analysis.

The subsequent chapter will engage in a critical examination and analysis of the existing academic literature and surveys related to the public perception of the UK police and its effects on community policing.

Chapter 2 Literature Review

2.1 - Introduction

This chapter of the dissertation aims to collect information regarding the public's perception of the UK Police and the subsequent impact on community policing. This information will be derived from academic research on the subject.

The chapter's purpose is to critically analyse both previous and current academic studies and surveys to gain a deeper understanding of how public perception influences policing in the UK. This objective will be accomplished by reviewing literature accessed through Google Scholar and utilising the UNTSD e-learning platform available to students at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. The research will encompass textbooks, journals, and prior surveys related to this topic.

Through this investigation, the dissertation will identify key factors that shape public perceptions of the police and explore the implications for police officers in their community engagement efforts.

2.2 - Literature Review

The key principle for a modern-day police officer throughout England and Wales are the Peel's 9 principles which formed in 1829 by a Robert Peel. One of these principles is for police officers to police on the bases of consent from the community. What this means is policing by consent is a core principle that supports contemporary democratic societies. This concept is based on the idea that police authority stems from the public's consent and cooperation rather than solely from state power. It emphasizes collective agreement rather than individual consent (Ministry of Justice, 2024). Sir Robert Peel stated, "the police are the public and the public are the police" (Robert Peel, 1829). Trust is established through the understanding that police officers act impartially and are held accountable for their conduct (Police Federation, 2024). It is essential to remember that earning the public respect and their approval translates into gaining their willing support in the effort to ensure that laws are adhered to.

2.3 - Public's perception and trust

In a recent survey conducted by The Guardian they have found that only 40% of individuals in England and Wales express trust in the police. According to the survey (conducted across nine regions) in Wales and England and in these findings indicate that in eight of the regions, females exhibited greater trust in the police compared to their male counterparts. Additionally, the survey highlighted a significant racial disparity, revealing that 42.6% of white British reported trusting the police, whereas only 32.1% of respondents from other racial backgrounds share this sentiment (The Guardian, 2024). There was also another survey that was conducted on behalf the BBC that seems to share the same sentiments posed by that of The Guardian. The survey was conducted by YouGov and suggests that 42% of the respondents reported a moderate to significant mistrust the police (Elgueta A et al, 2023). the poll, which included a sample size of 1,051 individuals, was conducted from March 27 to March 31, 2023. Among those surveyed, 43% noted that their perception of the police had deteriorated over the past year. Additionally, the poll revealed that 73% of participants believed that certain individuals were treated differently by the police compared to others (House of Lords, 2023).

Over the last few years there has been a decline in confidence in the Police forces that serve the community as it was stated by the Independent Office For Police Conduct (IOPC). There has been a decline in public confidence in the Police, accompanied by a rise in negative perception of the police, which are likely associated with high-profile cases of police misconduct that have received significant media attention over the past two years (Independent Office For Police Conduct, 2023). It has also been suggested by the Institute for Government that a decline in the public's attitudes towards the police may be associated with widely reported incidents of misconduct and illegal actions by officers, exemplified by the case of David Carrick, who plead guilty in February 2023 to 49 offences, and this included 24 counts of rape (House of Lords, 2024). There was another high-profile incident whereby John Stringer 42 was found guilty on the 28th of October 2024 for five offences of sexually abusing a child under the age of thirteen and this had taken place over a two-year period from 2019 to 2021. There was also another high-profile incident whereby Wayne Couzens was found guilty of the abduction, rape and murder of Sarah Everard. At the time the three males that participated in this crime were serving police officers. It is due to the high-profile nature of these incidents that the public's perception and trust has eroded over time. Through this lens you can see that the public's perception and trust is declining, this is evidenced by the coverage of the cases along with the evidence provided by the above-mentioned surveys. Protests that took place on September 29, 2021, also had a hand in swaying public perception. Prior to the sentencing of Couzens and Carrick a feminist group known as Sister Uncut, organised a protest outside the courthouse.

The demonstration displayed signs that read Abolish the Police and Met Police, blood on your hands (David, B, 2021). There was also a protest for Carrick, and this had taken place at Crown Court. One of the protesters Hodo Ahmed whilst conducting the protest, she has shown that she has distrust in the police and stated the following “The police who rape us and prosecute us and our children and loved ones or report us to the immigration authorities”(Southwark News, 2022). Due to these recent high-profile incidents, it is irrefutable that this has had a negative impact on the public perception and trust that they may have in the police and the officers that serve the community.

2.4 - Evaluate the Impact on Crime.

The public’s confidence in the police has a direct influence on the crime rates, the act of reporting a crime directly effects the security of the community. When members of the community witness a crime or an act of violence that results in a negative outcome, this can feed a negative perception of the police, along with a lack of trust or potential threats of violence from the police. Members of the public are therefore less likely to report a criminal incident or engage with police presence in their community. This atmosphere of distrust undermines law enforcement and how effective they serve the community. A cooperative relationship between the community and the police is crucial in solving complex criminal incidents. Without trust in the police that patrol their areas, individuals are unlikely to provide tips or report criminal offences, this will result in a lack of critical intelligence for a police investigation. Consequently, this would lead to an increase in unresolved criminal offences and a lack of cases that end in prosecution. This could directly allow serial offenders to continue their activities and contributing to an increase in crime within the community (NAACP, 2024). If there is a lack of trust from the community that the police serve it makes it impossible to full-fill their job role. This issue was highlighted in a quote by a Mr Robert Peels.

The quote is as follows: “The police are the public and the public are the police’ and they are only members of the public who are paid to give full- time attention to duties that are incumbent on every Citizen” (Guardian News, 2024).

This quote emphasizes the fact that the police and the public have a symbiotic relationship with each other. “The police are the public and the public are the police.” One cannot function optimally without the other.

2.5 - Police-Community and the Impact this has on the Police.

When looking at the police and the public's perception of the police we can see there has been multiple incidents whereby officers have been involved in high profile cases which was covered by the media such as the above cases, also we can see a Ferguson effect which is an escalation in violent crime rates within a community. This has attributed to a decline in initiative-taking policing efforts (Matty Allen Hatfield, 2012). Resulting from diminished initiative-taking policing, which is influenced by the community's distrust and hostility towards the police. What is worth a mention is the impact that this has had on the police officers that serve the community (The Guardian, 2024).

Concerns have emerged regarding the potential impact of a negative incident such as the high-profile court cases relating to officers who were found guilty and negative media coverage on police officers' willingness to engage in initiative-taking enforcement activities. Previous studies conducted in 2022 by Gau have used official crime data have not identified a rise in crime attributed to the Ferguson Effect or de-policing effect. This study posits that officers' self-report readiness to undertake initiative-taking measures should be considered in this context. Evidence in high direction, Low- visibility and decision-making scenarios (Gau et al, 2022).

Data collected through in-person surveys of officers in a major urban department reveal that those who perceived heightened negative publicity are less likely to initiate a stop search. Additionally, officers who fear being recorded in a negative light report similar hesitance amongst their peers conversely, dedicated support from the upper management appears to mitigate these concerns, as those feeling supported by their superiors express less apprehension and self-initiated enforcement. The findings shown that intense public and media scrutiny may indeed discourage some police officers from initiative-taking engaging, particularly in high discretion, low- visibility situations (Gau et al, 2022).

2.6 - Conclusion

This chapter has successfully met its objective by examining academic literature concerning public perception of the UK police and its implications for community policing. The literature indicates that high-profile incidents of gross misconduct and criminal behaviour among officers have adversely affected community trust in the police. Consequently, the decline in public confidence undermines the principle of policing by consent, which is fundamental to law enforcement in the UK.

Furthermore, the analysis reveals that the diminishing visibility of police officers within communities contributes to negative perceptions of law enforcement (Gau et al., 2022). The literature review also highlights that a lack of public trust in the police results in reduced cooperation with investigations and intelligence sharing, regarding local incidents, which coupled with the infrequent presence of officers, negatively influences crime rates in the community (NAACP, 2024).

The subsequent chapter will discuss and identify the most suitable research methods and methodologies to collect the necessary data for this dissertation, thereby addressing the issues highlighted in this chapter.

Chapter 3 – Research Methods

3.1 – introduction into the Methods of Research

The preceding chapter of this dissertation examines the public's current perception and trust in the officers that are serving the community and the impact this has on the police officers that serve the community and this was achieved by analysing literature around this topic.

This section of the dissertation is to analyse the methodology that I will be using, what is the most appropriate research methodology necessary for collecting and analysing data in relation to the dissertation's topic, which is what is (The public perception of The UK police and its Impact It has on the policing and the Community)

This research will be explored by way of a web survey and a questionnaire which is a technique in collecting data and involves the distribution of surveys or questionnaires via the internet to a selected group of respondents, allowing them to provide their response online. To utilise surveys effectively, it is crucial to recognise that starts with establishing objectives and concludes with data analysis and presentation of findings (Dillman, 2000). The purpose of this dissertation is through gathering data by means of a survey and a questionnaire where it will allow a greater understanding of what is impacting the police and the community and how this is affecting them. The reason for gathering this information is to have a better understanding around these impact factors. In relation to the research methods there are two types secondary and primary search. Secondary search is whereby you gather information in relation to the topic from other sources such as previous surveys whereby some else has already gathered the information and you then base your research off their findings. For this dissertation, the research will be primary which entails the collection of previously uncollected data. This can be achieved through various methods, including interviews, surveys, and questionnaires, which will be examined in this dissertation, along with any other self-conducted research approaches. This chapter will now explore and explain the research method to have a greater understanding of the method that will be used to conduct the search and the methodology that will be used in this dissertation.

3.2 - Research approach using the Research Onion

The research onion is a straightforward concept that outlines the various decisions necessary for formulating a research methodology. It serves as a valuable tool for guiding the development of formal research dissertations and other academic projects (Saunders, 2007)

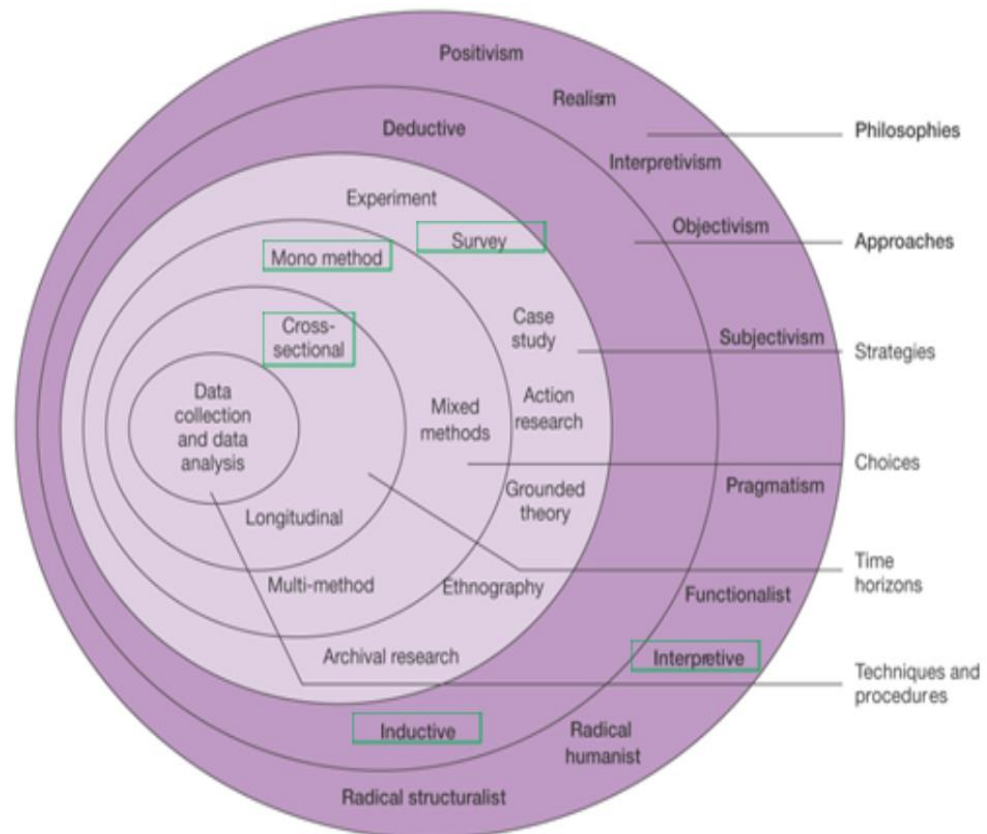


Figure 3.1 figure - Annotated Diagram - The Research Onion (Source: Saunders et al., 2016)

This is the diagram of the Research onion which was comprised by Saunders (Saunders, 2007). The above diagram is the process that will be used in this dissertation, and it shows each layer that will be used to aid the research.

3.3 - Research Philosophy

The Philosophy is the chosen research and the subject that it may cover areas of this topic explanatory and may derive from answers that may be subjective in the opinion of the public and their perceptions of the police officers that survey their communities. To effectively tackle the issues from a scientific perspective, it is essential to first emphasize the fundamental techniques of research. Classical research methodology is grounded in specific philosophical theories, which subsequently inform the strategies and techniques employed in the research process (Saunders et al, 2016). There are primary approaches to this philosophy: positivism and interpretivism, as well as pragmatism and critical realism, which represent distinct positions within the realm of scientific research philosophy (Mingers, 2006).

This research has been conducted using a positivism approach. Positivist research employs quantitative techniques to gather data from extensive samples, with surveys being a prevalent approach for quantitative information. To gather the relative information by using means of survey and questionnaire. Once the information and data are collected it will then be analysed. This philosophy will be used to gain a greater understanding of the statistics from the online survey and questionnaire.

3.4 - Research approach.

Diagram Figure 3.3 which was comprised by (Saunders et al, 2016) shows two types of research approach which are inductive and deductive. These two approaches are the most used to aid in academic writing. Deductive approach involves a deductive process. It begins with the formulation of a theory, from which hypotheses are derived. These hypotheses are then evaluated through the collection and analysis of empirical data. This method allows for the systematic evaluation of the proposed theoretical framework and the potential refinement or revision of the initial theory based on the observed evidence (Bryman, 2016). Due to this method using previous data that has been collected and then analysed.

This dissertation will be using the Inductive approach to collect the data for this dissertation through means of a survey and once this is collected it will then be analysed. The inductive approach does not suggest that theories should be ignored when developing research questions and objectives. Instead, this method seeks to derive meanings from the collected data to uncover patterns and relationships that contribute to theory development. Nevertheless, the inductive approach does not inhibit the research (Bryman, 2016).

Inductive vs deductive reasoning

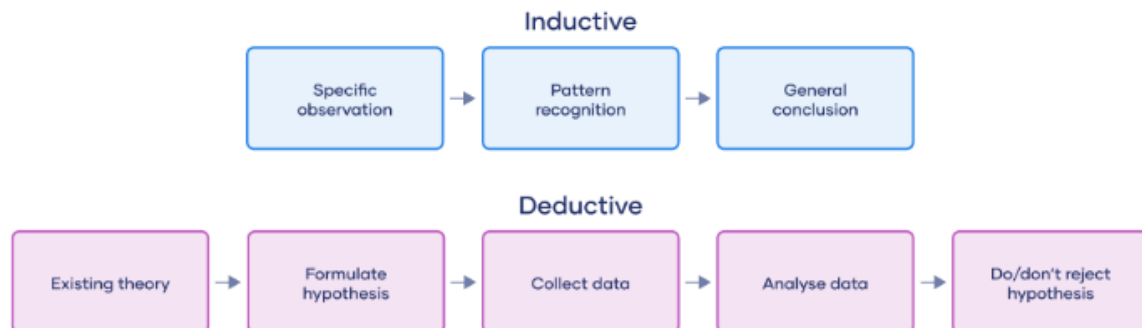


Figure 3.2 - Deductive and Inductive Approaches to the Relationship Between Theory and Research (Bryman, 2016)

3.5 - Methodological choice

Research selection pertains to the application of both quantitative and qualitative research methods, as well as the potential for employing either a simple or complex combination of these approaches. Quantitative research methods focus on numerical data and mathematical analysis, whereas qualitative systems emphasise the collection of extensive description information. Mono methods are applied when the research is concentrated solely on either quantitative and qualitative methods within a single study serves to fulfil diverse objectives and mitigate the limitations associated with using a singular approach. However, relying on multiple- choice formats can diminish the effectiveness of both qualitative methods, even when one is primary and the other serves a supportive role (Saunders et al, 2016).

For this dissertation it will be conducted by means of a qualitative approach which means that the process involves selecting an appropriate approach for futures research. Typically, a philosophical stance preceded the forecasting method. Forecasting relies on mathematical techniques including extrapolation and econometric modelling, with the objective of identifying specific future events. In contrast, foresight employs qualitative or combined methodologies to explore a complex array of potential futures (Jebb et al, 2017).

3.6 - Research Strategy

The methods and techniques that will be used to gather the data and to explore the information that has been collected (Peersman, 2014). To aid in gathering the information there will be an anonymous questionnaire created which will comprise of questions that are associated with this dissertation and will be questions built around The Public Perception of The UK Police and its Impact It Has on the Policing and the Community. Once the questions have comprised it will be posted on social media where participants from age 18 onwards and from various backgrounds have access. It will also be applied to the beat which a home page that only serving police officers have access to and the reason for this information to be shared on the beat is so the data can be explored in relation to the police officer's views. In relation to the questions that will be shared on social media this will allow a better-informed insight into the Public Perception of the UK police and its impact it has on the policing and the community. (Gov UK, 2022).

3.7 - Time and Horizon

The time Horizon denotes the duration allocated for the completion of a project. Based on the research onion framework, there are two categories of time horizons: cross sectional and longitudinal. A cross- section time horizon involves a predetermined period designated for data collection (Melinkovas, A, 2018). The cross-sectional approach is the method that will be used to complete this dissertation. Due to the time-period that this dissertation needs to be completed in, and this leaves the opportunity for further future studies.

3.8 - Data collection

The main purpose of this research is to collect and explore data based around the public perception of The UK police and its impact it has on the policing and the community and the questions will be based around this topic (Eble, 2015). Owing to time constraints and personal situations, data collection will be conducted through questionnaires shared on social media platforms. Participants will be provided with a questionnaire featuring thirteen multiple choice questions that examine public perception of the police and their impact on community policing. The questionnaire can be reviewed in the Appendix B of the dissertation.

3.9 - Data Analysis

Once the data has been collected It will be analysed by software which is called Google Forms and will break down each question into various charts so that the findings can be analysed. Through this data that is collected this will determine a true reflection on the public perception of the UK police and its impact it has on policing and community.

3.10 - Reliability and Validity

Reliability testing of data is confirmed when results are consistently collected. A reliability test is also performed on the questionnaire to evaluate the consistency of the results (Creswell, 2014). Reliability pertains to the stability of scores; thus, administering the same test to a group should produce similar outcomes (Bryman, 2016). The validity of a project is essential for the integrity of the conclusion drawn in a study (Bryman, 2016). Research reviews indicated that surveys and questionnaires adhere to a structured format, which enhances both the reliability and validity of instruments used (Mascan, 2009).

3.11 - Limitations

The Limitation of this can be survey bias which refers to the elements within a survey that adversely influence the results. It indicates that certain components may lead respondents to answer in a particular manner or provide specific, feedback, which is undesirable. The goal should always be to obtain the most authentic genuine, and unbiased responses, as these are crucial for informing decision-making within your brand. Biases can often arise subconsciously, meaning researchers may inadvertently introduce bias without realizing it, therefore it is essential to consider this aspect carefully before distributing a survey to ensure that survey is minimised (Quantilope, 2024). Furthermore, there can be limited sampling and respondents' availability pose a challenge in obtaining probability samples from websites and social media. Additionally, distributing survey solely to your existing audience may lead to lack of insights from a broader demographic beyond your own data base. Cooperation issues may arise. While online surveys in various domains can achieve response rates comparable to or slightly exceeding those of traditional methods, contemporary internet users are frequently inundated with messages and can swiftly disregard your request (Cvent Inc, 2024)

3.12 - Conclusion

This chapter has explored and explained the relative information in relation to how the information on the public perception of the UK police and its impact it has on the policing and the community will be gathered and how the data will be analysed it also explored the advantages and the disadvantages of completing a survey via social media. This chapter has successfully recognised the methodology that will be used to gather this information and gives the justification to the approach and clearly explains this.

The next chapter explores the data that is collected and will explore the analyse data and the findings from the survey that was posted on social media. The collection methods that were used in this survey that were identified in chapter three.

Chapter 4 Data analysis and findings

4.1 - Introduction

Chapter three outlined the research method and techniques that will be utilized in this study to aid in gathering and analysing the data. To do this the onion model which was provided by Saunders (Saunders, 2016) was used to aid in achieving the objectives that was set out by this dissertation. Chapter four will show the data that was collected and evaluate the data that was collected for the primary investigation. To obtain this information two distinct online surveys were developed. One survey was targeting police officers. the questions to this survey can be found in **Appendix A** and in this survey, there are questions that was asked to police officer's relative to the topic around The Public Perception of The UK Police and its Impact It Has on Policing and Community. The second survey which can be found in **Appendix C**, and this was targeting members of the public. This survey also had questions around the relative topic. The data that was collected was from 106 respondents to the surveys and this comprised from forty-three members of the public and sixty-three police officers. this chapter will include the perspective shared by the respondents.

The information and data were analysed, and this information was processed to identify patterns. The data was collected and examined through Google Forms which is a survey tool that is used to gather and analyse the data. Google forms provide multiple advantages for data analysis, including the capacity to obtain prompt response from participants, the ease of formatting the collected data, and the straightforward interpretation of the sourced information.

4.2 - Demographics

In the two surveys that was shared to the police officers and the members of the public there was 106 respondents between the two surveys. Participants who engaged in the survey were classified by gender and age the reason for this is to investigate their potential differences in their views and opinions. All the participants who voluntarily completed the survey were eighteen or older. The process of this survey was separated by two surveys with questions relative to the dissertation topic which is Public Perception of The UK Police and the Impact It Has on Policing and Community. These surveys were on two mainstream social media platforms: Facebook and Reddit and this was so the members of the public and the police officers can have access to the surveys. The police survey was also shared on the Beat which is the home page on the intranet that only South Wales police and Gwent police have access to. These social media platforms have been chosen as they offer large demographic so that people can have access to the survey. As illustrated in

Figure 3 among the public participants, 67.5% identified as female, 30.2% as male and 2.3% chose that they preferred not to say.

1. What is our gender?

43 responses

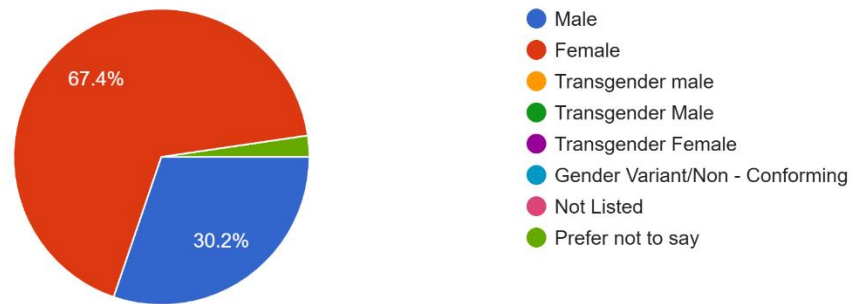


Figure 4.1 - Pie chart of the genders that have participated in the survey

2. What is your age ?

43 responses

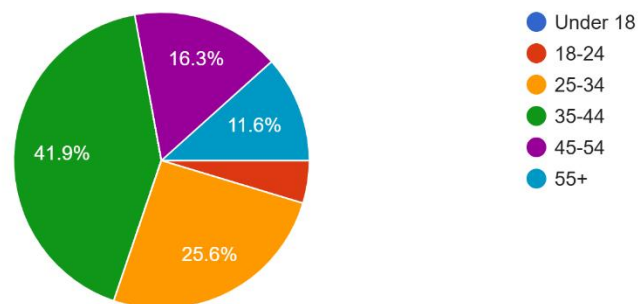


Figure 4.2 - Pie Chart of the age of the individuals that have participated in the survey

4.3 - Members of the Public Questionnaire Findings

The analysis of the forty-three respondents from the public questionnaire revealed that 32.6% of participants strongly believe that the police act fairly and impartially in their interactions with the public, as illustrated in Figure 5. The objective of this survey is to evaluate public's perception of the police, specifically regarding trust and belief in fair and impartial conduct. This finding aligns with a survey conducted by the UK Parliament that assessed public confidence in the police serving the community. In the survey conducted by the UK Parliament they have stated that previously there has been a decline in the trust in the police but recently the confidence in the police is increasing which also shows in Figure 4.3 (UK Parliament, 2023).

5. Trust in the Police On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = very low, 5 = very high), how much do you trust the UK police to act fairly and impartially

43 responses

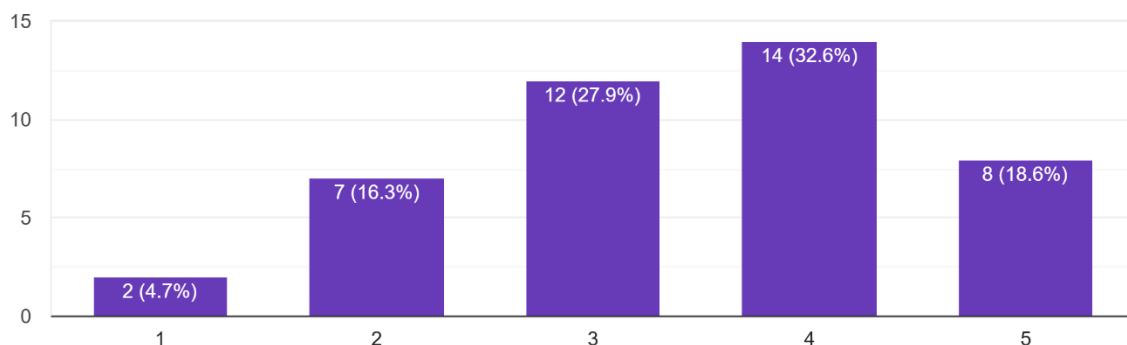


Figure 4.3 – Bar graph scaled from 1 very low to 5 very high in relation to the trust in the police

An analysis of the 43 respondents regarding police visibility in the community reveals that 58.1% rarely or never encounter police presence, with only 9.3% report seeing police officers on a daily basis. This information is illustrated in Figure 4.4 below. Research regarding public expectation of policing in the UK has shown a strong inclination towards a prominent police presence (Bradley, 1998). A study indicated that property crime decreased by 31% in areas monitored by marked police vehicles, in contrast to locations where standard practices continued, underscoring the significance of visible deterrence. Looking at Figure 4.4 it appears that due to 58.1% have stated that they have rarely or never encountered police patrolling their community. Because of this it could have a negative impact in hot spot areas and also

does not meet the expectations that is set out by the public and the police forces throughout the UK. This could have a direct impact on crime rates because police officers are not visible in the community.

6. Police Visibility How often do you see police officers patrolling in your local area?

44 responses

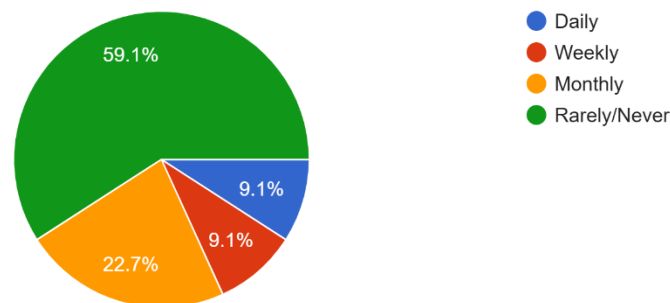


Figure 4.4 – Pie chart shows how often you see police officers patrolling the local area

4.4 - The public's perception and confidence in the police

Respondents were also questioned regarding their confidence in the UK police. An analysis of the survey responses reveals that, as illustrated in Figure 7, thirteen members of the public perceived that police engagement with the community as poor while fifteen consider it fair. This sentiment is further supported by Figure 6, which indicates that 58.1% of the respondents rarely observe police officers patrolling their area. These factors contribute to the risks associated with ineffective engagement, including a potential decline in public confidence and legitimacy of the police, which can adversely affect strategic policing effort to anticipate changes in the community profiles, needs, and priorities (College of Policing, 2025). The lack of visible police presence in the community has a direct influence. 32.6% of the public that has taken part in this survey viewed the police as effective in crime reduction, shown in below as figure 4.6.

9. Community engagement How well do the police engage with your community (e.g, through events, outreach, or consultations)?

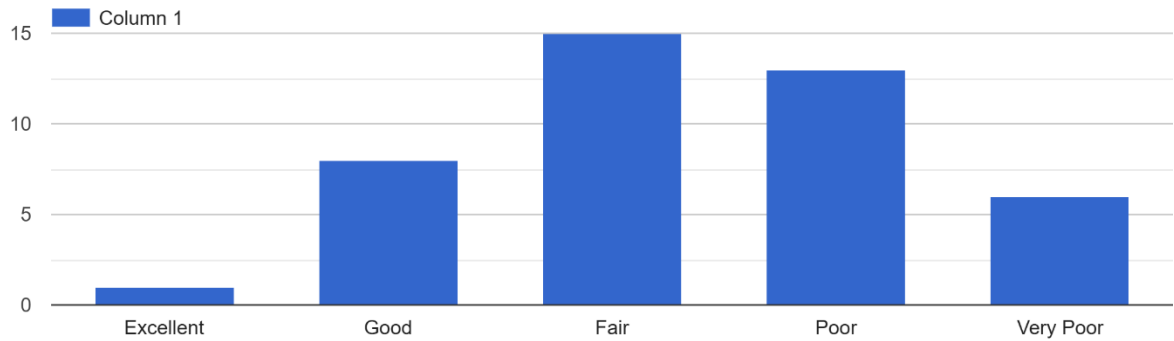


Figure 4.5 bar chart shows relation to police engagement with the community

8. Effective in reducing crime How effective do you think the police are at reducing crime in your community?

43 responses

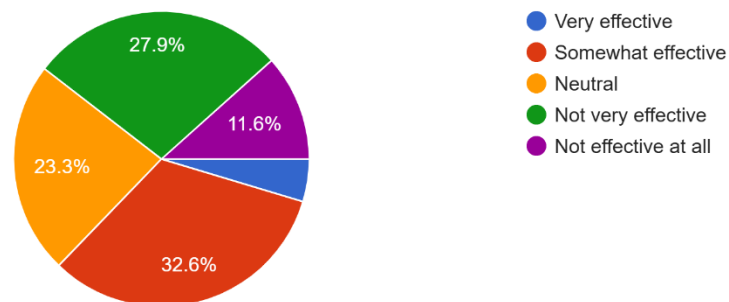


Figure 4.6 - Pie Chart shows how effective police are in reducing crime with the local community

4.5 - Police Questionnaire Findings

A survey targeting active police officers yielded sixty-three responses. The finding revealed that 34.5% of the respondents had between 0 to 3 years of service, 28.6% had 4 to 7 years, and the majority, at 36.5% had over eight plus years of services and these findings can be found on Figure 4.7. Additionally, a recent study by the Police Federation indicated that as of September 2023, 38% of the police officers in the UK had less than 5 years' service (Police Federation, 2023). From the active police officers 49.2% was response officers 1.6% was joint firearms unit, 17.5% are part of the crime investigation unit (CID), 1.6% where traffic police officers, 4.8% Neighbourhood police department and 25.4% stated that the was another unit. For this dissertation it has covered multiple units that are part of the police organisation which can be seen below on Figure 4.8, by adding these relative questions to the survey this dissertation has covered different departments and active officers who served from 0 years to 8 plus years so that this can get the perspective of a wide range of police officers in the UK.

2. How many years have you been a Police officer?

63 responses

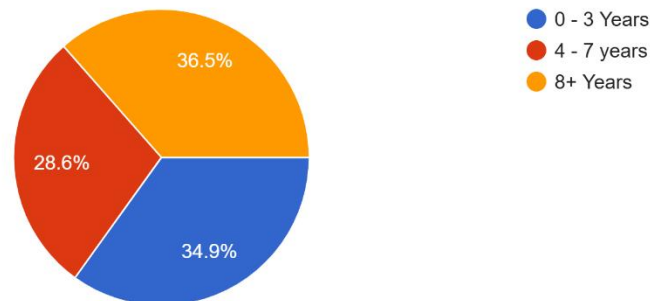


Figure 4.7 – Pie chart on how many years Police Officers have served the Police force.

3. What department do you currently work in the police force?

63 responses

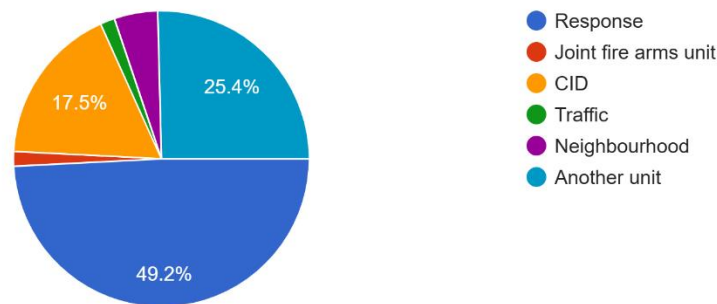


Figure 4.8 – Pie Chart in relation to what department they currently work with the police force

4.6 - Serving police officers perception of the public's confidence in them

The analysis of data from the survey involves sixty-three police officers and from the survey it reveals that thirty-four police officers perceive public trust in police to be low, while twenty-four maintain a neutral stance. This sentiment aligns with public opinion, as fifteen officers believe police engagement is inadequate, indicating a shared perspective between the police and the community. To support this view a poll by the Guardian indicated that only 40% of individuals in the UK express trust in the police, equating to just four out of ten citizens (Guardian, 2025).

Furthermore, this lack of trust impacts officers' perception and their ability to fulfil their duties. According to the survey, 50.8% of officers feel that the public's trust somewhat hinders their responsibilities and affects investigations, with only 6.3% asserting that it significantly enhances their work. Trust and cooperation are crucial for establishing strong relationships, as fostering trust encourages community members to collaborate with the police, report crime and provide essential information for an investigation (Government Events, 2025).

4. The Community (Police Officers Perspective) In your experience how would you rate the level of trust the public has in the police in your area ?

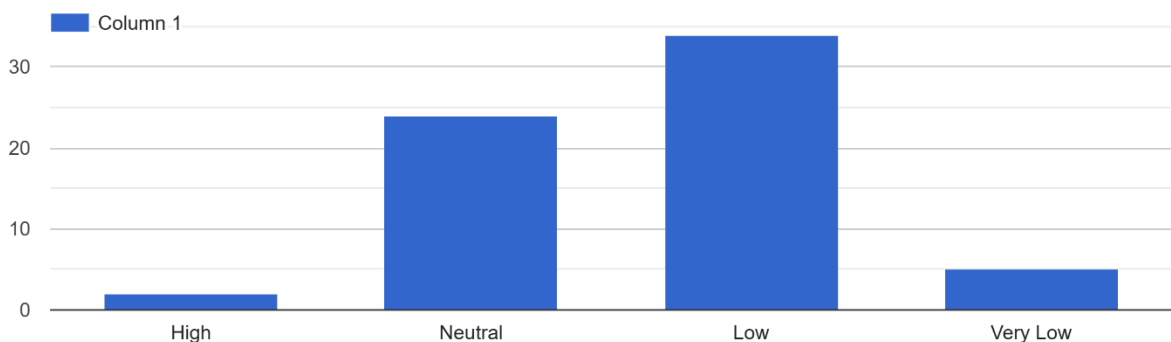


Figure 4.9 – Bar chart into police officers perspective in relation to what they believ is the level of trust within the community

6. Impact of public Perception How does the public's perception of the police affect your ability to perform your duties
63 responses

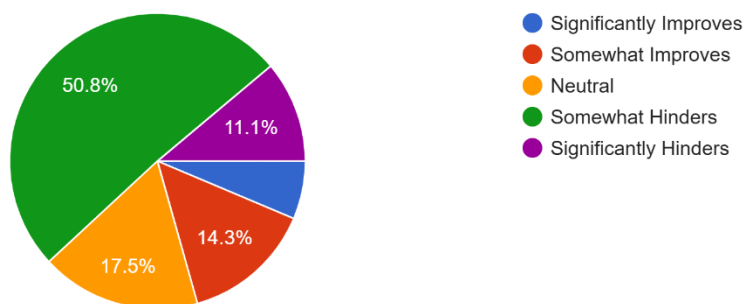


Figure 4.10 – Bar chart on the impact the publics perception and hoe this affects the ability of policeofficers to perform there duties

One factor influencing the community perception of police officers is the media, particularly in light of recent high – profile cases involving law enforcement. Notably, two officers assigned to secure the crime scene of Bibaa Henry were found guilty of gross misconduct for taking unauthorized photographs of her body and subsequently

received 33 – months prison sentenced. Additionally, Wayne Couzens, an active police officer, was convicted of murdering Sarah Everard, further damaging public trust. Data indicates that 66.7% of the respondents believe media coverage has negatively influences their views of the police, as illustrated in figure 4.11. This erosion of confidence can adversely affect police – community interactions as effective policing relies on public consent, which is contingent upon transparency, integrity, and accountability in the exercise of police powers. Without public trust, the foundational principle of policing by consent becomes untenable. Consequently, a survey conducted by MORPAC reveals that public confidence in the police has plummeted to a record low of 49% down from 69% the previous year (Greater London Authority, 2025).

9. Role of Media In your Opinion how does media coverage of police actions influence public attitudes towards the police?

63 responses

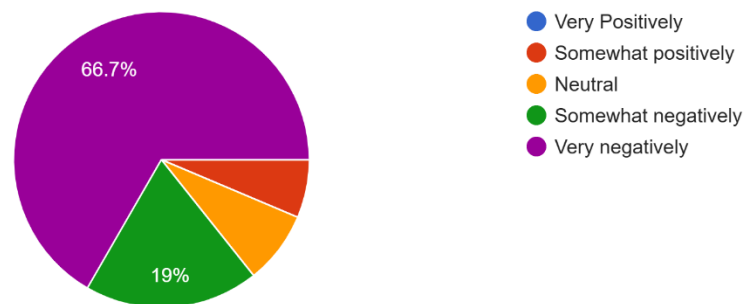


Figure 4.11 Pie chart in relation to police officers opinion into how does the media coverage of police actions influence public attitudes towards the police

11. Feedback from the public How frequently do you receive constructive feedback from the community regarding police work?

63 responses

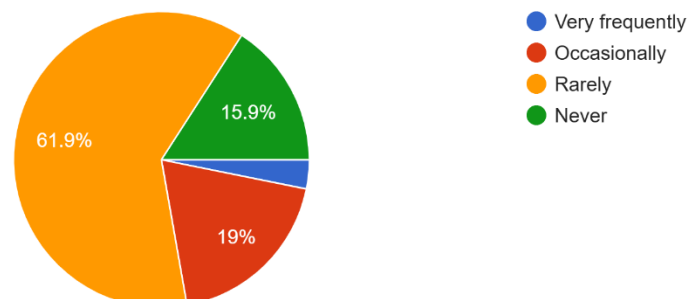


Figure 4.12- Pie chart into how often do police officers receive feedback from the community regarding police work

4.7 - Conclusion

Chapter four has thoroughly analyzed the results obtained from surveys distributed via social media. It has highlighted several critical aspects thereby achieving the dissertations goal of exploring the views of both the public and police officers on the publics perception of the UK police and its impact on the community policing based from there views and experience.

Chapter five will serve as the conclusion of the research project, addressing its implications and possible outcomes, while also providing recommendations concerning public perception of the UK police and its influence on community policing.

Chapter 5 – Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 - introduction

The previous chapters of this dissertation provide comprehensive overview of the methodologies employed for data collection and the subsequent analysis of this information and data that was collected. Chapter four presents the findings derived from two questionnaires around the topic of the public's perception of the UK police and its impact it has on policing the community and these two surveys was directed towards police officers and the other survey was directed towards the members of the public. Each chapter contributes significantly to the dissertation's primary objective, which is to offer recommendations regarding current issues related to the public's perceptions of the UK police and the implications for community policing.

This chapter will draw conclusion regarding the central theme of the public perception of the UK police and its effect on the community policing. Additionally, this chapter will address the limitations encountered during the project and will consider avenues for future academic research on the topic of the public's perception and its influence on policing practices within the community.

5.2 - Main Findings

As previously outlined in chapter four, this dissertation has identified several findings across all chapters. There were three primary objectives for this dissertation, the first one objective is to examine existing research and literature into the public's perception of police and its impact it has on policing the community. The second objective is to analyse any data and to show whether, the decline in trust in the police by the community has had an impact on crime rates in the UK. The third objective is to analyse and interpret the collected data to comprehend the factors influencing the public relation with the police, as well as the implications that this has in policing the community. This research is also to ascertain the factors that are influencing public perception of the police and to determine whether this perception affects policing within the community.

The academic research and survey results provide substantial insights into the public's view of the UK police and its implications for community policing. Recent high- profile cases of misconduct and illegal behaviour among police officers have contributed to a significant decline in public trust and confidence, as acknowledged by government and policing bodies (House of Lords, 2025). Furthermore, studies indicate that police visibility can influence public confidence and concerns regarding crime (Skogan, 2009). This is corroborated by survey finding, where 27.9% of respondents expressed

that they do not believe police officers and their organisations are effective in reducing crime in their communities.

Although many individuals may not have direct interactions with police, extensive research suggested that enhancing officers' engagement with the public in a procedurally just manner is likely to foster greater trust in police (UK Parliament, 2025). Currently, the community perceives a lack of police presence, as evidenced by the survey, where 58.1% of participants reported rarely or never seeing policing patrols in their neighbourhoods.

Despite negative reports regarding misconduct and illegal behaviour within the police, public confidence remains high. A portion of survey respondents, specifically 32.6%, expressed trust in the police, aligning with findings from previous studies. Research indicates that a lack of visibility and engagement from police can diminish public confidence (University of Leeds, 2025). Therefore, it is crucial for police to be present and actively involved in the community, as a decline in public confidence undermines the principle of policing by consent, which relies on broad public support for police actions. Interestingly a survey of police officers revealed that twenty-four of them perceived low trust within the community's expressed confidence. Additionally, 50.8% of officers believe that public perceptions hinder their ability to perform their duties effectively.

The findings of this dissertation highlight that the community's perception of police officers is negatively affected by their lack of visibility. As previously noted, 50.8% of surveyed officers feel that community perceptions impede their duties and investigations, due to the absence of police presence in the community. This disconnect has hindered the development of a collaborative relationship necessary for effective policing by consent and for rebuilding trust with the community.

5.3 - Recommendations

The analysis of the data has revealed a recommendation for enhancing the relationship between police officers, organisations in the UK and the communities they serve. It is evident that a decline in public confidence can significantly hinder the police's ability to address the issues identified in this study. By acknowledging these challenges, there is an opportunity to foster greater community engagement and awareness of the problems at hand, leading to the development of innovative solutions in the future (Rice, 2019).

One key recommendation is for police officers to increase their visibility within the

community by engaging in foot patrols. This approach offers numerous benefits, as officers will have more opportunities to interact with residents thereby building rapport and trust. Increase visibility can humanise police officers, making them more approachable and less like outsiders, which is essential for fostering a positive relationship with the public.

This strategy of deploying police officers for foot patrols within the community can enhance crime prevention efforts. Active patrols enable officers to detect suspicious activities and engage with vulnerable groups, youths, and individuals' distress, thereby identifying potential criminal behaviour or victims. Additionally, officers can collect valuable intelligence regarding community issues. By using this information, the police force can develop strategies based on the insights gained from their interactions with the community.

Police officers patrolling the community play crucial roles in de-escalating public tension and address violent situations through their visible presence. Their visibility provides reassurance to community members, as the role of policers extends beyond law enforcement to encompass the protection and service of the communities.

Some police organisations in the UK, including Gwent Police Force, have adopted this operational strategy. Gwent Police force has implemented Operation Lumley, which emphasizes a visible police presence in areas with frequent reports of antisocial behaviour. As a result of this initiative, crime rates in these areas have decreased by 9%, with reductions noted in violent offences, vehicle crime, and burglaries. Although there has been an increase in weapon offences, this is attributed to proactive stop and search efforts in these regions, which have contributed to removing dangerous weapons from the streets (Newsquest Media Group Ltd, 2025). Due to the success of Operation Lumley this could be implemented by other police forces, as this strategy is having a positive impact on the community and has positive elements that has been explored previously in this dissertation.

5.4 - Limitations

This dissertation aimed to examine public perception of the police and their influence on policing the community. A significant limitation of this study was the time constraint framework for completion, which restricted the number of individuals who could participate in the survey. Having a longer duration would have allowed for a more comprehensive representation of the communities' views regarding police officers. Additionally, the research faced challenges with social media due to the topic's sensitivity led to FACEBOOK blocking the content from being shared. Consequently, the dissertation had to rely on alternative social media platforms,

potentially reducing survey participation and affecting the data collected. The study used a convenience sampling method due to the limited time and word count constraints, which also hindered a more in-depth exploration of related areas.

5.5 - Future Research

Another study on this topic should be conducted with more longitudinal approach, given the time constraints of this dissertation. If such a study were to occur, there would be a significant amount of data available, as only a limited portion could be analysed at this time. The issue of public perception of the police and its effect on community policing is a subject with extensive academic research. This dissertation has only minimally addressed an important topic.

5.6 - Conclusion

This dissertation has successfully met its objectives, thoroughly addressing the public perception of the police and its implications for policing the community. The research involved a detailed investigation and analysis of existing academic literature on the subject, providing the reader with an in-depth understanding of how public perception influences policing practices.

Throughout the dissertation, the consequences of police absence in communities were identified, along with the implications of this absence. It also examined the advantages of police officers actively patrolling the neighbourhoods they serve, highlighting the positive effects on both community members and crime rates in areas with regular foot patrols.

The chosen methodology, Saunders research onion (Saunders et al, 2016), effectively illustrates key elements involved in conflicts and facilitated a comprehensive analysis of public and police officers' opinions. This was achieved through a survey disseminated via social media platforms, with the collected data subsequently analysed.

Chapter two presented a review of relevant academic research and data analysis, while chapter three details the methodology discussed previously in this conclusion.

In chapter four, I analysed the data that was collected from the surveys that the members of the public took part in, along with police officers. The data was then reviewed. Chapter five outlined the findings and provided recommendations

regarding the public perception of the police and its impact on community policing.

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Appendices

The Public Perception of The UK Police and its Impact It Has on the Policing and the Community

B *I* U  

This survey aims to identify what the public's perception of the police are and how this affects the community and the UK police.

1. are you currently serving UK Police officer?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Retired

2. How many years have you been a Police officer?

- ☐ 0 - 3 Years
- ☐ 4 - 7 years
- ☐ 8+ Years

3. What department do you currently work i thin?

- ☐ Response
- ☐ Joint fire arms unit
- ☐ CID
- ☐ Traffic
- ☐ Neighbourhood
- ☐ Another unit

4. The Community (Police Officers Perspective)

In your experience how would you rate the level of trust the public has in the police in your area ?

	Column 1
Very High	☐
High	☐
Neutral	☐
Low	☐
Very Low	☐

5. Public cooperation

How often do members of the public cooperate with police requests or provide assistance in investigation ?

Column 1

Always

☐

Often Sometimes

☐

Sometimes

☐

Rarely

☐

Never

☐

6. Impact of public Perception

How does the public's perception of the police affect your ability to perform your duties

- ☐ Significantly Improves
- ☐ Somewhat Improves
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat Hinders
- ☐ Significantly Hinders

7. Public Awareness of Police Challenges

Do you feel the public understands the challenges and limitations faced by police?

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

8. Community Engagement Effectiveness

How effective do you think the current community engagement strategies are in building public trust?

- ☐ Very Effective
- ☐ Somewhat effective
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Not Very effective
- ☐ Not effective at all

9. Role of Media

In your Opinion how does media coverage of police actions influence public attitudes towards the police?

- ☐ Very Positively
- ☐ Somewhat positively
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat negatively
- ☐ Very negatively

10. Bias and fair treatment

Do you feel that officers in your department treat members of the community fairly and without bias?

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

11. Feedback from the public

How frequently do you receive constructive feedback from the community regarding police work?

- ☐ Very frequently
- ☐ Occasionally
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

12. Resources and Training

Do you feel adequately equipped and trained to address the concerns and expectations of the public?

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

13. Suggestions for improvement

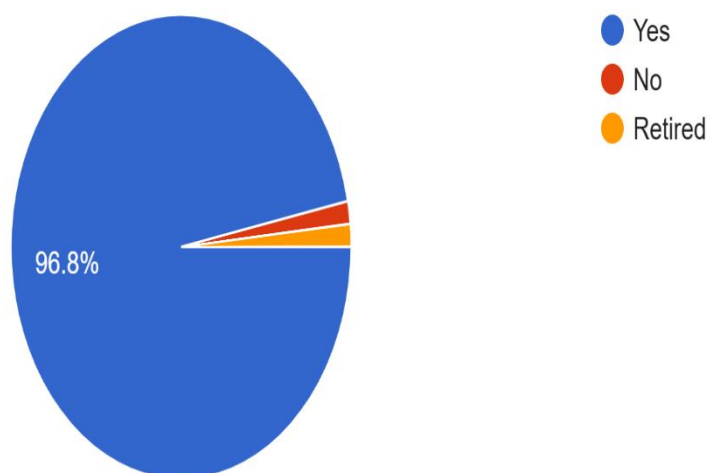
In your view, what actions could be taken to improve the relationship between the police and the community?

Long-answer text

Appendix B – Police Response Graphs

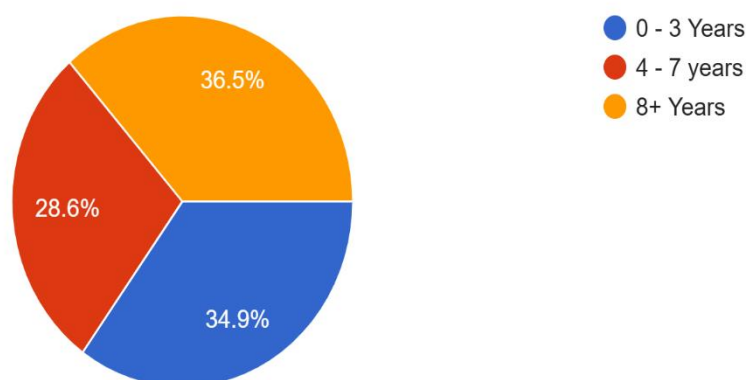
1. are you currently serving UK Police officer?

63 responses



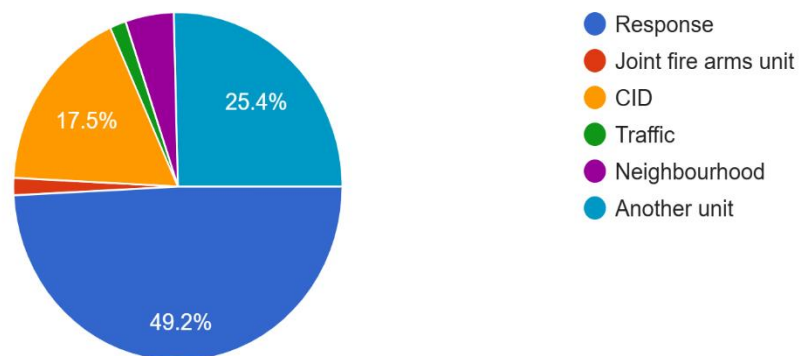
2. How many years have you been a Police officer?

63 responses

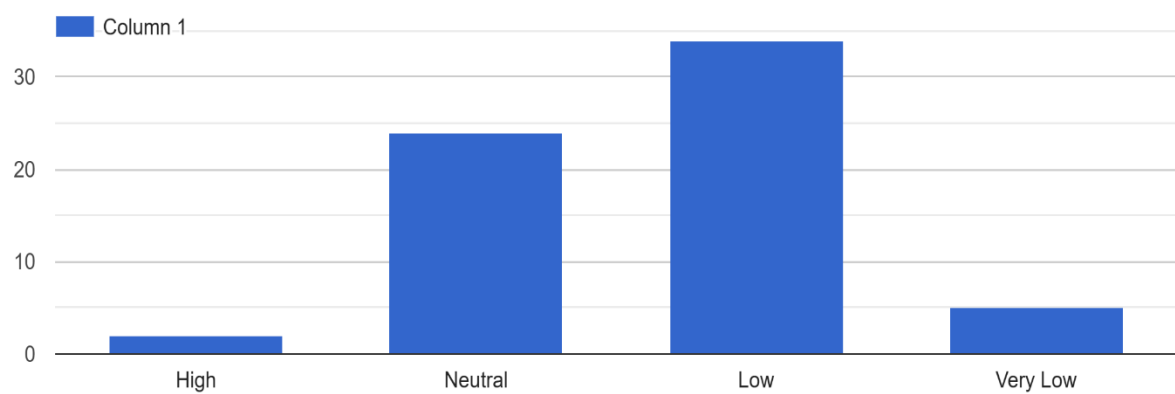


3. What department do you currently work i thin?

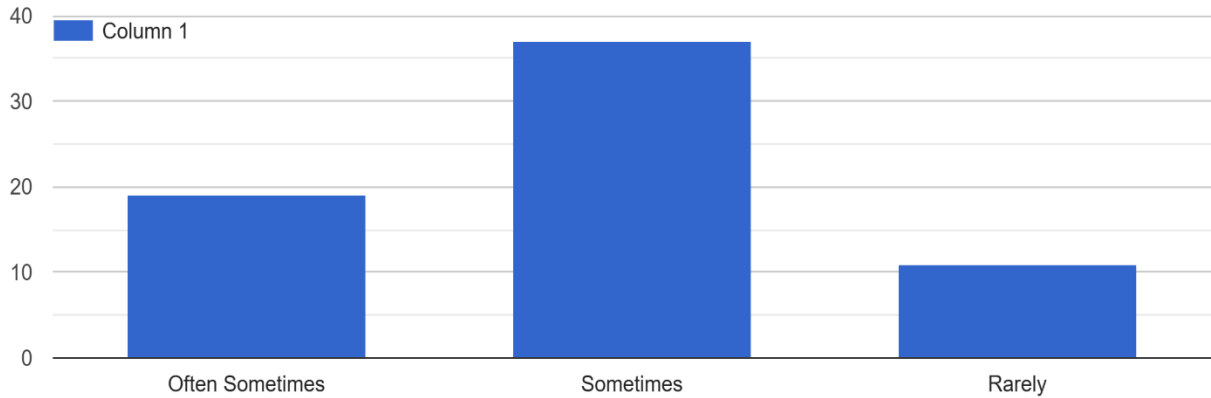
63 responses



4. The Community (Police Officers Perspective) In your experience how would you rate the level of trust the public has in the police in your area ?

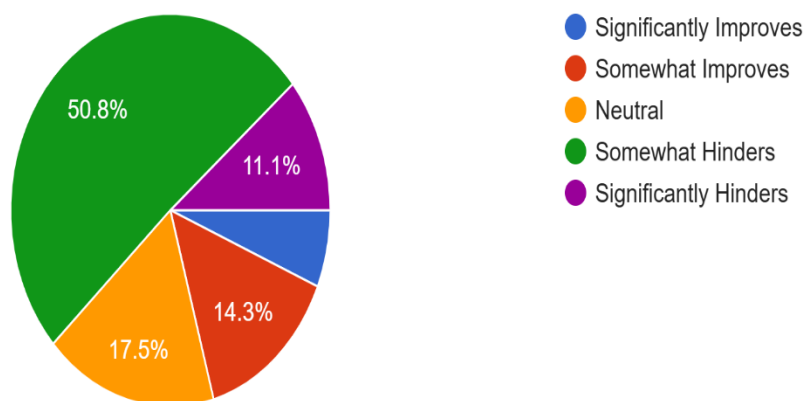


5. Public cooperation How often do members of the public cooperate with police requests or provide assistance in investigation ?



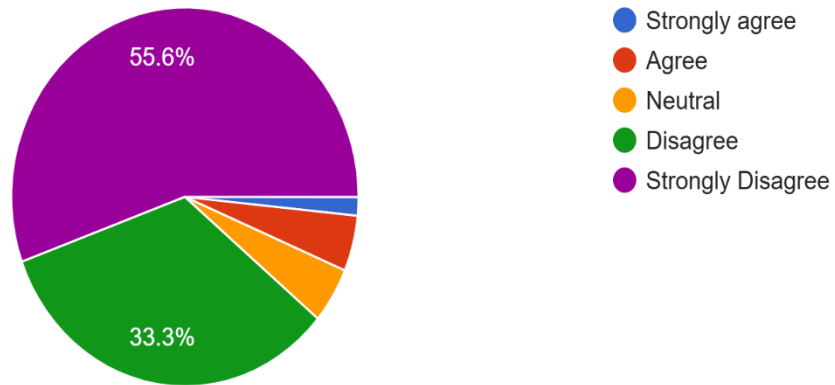
6. Impact of public Perception How does the public's perception of the police affect your ability to perform your duties

63 responses



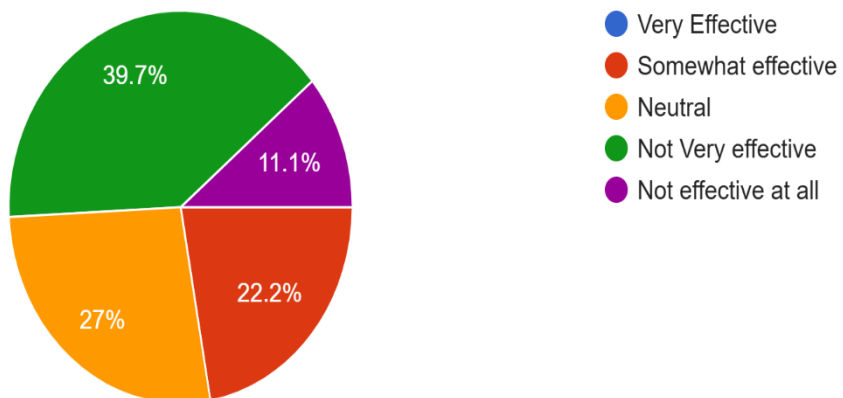
7. Public Awareness of Police Challenges Do you feel the public understands the challenges and limitations faced by police?

63 responses



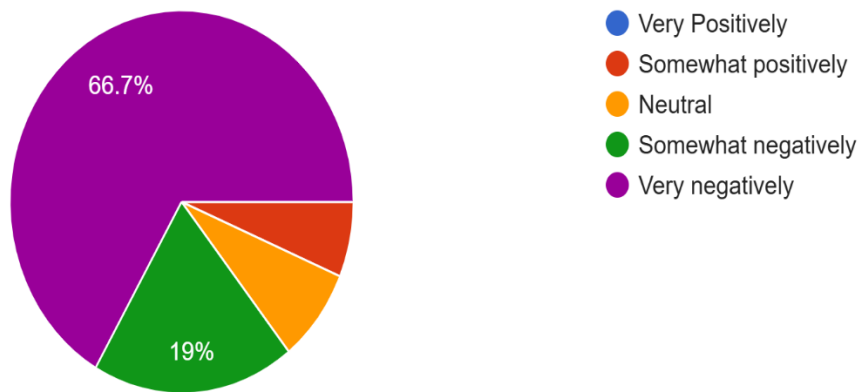
8. Community Engagement Effectiveness How effective do you think the current community engagement strategies are in building public trust?

63 responses



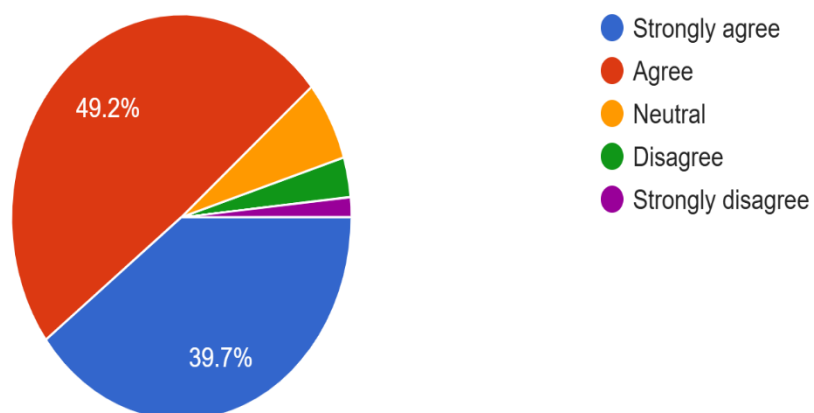
9. Role of Media In your Opinion how does media coverage of police actions influence public attitudes towards the police?

63 responses



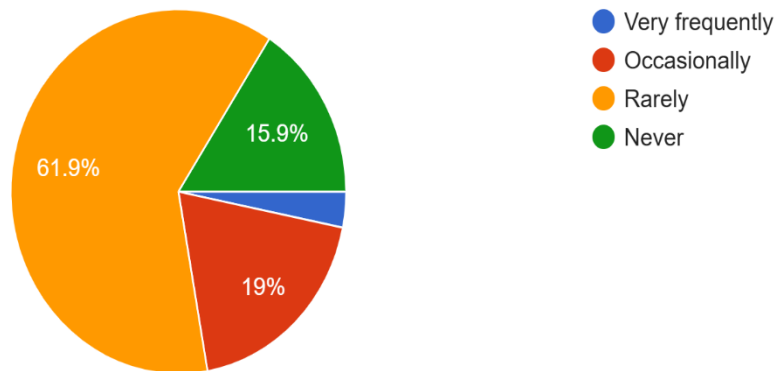
10. Bias and fair treatment Do you feel that officers in your department treat members of the community fairly and without bias?

63 responses



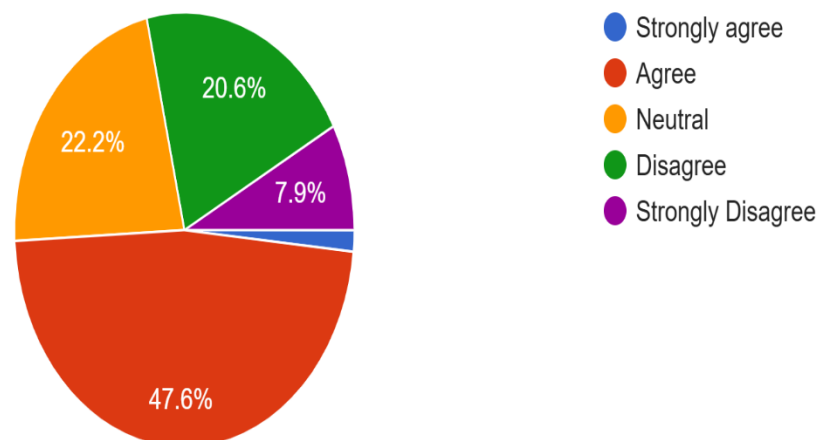
11. Feedback from the public How frequently do you receive constructive feedback from the community regarding police work?

63 responses



12. Resources and Training Do you feel adequately equipped and trained to address the concerns and expectations of the public?

63 responses



13. Suggestions for improvement

In your view, what actions could be taken to improve the relationship between the police and the community?

33 responses

1. I think it is very important for the public to understand that if we have evidence, it will be submitted to the CPS, and that it is the Courts who decide the fate of the offender. It is also important that people understand if there's no evidence, we cannot go evidence led (this is also sort of rare), further to this, we have to remain impartial and the public don't, some aren't happy if CR's are given, but they should understand why it's given.
2. better media coverage and advertisement of positive outcomes. Awareness in the media regarding police not making sentencing decisions and this being a court issue. Awareness on how busy it is at times; the NHS often post about being very full / busy police should be able to do the same when overwhelmed to manage expectations.
3. The negativity from the press does not build a clear picture to all the positive work that we do, the Police and Media need to share more of the positive and proactive policing work that is being completed
4. Improve communication around the blockers police face post arrest. The public perception is that when police arrest someone, they just end up in court. We need to communicate that it is very often months of investigations and liaising with CPS etc., and this is one of the many reasons we aren't seen out and about as often as we'd like. I feel we need civilian investigators to assist front line officers to be what it says on the tin.....be front line officers. Being visible, and actively targeting those affecting our communities in a negative way is the only way the public will see we are listening and doing our best. The right cops in the right areas.
5. BWV should be released more often to show the current challenges we face and officers should be supported more in the media by our own force
6. More transparency about the demand and limitation we face
7. More working with the community to allow them to see the stresses and strains of the job but to also listen to their concerns, needs and wants from the police.

8. Transparency
9. Improved operational effectiveness - robust policing, greater use of arrest powers and increased detections.
10. More PCSO visibility and foot patrol
11. For us to have more officers on front line so that we don't feel so under pressure. This will allow us to want to help the public and listen to their concerns as opposed to feeling obliged to.
12. More foot patrols
13. More community engagement
14. UK National media need to have restrictions on reporting and policies in place that allow for fair and unbiased news reports. More access all area style media that shows and honest and fair representation of policing in the modern era. More community engagement exhibitions with fair Q&A sessions and honest feedback from both sides where persons involved don't suffer unfair repercussions. In doing so more trust can be built and more transparent and open policing to best serve the public.
15. The opinions of the public will always reflect badly for the police as they are not aware of the full fact of each situation preventing them from seeing the full picture
16. Increase the number of PC Ward Mangers across the Force and reintroduce PACT Meetings, this will give the community a voice and after a time of building trust you will see improved confidence and trust in Gwent Police.
17. Due to the nature of policing some will always have a negative view of the police, Further community engagement events and publishing media of good work will help build confidence especially with those who don't usually come into contact with police.

18. More balanced media coverage and fact checking. A more pragmatic approach from Chief constables in sharing information to quell disinformation and negative publications, before irreparable damage is done and opinions wrongly cemented in the minds of the public.
19. Better neighbour hood teams , visibility and patrols
20. The issue cannot be addressed by a corporate communications department sharing pictures of police dogs and fast cars, a degree in media is a chocolate teapot in policing, people need to see actual police work in their communities. harvesting facebook likes and braying about a media policy just contributes to widening the gap, a police dog in a BMW will not attend a domestic at 3am. the police are their own worst enemy trying to court social media attention and knee jerk reacting to the press. They should tell real stories about real communities and see police officers as people and not as accessories for a fast car or a pretty dog to pander to a fickle and often unappreciative public
21. Force leaders must stand up for their officers and address matters publicly
22. More officers
23. Social Media plays a huge part nowadays. Members of the public want to see what we are doing regarding offenders of sexual offences, burglaries etc. I don't think the Police help themselves posting about giving motorists tickets as the consensus is always the same, the comments are the same. I feel if we are to post such things then we should remove commenting as it breeds negativity. If the members of public knew half of what we did I feel their views may change. It feels like a broken system of damned if you do and damned if you don't. I don't know what the answer is but we can only do our best in our current departments. Kill them with kindness as the saying goes, ignore the hate and negativity and deliver the best possible service we can but remembering we are a Police Force, we are not there to be walked over.
24. There are too many issues that the public can take umbridge with to have a blanket process. Response times and incident attendance creates delays with other matters. Ensuring investigations are conducted thoroughly can take time

away from other matters. General public views around ethics, corruption and confidence in the police are only hindered by continuing news around misconduct, suspensions and criminal convictions of officers. This occurs regardless of their relevant force. Locally, things like parking will be raised. Ensuring that no policies procedures or laws are broken will help to instil a level of confidence and re-assurance, but this is not the only thing that is necessary.

25. If the public were to understand how police investigate incidents e.g. offence committed, but no substantial evidence = no outcome due to lack of evidence. The public need to understand what is and isn't a police matters - e.g. calling to complain about parking or local traffic For the public to understand CPS are the ones who decide if someone is given a custodial sentence, community service etc. not police

26. more transparency especially with cases that have caught media interest, releasing footage to members of the public which could help them understand the actions that police take, information to the public showing them exactly what policing on a day to day basis is actually like and not what they see on fictional tv programmes.

27. Improved community engagement , hopefully delivered through the new Engagement Strategy. 2) Operational effectiveness- getting to calls on time, undertaking professional investigations and looking after victims. 3) Having the right culture- being professorial, inclusive, fair and working with ethics and integrity

28. increasing the ability for members of the public to go on ride a longs

29. Rewind back 20 years when the police knew their communities. There is very little that can now be done because police are no longer in the community. They don't know their villains and the villains don't know them. The Police no longer focus on detecting crime - detection rates for dwelling burglary are shocking compared to 15 / 20 years ago. Never ending turnaround of incapable,

incompetent senior management that don't really care about anything apart from the next rank has resulted in a shambles of front line delivery. Best option is to ruthlessly review every department and return as many operational officers to the front line that are performing roles that 30.anyone can do so officers might have a chance of walking their beats and learning about their communities again.

30. Promote more good work done

31. Prioritise pleasing the people who could potentially assist as opposed to trying to please everyone, people who engage in criminality for a living will never like or trust the police as we directly stop them from doing so. I'm absolutely fine with this, I don't see why as an organisation we would want to please these people, by trying to please everyone including these we essentially lose the ability to make a real impact on those who would help and support us. When we have facts that contradict what the media are portraying and are suggesting police failing address it, it may not go down well with some but be open and transparent and address the matter using social media rather than letting the public think we are incompetent as it is rarely the case, people do not know the powers and policies that govern us, if they did they would understand we cant just do what we please. The media never report on the good we do, it should be important when they report in a negative manner and we can negate this, we do so. Thankfully people do not always assist, with the staffing being so low, especially on nights which is ridiculous and dangerous, if everyone was supportive we would never manage our workloads and officer burnout and sickness would increase. its sad and unfortunate to say this, but that is the reality of policing in Gwent at the moment.

32. More officers on the beat, as in actual foot patrols engaging with and talking to the public on a daily basis. Currently, we respond to calls and our workloads mean we are rushing and as a result the level of service given to the public can be poor, or falls below the expectations of the public. Having more officers would allow better engagement with the public and build relations. BOBBIES ON THE BEAT need to be seen by the public.

The Public Perception of The UK Police and its Impact It Has on the Policing and the Community

B *I* U  

This survey aims to identify what the public's perception of the police are and how this affects the community and the UK police.

1. What is our gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Transgender male
- ☐ Transgender Male
- ☐ Transgender Female
- ☐ Gender Variant/Non - Conforming
- ☐ Not Listed
- ☐ Prefer not to say

2. What is your age ?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55+

3. what is your race or ethnicity?

- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Hispanic or lantio
- ☐ Middle Eastern or North African
- ☐ Multiracial or Multi ethnic
- ☐ White
- ☐ Another race or ethnicity
- ☐ prefer not to say

4. Do you have any disabilities or impairment

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No



6. Police Viability

How often do you see police officers patrolling in your local area?

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Rarely/Never

7. Responsiveness

How satisfied are you with response time of the police to emergencies in your area?

	Column 1
Very Satisfied	☐
Satisfied	☐
Neutral	☐
Dissatisfied	☐
Very Dissatisfied	☐

8. Effective in reducing crime

How effective do you think the police are at reducing crime in your community?

- ☐ Very effective
- ☐ Somewhat effective
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Not very effective
- ☐ Not effective at all

9. Community engagement

How well do the police engage with your community (e.g, through events, outreach, or consultations)?

	Column 1
Excellent	☐
Good	☐
Fair	☐
Poor	☐
Very Poor	☐

10. Fair Treatment

Do you feel that the police treat everyone in your community equality and without bias?

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

11. Confidence in Reporting Crime

How confident are you in reporting a crime to the police?

	Column 1
Very confident	☐
somewhat confident	☐
Neutral	☐
Not very confident	☐
Not Confident at all	☐

12. Perception of Police professionalism

How would you rate the Professionalism of police officers you've encountered?

	Column 1
Excellent	☐
Good	☐
Faie	☐
Poor	☐
Very Poor	☐

13. Improvement Needed

*

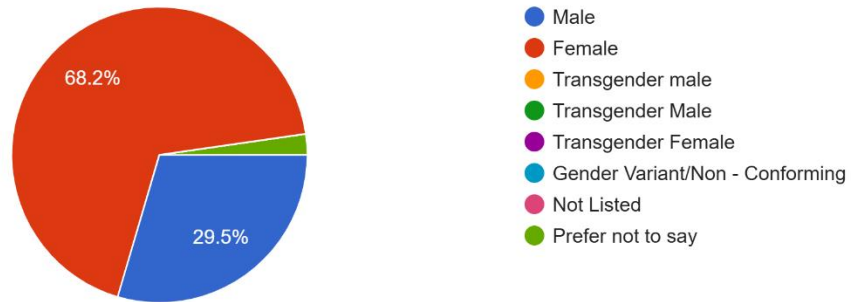
What improvement, if any, would you like to see in the way the police interact with and serve your community?
(Open - ended response)

Long-answer text

Appendix D – Public Public Response Graphs

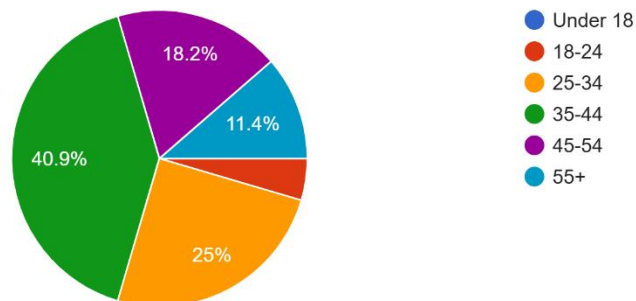
1. What is our gender?

44 responses



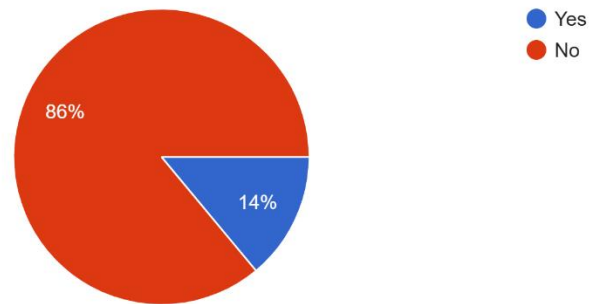
2. What is your age ?

44 responses



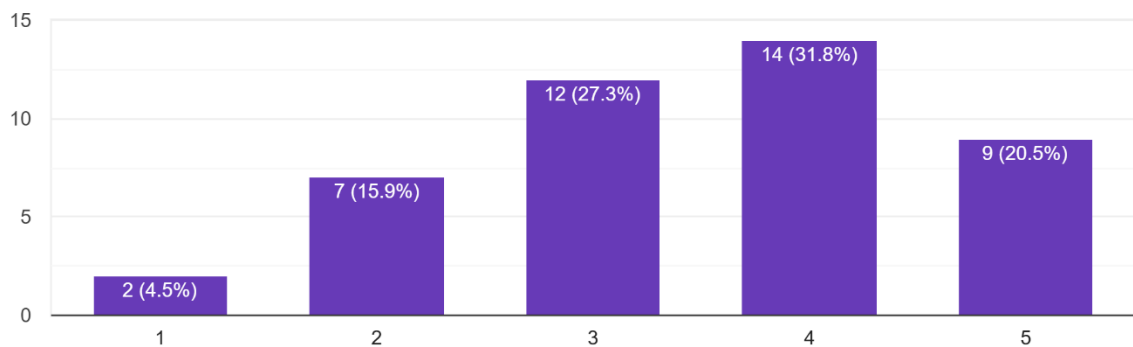
4. Do you have any disabilities or impairment

43 responses



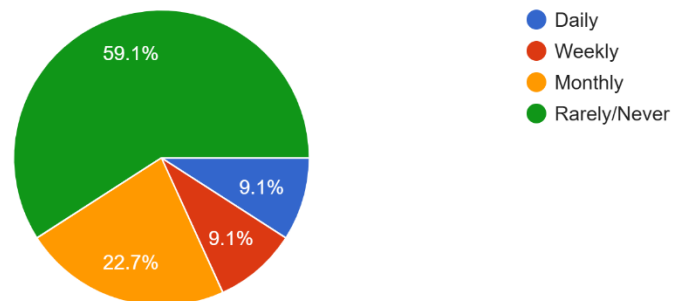
5. Trust in the Police On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = very low, 5 = very high), how much do you trust the UK police to act fairly and impartially

44 responses

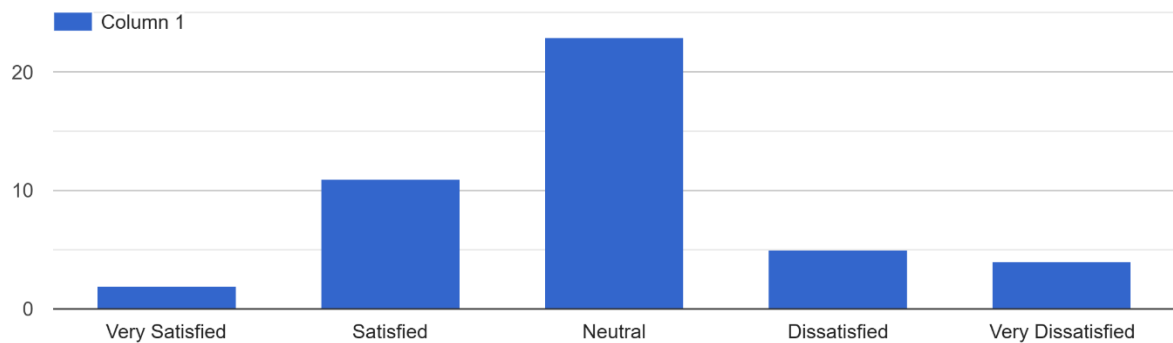


6. Police Viability How often do you see police officers patrolling in your local area?

44 responses

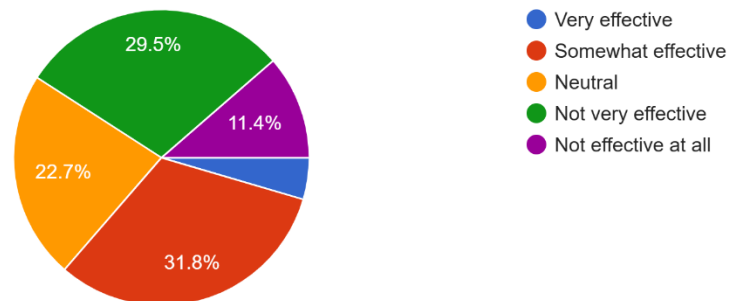


7. Responsiveness How satisfied are you with response time of the police to emergencies in your area?

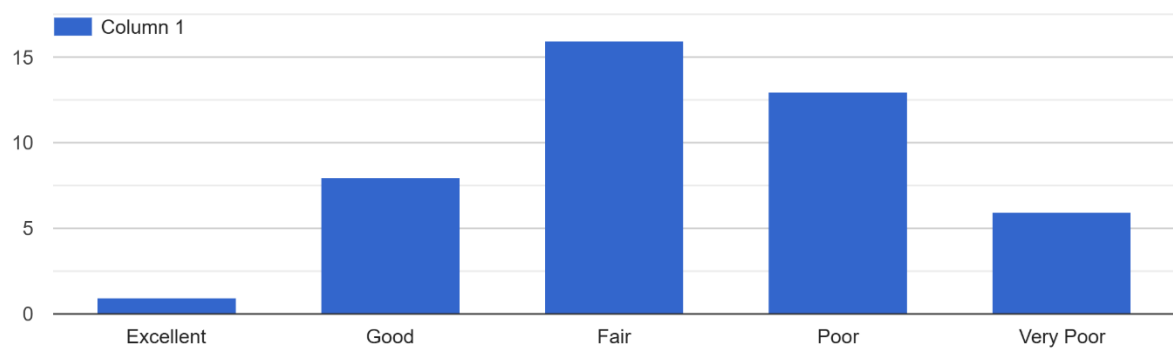


8. Effective in reducing crime How effective do you think the police are at reducing crime in your community?

44 responses

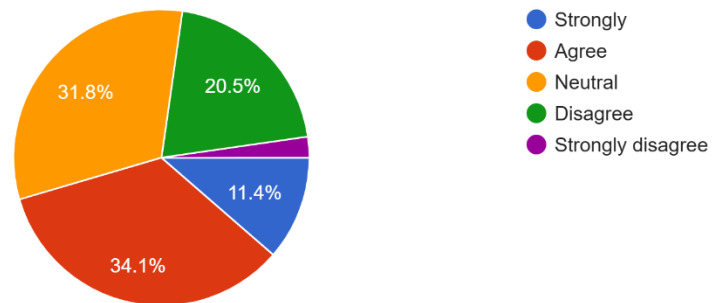


9. Community engagement How well do the police engage with your community (e.g, through events, outreach, or consultations)?

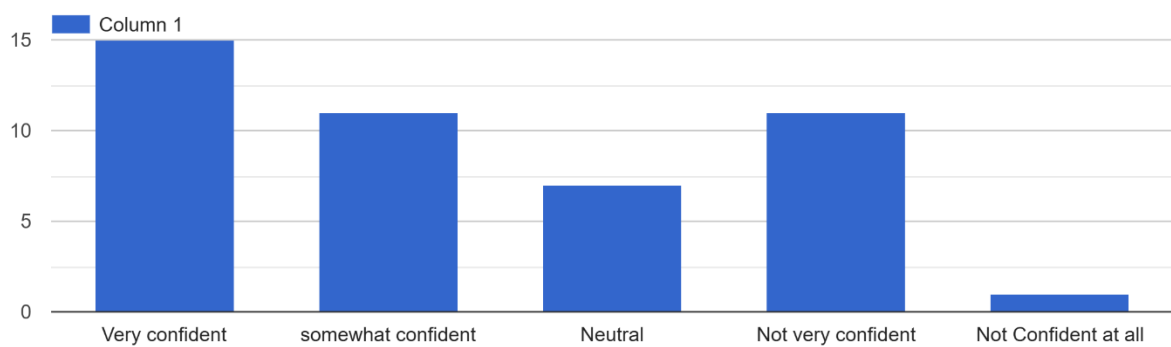


10. Fair Treatment Do you feel that the police treat everyone in your community equality and without bias?

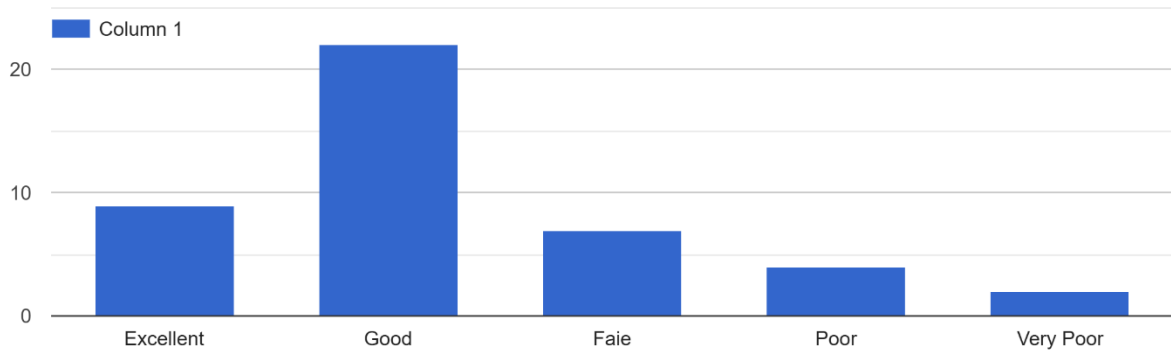
44 responses



11. Confidence in Reporting Crime How confident are you in reporting a crime to the police?



12. Perception of Police professionalism How would you rate the Professionalism of police officers you've encountered?



13. Improvement Needed

What improvement, if any, would you like to see in the way the police interact with and serve your community?

(Open - ended response)

44 responses

1. N/A
2. More visible , more power to prevent crime and disruptive behaviour
3. Keep police out of woke issues also give me power to officers
4. I cannot think of any improvements. I believe the police are a valuable service and must deal with difficult situations daily and fully have my support.

5. i would like to see a change on how they treat people differently depending on their social status
6. I'm not too sure
7. More visible female officers
8. Treat everyone the same
9. More police on the beat, More involvement with y/p via youth clubs etc
10. More police on the street
11. Becoming less hostile in conversation, put more focus on crimes that matter such as shoplifting and less time on money makers like speeding!
12. More patrols in my area
13. Na nothing will change
14. More police patrolling local area would be great.

15. They need to be more visible

16. Like to see more of them, not just for emergencies.

17. Problem with the law is they treat GOOD people BAD & BAD people GOOD!

18. More power to tackle problem kids and noise pollution.

19. N/a

20. More officers patrolling the streets to provide information to the public

21. More police patrolling the area

22. Take harmful crime more seriously. I'm more concerned about break ins than someone doing 3 mile an hour over the speed limit. When living in mid Wales my neighbour had his house broken into and items stolen and then a few months later his motorbike was stolen. Both cases closed within two weeks no suspects despite the police being told who we suspected, and a valid motive being provided.

23. There have been incidents on my street lately. When I called for some reassurance 2 weeks ago, I found the information minimal, her attitude abrupt and almost like i was wrong for asking what measures were being taken. I think police should give more frequent updates using social media of action they've taken and why, in each town or street. We could hear someone yelling about a gun one night as they were being arrested and it was so unsettling (this is usually a nice street). Honestly, I think information should be given reassuring us more. A few nights later a 14-year-old was chased with a knife by the same group of troublemakers. I only knew about this via the mum

informing people on Facebook. I really needed Blackwood police to be faster in responding on social media with what action they were taking. I rarely see police nowadays. I currently do not feel safe on my own street. Social media can be used positively to prove to residents that action is being taken. They eventually released a statement there'd been additional measures to tackle the behaviour, but it could've been a much faster response and more informative sooner.

24. Police need to be given the responsibility of handling crimes again as opposed to the CPS. Police are despondent - a police officer is assaulted; they arrest someone, and it's thrown out. How much more evidence is required? How can any other crime reach the threshold if an offence such as this doesn't get prosecuted heavily. There needs to be consequences for actions if we are to stop Britain being lawless and give police power again, until then police will continue to be powerless.

25. Patrol the streets more as a deterrent

26. They should be more visible in schools. Police should be doing more on dangers of social media and crimes that can be committed through social media. Community police officers should be visible in the community.

27. Response time regarding a mental health facility

28. Street patrols, more engagement with communities, to respond to incidents promptly not days after they occur and to tackle burglary, traffic offences, anti-social behaviour etc and nip that in the bud before it escalates to further higher tier crime.

29. N/A - local officers are always happy to stop and chat with the public

30. More street patrols on problem areas

31. Increase foot and drive by patrols in the area. We only tend to see police if there is a problem and it's been reported.

32. The lack of police presence, and the lack of knowledge when dealing with mental health issues

33. STOP ENFORCING WOKE IDEOLOGY! give the police power to act and put more respect into being a police officer. Enable officers to be trained as much as required and ensure they can carry out their duties without fear of being reprimanded for political correction. Also keep the police out of social/political issues, forcing upon the people their obviously required "support" of issues such as pride parades or BLM rallies etc. They are not there to be popular or to enforce any ideology, they are there to uphold the law.

34. Just their presence especially in the evenings

35. More visibility in the Community

36. Patrolling of community more often would be beneficial.

37. N/a

38. No negative experiences

39. I would like to see more police officers around where I believe, it might help deter some of the social problems.

40. More police on the street

41. None