

Introduction

The data found as a consequence of the primary research was examined in the prior chapter. This chapter will detail the findings of the primary research, comparing them with literature examined during the literature review and attempt to provide recommendations to policing organisations or other relevant bodies which will aim to improve public perception and transparency of policing organisations; thus, fulfilling the final objective of this research. Additionally in this chapter, certain research limitations found during the primary research and potential further areas for research will be identified.

Main findings

Numerous inferences and conclusions have been drawn from the literature review and the primary research contained in this dissertation. A general consensus surrounding the public's thoughts and opinions on police body worn video has been drawn from the research as well as the effect that the use of this technology has on police transparency and public perception. The public's perception of police transparency has been much improved by the introduction and application of body-worn video technology, with the public now believing that police transparency is increased by the use of body-worn video. The release of body-worn video footage of police contacts with the public and recordings of significant police-related incidents, such as use of force incidents and police incidents that receive media and public attention, has led to a greater public perception of police transparency. This increased level of police transparency also appears to have a positive correlation to the public's perception of police where this dissertation has found that the public's perception of police has also improved following the introduction of police body worn video technology, the primary research conducted supporting this and other research conducted in the USA and other parts of the world. Members of the public are also wholly supportive of the use of this technology in one form or another and this primary research has shown that the public want to see more police agencies make more of the footage obtained from police worn body cameras available to them, further increasing the level of transparency between the police and the communities that they serve. Although the public's opinion of police and transparency have generally improved as a result of the usage of this technology, it has been noted that in certain situations, the public's perception may be negatively impacted by body worn footage that is recorded and made accessible to the public. This is the case when improper behaviour by police officers is shown in "negative" video that has been made public.

Recommendations

A number of suggestions and recommendations may be drawn from this research to guarantee that the largely favourable outcomes resulting from the deployment of police body cameras can be preserved and even enhanced.

Firstly, police agencies should continue to routinely utilise and equip frontline police officers with body worn cameras and consider providing this technology to all officers who interact with members of the public. The results of the research indicate that the public supports the employment of this

technology going forward and that it would either preserve or enhance the current levels of police transparency and public opinion. Since not all UK police officers presently have access to body worn video cameras (Police Federation, 2020), it would be beneficial to keep pushing for the widespread adoption of this technology.

The second recommendation this dissertation will make is for UK policing agencies to make more body worn camera footage readily available to the public, particularly footage relating to 'critical incidents' which draw much attention from community members and the media, to further improve transparency and public perception. In certain parts of the United States of America, like as the Los Angeles Police Department, the prompt release of body worn video from critical incidents has improved public opinion of the department and boosted its transparency (NYU Policing Project, 2017). According to the results of this primary research, many UK citizens have said that they are ignorant of or do not believe that their local police force discloses body-worn video footage.

Further research

Research gaps and opportunities for further research and study have been found in this dissertation; one such gap may be the requirement for more in-depth analyses of the more specific subjects covered in the primary research section of this project.

The proposal for this dissertation laid out that it would aim to include an analysis surrounding UK police force's policy and procedure in relation to the usage and the release of police body worn cameras and the footage that they capture. However, due to sometimes lengthy requests for information processes and the time constraints of this primary research, the deadline for this research arrived before the chosen UK police agencies could properly respond to the request for data. The same can be said for attempts to request data from non-UK sources such as manufacturers of body worn camera devices. Therefore, comparing the relationships between UK police forces that use body-worn cameras in various ways—including those that make more of their footage available to the public—and how this affects public perception and police transparency would be a subject for additional research. Being the first police force in the UK to utilise body-worn cameras for "live-streaming," West Midlands Police's use of this technology has "led the way" for the UK in some areas (Hook, 2022), therefore being a potential subject for further research.

Limitations

Even though this research has made every effort to minimise its limitations, there will always be some because of the various factors that may be outside the researcher's control. Nonetheless, researchers have an obligation to act in an open and truthful manner towards the larger academic community (Ross and Zaidi, 2019).

The primary research did not reach the research goal of 50 responses. A small percentage of the survey's questions did not obtain at least 25 replies, indicating that the results are not entirely reliable according to Flick (2015) and the researcher may not be able to draw conclusions from these specific questions that are indicative of the wider populations viewpoints. However, most of the survey's questions did receive at least the minimum sample size of 25 needed by Flick (2015) for quantitative research. Compared to a far smaller percentage (0.27%) of members of the general public who are police officers, a sizable majority of respondents (37%) also stated that they were either retired or currently serving as police officers. The fraction of respondents who claimed they

were police officers is not representative of the broader population, which is another significant limitation of the primary research.

Although it is thought that most of the respondents came from areas that were served by the same police agency, the survey did not record the specific locations of the respondents. This might have affected the results of the research, also including potential bias to the survey (Mazor et al., 2002). Policing policies, such as those pertaining to body-worn cameras, vary according to the regions that each UK police force serves (Brown, 2021). Built-up areas are far more likely to experience crime, and crime in general is more violent in cities than in rural areas (Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, 2022). Further research may focus on the variations throughout UK police forces, dispersing the survey throughout the country to obtain the greatest amount of quality data.

The Achievement of Objectives

There were a number of aims for this research which surrounded examining the effect that the use of police body worn video cameras and the footage that they produce has on the public's perception of police and the perceived level of transparency of the policing organisations.

- *To conduct a critical analysis and investigation of the body of existing literature on police body worn cameras in order to identify the main variables influencing police transparency and public perception, and to use the results to guide the primary research*

An extensive examination of the literature was conducted to fulfil this objective, contained in the previous chapters of this dissertation. It concentrated on prior research that had been identified surrounding police body-worn video cameras and the footage they record, analysing the impact this has on police transparency and public perception.

- *investigate and evaluate the effects of disclosing both "positive" and "negative" body worn footage, which pertains to instances of excellent police work and police misconduct or complaints.*

This aspect was examined during the literature review phase and through the primary research survey. Further research has also been identified in this area.

- *Determine the impact of the adoption of body-worn video on police transparency.*

This aim has been thoroughly evaluated through the literature review phase and the findings supported by the primary research.

- *Examine how relevant research and literature from other countries, such the USA or Australia, is to the UK*

The literature identified through the literature review has been analysed and compared with the data collected through the primary research survey.

- *attempt to provide recommendations to policing organisations or other relevant bodies which will aim to improve public perception and transparency of policing organisations*

This aim has been achieved through completion of the 'recommendations' section of this chapter.

Conclusion

The purposes and objectives of this research have been effectively accomplished, including providing an answer to the issue of how compatible research from other countries, including Australia and the USA, is with the UK. The main conclusions of this dissertation about the impact of police body cameras on public perception and transparency have been presented. Various further lines of inquiry have been highlighted, including additional background, in-depth study of certain procedures used by UK policing agencies, and additional research into the impact of disclosing both "positive" and "negative" body-worn camera material. The dissertation's conclusions show that, in general, the public supports the deployment of body-worn video technology because it increases police transparency, which in turn improves the public's perception of the police.

1632 words.

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