

Dissertation Proposal.

Caleb Salmon

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University of Wales Trinity Saint David.

Force Without Fatality? The Legal Framework and Public Reception of Less Lethal Police Weapons in the UK

How does the use of less-lethal munitions effect policing strategies within Wales and the UK?

How does the public perceive the use of less-lethal munitions?

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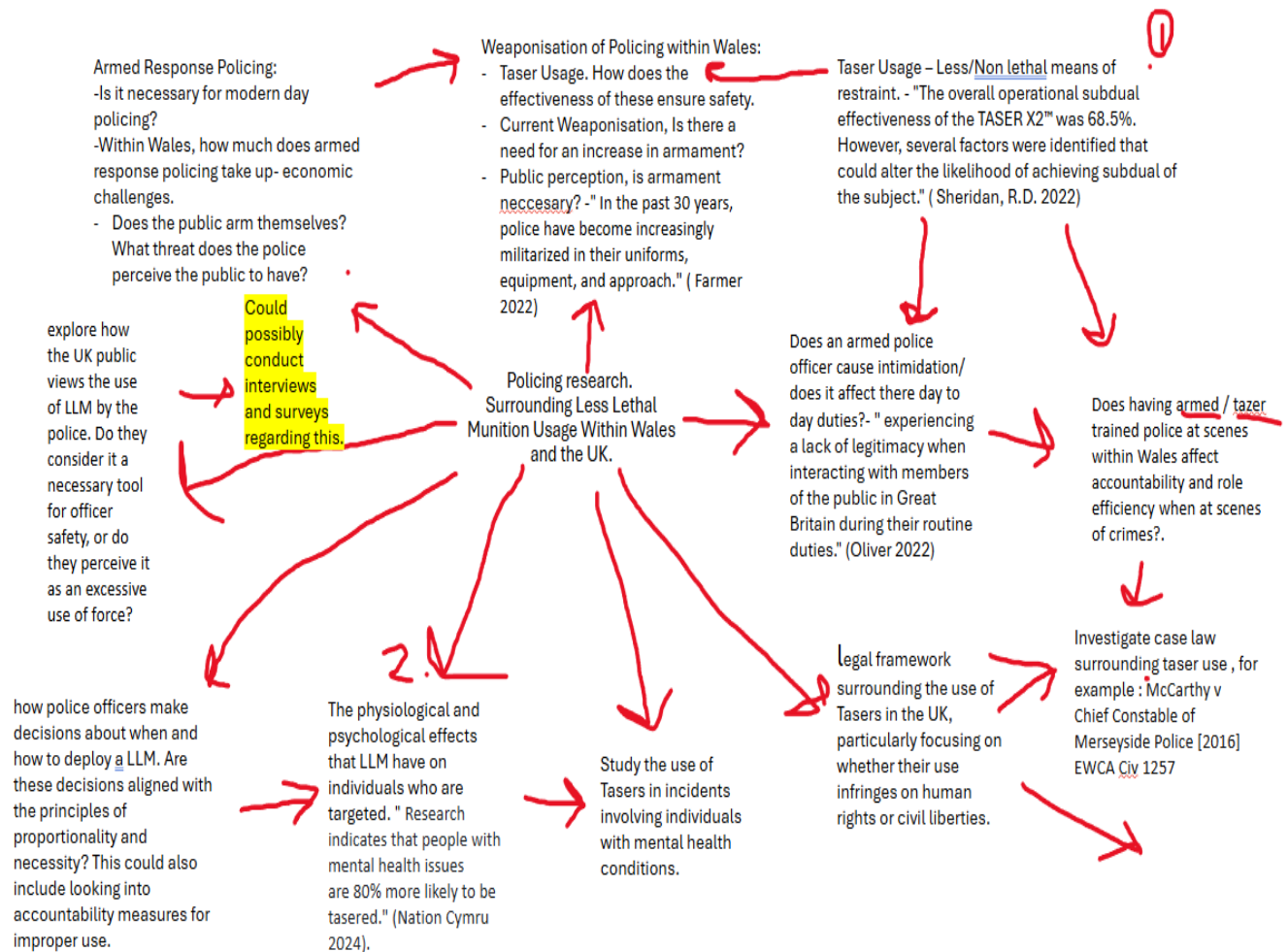
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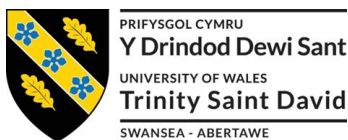
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UNDERGRADUATE DISSERTATION RESEARCH PROPOSAL FORM

NAME: Caleb Salmon	Student number: 2217676
DRAFT RESEARCH TITLE QUESTION: Why this topic? Why is it worthy of consideration for an undergraduate dissertation? How does the use of less-lethal munitions effect policing strategies within Wales and the UK? How does the public perceive the use of less-lethal munitions? This aspect of policing, from a personal view, has become more prevalent within today's society. With violent crime increasing and calls from the public and other forums for an increase in armament within the police services within the UK. Within this research , the aim is to analyse the consensus of the public's	

opinion regarding the use of less-lethal munitions within the context of policing, aiming to discover how the public views the changing demographic of crime, alongside the rise of violent crime within the UK in conjunction with the use of less-lethal munitions used by the police; this will provide a tertiary profile of how effective the use of LLM (Less-lethal Munitions) within our current social climate. Within my research I will also seek to research how the use of LLM affects current policing strategies, more specifically the use of force powers police officers have access to within the UK. I believe this research will be extremely important especially when in the context of the modern-day socio-political climate where officers are often criticised for a lack of / too much physical power whilst dealing with altercations and violent crime. Secondly, due to the commentary regarding this topic being prevalent within several sources of media and research there is a plethora of research curated regarding LLM, allowing this topic to be an in-depth analysis of LLM and its social perceptions.

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH AIM & OBJECTIVES:

The assessment specification has broken down the structure of the dissertation or placement-based project. Here, you are required to clarify the information you want to collect on your research topic in the form of two, three or four key objectives:

A primary aim of this research is to identify and analyse how the use of less-lethal munitions (LLM) affects decision making within the use of force pyramid within UK policing. This will be curated by bringing primary pieces of legislation alongside significant case law within the UK, this will allow us to evaluate its place within the pyramid alongside how it is used by trained officers. Secondly the other primary aim I have created allows for the public's opinion of LLM to be analysed in conjunction with past and current key cases, allowing for an evaluation on the use of LLM from a plethora of social backgrounds.

The first objective is to highlight and identify the primary legislation which allows LLM trained officers to use their munitions within the use of force pyramid.

Secondly, I aim to research policing strategies within my regional police service of Dyfed Powys Police and compare my findings to that of other Welsh Police services to compare my findings.

Finally, I am to analyse and the public's view of LLM usage by police officers, this will be created by a mixture of first-hand data; for example, surveys and interview. But also, alongside other data such as journals, books and commentaries.

THEORETICAL CONTEXT:

Please clarify some of the key literature to be utilised as part of your research. Consider textbooks, journals, articles, government reports, organisational strategic plans, and list a short bibliography of these key sources. This need not be extensive but will give your supervisor a good point to start from.

Within recent times mainstream media outlets have covered an increasing coverage of violent and changing demographics of crimes , recent studies by Audiebant found that within a demographic of “2,000 adults ,75% believe crime levels, including knife-related incidents and terrorism” (Tuckey 2025) , this growing feeling of unsafety and increase in violent crimes has led to an increased call of an armament of British police officers to protect our public. “79% of a survey containing 9,000 people backed the idea of more officers being equipped with Tasers.” (Chambers 2024), I wish to highlight and research these feelings of the public perception towards the use of LLM and how its usage can affect public safety and crime demographics.

Secondly, the legislation surrounding LLM personally is outdated to an extent, with much of the legislation being reliant on the 1968 firearms act; with most less lethal munitions being identified as firearms. This classification of LLM as an illegal public inventory, does affect the legislation and public opinion surrounding the usage of LLM within the prevention and deterrence of crime, with the IOPC making 17 changes and recommendations to police forces within the UK surrounding LLM usage, most importantly creating a stand for accountability with especially within the context of tasers , one of the most common forms of LLM the UK, with “Police forces being able to justify to the public the circumstances in which Taser is deployed” (IOPC 2021) the constant changing does affect its effectiveness as the everchanging parameters of the deployment of LLM does dictate whether or not it can be used.

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH –SURVEY METHOD:

Summary of qualitative or quantitative methods, and survey techniques being considered.

As I wish to research a public facing aspect of policing, I will be using a firstly to allow a large demographic of the public to have their thoughts on LLM be shared for my research. I will aim to question the public via an online google form, this will allow my research and questionnaire to be time effective for the people taking part within my research and not to be overwhelmed with information and questions.

For a secondary method, I aim to use a qualitative survey to allow the public's perception of LLM to be seen, this will allow for a thematic analysis of their perceptions via numerically based questions which will allow me to annotate and categorise my findings. A positive aspect of these research methods is that they will be anonymous yet however bias towards the police may affect the answers of my research, not providing me with an honest view of the public's opinion.

SUMMARY OF SAMPLING FRAMEWORK:

Provide details of target sample. For example, who are you intending to ask to participate in your research, will you be seeking perspectives from experts who work in each field, or will you be using a general questionnaire to gauge perspectives from members of the public?

My sampling framework, specifically for my questionnaire, I am aiming to have a large demographic of the public answer, with the more entries and larger age range to be more representative of the country as a whole. However, entrances to both the questionnaire and the survey will be done by members of the public who are 18 years and above. I believe that this sample size will be more than adequate to enable me to have a true reflection on the public's beliefs regarding LLM. I believe that my research area of LLM and how it is tackling the changing crimes within the UK is an important and well viewed topic, which will allow me to have a positive number of entrants to my survey who know the information regarding LLM.

INITIAL REFERENCE LIST:

Please follow the Harvard referencing system

Chambers, S. (2024). *The truth about Tasers: what the statistics and research tell us*. [online] The Conversation. Available at: <https://theconversation.com/the-truth-about-tasers-what-the-statistics-and-research-tell-us-236813>.

Change.org. (n.d.). *Sign the Petition*. [online] Available at: https://www.change.org/p/uk-govt-end-single-crewing-and-roll-out-taser-to-all-police-officers?recruiter=991548704&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=share_petition&recruited_by_id=acc6a260-bc82-11e9-97ec-111f1de99d7a&use_react=false.

Code of Practice on Armed Policing and Police use of Less Lethal Weapons. (2020). Available at: <https://library.college.police.uk/docs/appref/CCS207-CCS0120853800-001-Code-of-Practice-on-Armed-Policing.pdf>.

Farmer, C. and Evans, R. (2019). Primed and Ready: Does Arming Police Increase Safety? Preliminary Findings. *Violence and Gender*, 7(2). doi:<https://doi.org/10.1089/vio.2019.0020>.

Kang (2024). *Kang & Co Solicitors*. [online] Kang & Co Solicitors. Available at: <https://kangandco.co.uk/2024/12/06/is-it-illegal-to-carry-a-taser/> [Accessed 1 May 2025].

Mansfield, M. (2024). *The truth about Tasers: what the statistics and research tell us*. [online] Nation.Cymru. Available at: <https://nation.cymru/feature/the-truth-about-tasers-what-the-statistics-and-research-tell-us/>.

Policeconduct.gov.uk. (2021). *IOPC report flags concerns about police use of Taser* | Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). [online] Available at: https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/news/iopc-report-flags-concerns-about-police-use-taser?utm_source=chatgpt.com [Accessed 1 May 2025].

Sheridan, R.D. and Hepper, A.E. (2022). An analysis of officer-reported TASER X2™ probe discharge effectiveness in the United Kingdom. *Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine*, 91, p.102417. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2022.102417>.

Tuckey, F. (2025). *Half of adults in UK feel 'less safe' than they did a decade ago*. [online] Express.co.uk. Available at: <https://www.express.co.uk/life-style/life/2021786/brits-feel-less-safe-uk> [Accessed 1 May 2025].

3).Ethics Form

APPLICATION FOR ETHICAL APPROVAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION A: About You (Principal Researcher)

1	Full Name: Caleb Salmon					
2	Tick all boxes that apply:		Member of staff:	☐	Honorary research fellow:	☐
	Undergraduate Student	☒	Taught Postgraduate Student	☐	Postgraduate Research Student	☐

3	Institute/Academic Discipline/Centre:	Institute of management and health
4	Campus:	Swansea
5	E-mail address:	Calebsalmon24@gmail.com
6	Contact Telephone Number:	07940768645
For students:		
7	Student Number:	2217676
8	Programme of Study:	Professional Policing
9	Director of Studies/Supervisor:	Mike Durke.

SECTION B: Approval for Research Activity

1	Has the research activity received approval in principle? (please check the Guidance Notes as to the appropriate approval process for different levels of research by different categories of individual)	YES	☒	NO	☐
					Date 23/4/25
2	If Yes, please indicate source of approval (and date where known): Approval in principle must be obtained from the relevant source prior to seeking ethical approval	Research Degrees Committee	☐		
		Institute Research Committee	☐		
		Other (write in)	☒	Mike Durke	

SECTION C: Internal and External Ethical Guidance Materials

	Please list the core ethical guidance documents that have been referred to during the completion of this form (including any discipline-specific codes of research ethics, location-specific codes of research ethics, and also any specific ethical guidance relating to the proposed methodology). Please tick to confirm that your research proposal adheres to these codes and guidelines. You may add rows to this table if needed.	
1	UWTSD Research Ethics & Integrity Code of Practice	☒
2	UWTSD Research Data Management Policy	☒
3	<i>[List any other relevant documents here]</i>	☐

SECTION D: External Collaborative Research Activity

If there are external collaborators then you should gain consent from the contact persons to share their personal data with the university. If there are no external collaborators then leave this section blank and continue to section E.

1	Institution					
2	Contact person name					
3	Contact person e-mail address					
4	Is your research externally funded?	YES	☐	NO	☐	
5	Are you in receipt of a KESS scholarship?	YES	☐	NO	☐	
6	Are you specifically employed to undertake this research in either a paid or voluntary capacity?	Voluntary	YES	☐	NO	☐
7		Employed	YES	☐	NO	☐
8	Is the research being undertaken within an existing UWTSD Athrofa Professional Learning Partnership (APLP)?	If YES then the permission question below does not need to be answered.	YES	☐	NO	☐
9	Has permission to undertake the research has been provided by the partner organisation?	(If YES attach copy) If NO the application cannot continue	YES	☐	NO	☐

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

10	Does this organisation have its own ethics approval system?	YES	☐	NO	☐
	If Yes, please attach a copy of any final approval (or interim approval) from the organisation (this may be a copy of an email if appropriate).				

SECTION E: Details of Research Activity

1	Indicative title:	The use of less lethal munitions and the publics perception of them.		
2	Proposed start date:	September 2025	Proposed end date:	May 2026
	Introduction to the Research (maximum 300 words per section) Ensure that you write for a <u>Non-Specialist Audience</u> when outlining your response to the points below: <i>Purpose of Research Activity</i> <i>Proposed Research Question</i> <i>Aims of Research Activity</i> <i>Objectives of Research Activity</i> Demonstrate, briefly, how <u>Existing Research</u> has informed the proposed activity and explain <i>What the research activity will add to the body of knowledge</i> <i>How it addresses an area of importance.</i>			
3	Purpose of Research Activity To research and highlight the legislation and public's perception regarding less lethal munitions and demonstrate how the police services within Wales and the UK have changed as the demographic of crime has too. (this box should expand as you type)			
4	Research Question How does the use of less-lethal munitions effect policing strategies within Wales and the UK? How does the public perceive the use of less-lethal munitions? (this box should expand as you type)			
5	Aims of Research Activity A primary aim of this research is to identify and analyse how the use of less-lethal munitions (LLM) affects decision making within the use of force pyramid within UK policing. Secondly the other primary aim I have created allows for the public's opinion of LLM to be analysed in conjunction with past and current key cases, allowing for an evaluation on the use of LLM from a plethora of social backgrounds.			

	(this box should expand as you type)
6	Objectives of Research Activity The first objective is to highlight and identify the primary legislation which allows LLM trained officers to use their munitions within the use of force pyramid. secondly, I aim to research policing strategies within my regional police service of Dyfed Powys Police and compare my findings to that of other Welsh Police services to compare my findings. Finally, I am to analyse and the public's view of LLM usage by police officers, this will be created by a mixture of first-hand data; for example, surveys and interview. But also, alongside other data such as journals, books and commentaries. (this box should expand as you type)
	Proposed methods (maximum 600 words) Provide a brief summary of all the methods that may be used in the research activity, making it clear what specific techniques may be used. If methods other than those listed in this section are deemed appropriate later, additional ethical approval for those methods will be needed. You do not need to justify the methods here, but should instead describe how you intend to collect the data necessary for you to complete your project.
7	I will aim to question the public via an online google form, this will allow my research and questionnaire to be time effective for the people taking part within my research and not to be overwhelmed with information and questions. Secondly, I will use primary research in the form of expert advice, as I aim to contact members within several police forces to gauge their personal use of LLM within their day-to-day job. Thirdly, I aim to use a qualitative survey to allow the public's perception of LLM to be seen, this will allow for a thematic analysis of their perceptions via numerically based questions which will allow me to annotate and categorise my findings. (this box should expand as you type)
	Location of research activity

	(this box should expand as you type)
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SECTION F: Scope of Research Activity

	Will the research activity include:	YES	NO
1	Use of a questionnaire or similar research instrument?	☒	☐
2	Use of interviews?	☒	☐
3	Use of focus groups?	☐	☒
4	Use of participant diaries?	☐	☒
5	Use of video or audio recording?	☐	☒
6	Use of computer-generated log files?	☐	☒
7	Participant observation with their knowledge?	☐	☒
8	Participant observation without their knowledge?	☐	☒
9	Access to personal or confidential information without the participants' specific consent?	☐	☒
10	Administration of any questions, test stimuli, presentation that may be experienced as physically, mentally or emotionally harmful / offensive?	☐	☒
11	Performance of any acts which may cause embarrassment or affect self-esteem?	☐	☒
12	Investigation of participants involved in illegal activities?	☐	☒
13	Use of procedures that involve deception?	☐	☒
14	Administration of any substance, agent or placebo?	☐	☒
15	Working with live vertebrate animals?	☐	☒
16	Procedures that may have a negative impact on the environment?	☐	☒
17	Other primary data collection methods. Please indicate the type of data collection method(s) below.	☐	☒
	Details of any other primary data collection method: (this box should expand as you type)		

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

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

SECTION G: Intended Participants

If there are no participants then do not complete this section, but go directly to section H.

	Who are the intended participants:	YES	NO
1	Students or staff at the University?	☒	☐

2	Adults (over the age of 18 and competent to give consent)?	☒	☐
3	Vulnerable adults?	☐	☒
4	Children and Young People under the age of 18? (Consent from Parent, Carer or Guardian will be required)	☐	☒
5	Prisoners?	☐	☒
6	Young offenders?	☐	☒
7	Those who could be considered to have a particularly dependent relationship with the investigator or a gatekeeper?	☐	☒
8	People engaged in illegal activities?	☐	☒
9	Others. Please indicate the participants below, and specifically any group who may be unable to give consent.	☐	☒
	Details of any other participant groups: (this box should expand as you type)		

	Participant numbers and source Provide an estimate of the expected number of participants. How will you identify participants and how will they be recruited?	
10	How many participants are expected?	Approximately 100. (this box should expand as you type)
11	Who will the participants be?	Members of the public and experts within the field. (this box should expand as you type)
12	How will you identify the participants?	Via age and gender for the members of the public , then via first and last name with credentials for the experts. (this box should expand as you type)

	Information for participants:	YES	NO	N/A
13	Will you describe the main research procedures to participants in advance, so that they are informed about what to expect?	☒	☐	☐
14	Will you tell participants that their participation is voluntary?	☒	☐	☐
15	Will you obtain written consent for participation?	☐	☐	☒
16	Will you explain to participants that refusal to participate in the research will not affect their treatment or education (if relevant)?	☐	☐	☒
17	If the research is observational, will you ask participants for their consent to being observed?	☐	☐	☒
18	Will you tell participants that they may withdraw from the research at any time and for any reason?	☐	☐	☒
19	With questionnaires, will you give participants the option of omitting questions they do not want to answer?	☐	☐	☐

20	Will you tell participants that their data will be treated with full confidentiality and that, if published, it will not be identifiable as theirs?	☒	☐	☐
21	Will you debrief participants at the end of their participation, in a way appropriate to the type of research undertaken?	☐	☐	☒
22	If NO to any of above questions, please give an explanation			
	(this box should expand as you type)			

	Information for participants:	YES	NO	N/A
24	Will participants be paid?	☐	☒	☐
25	Is specialist electrical or other equipment to be used with participants?	☐	☒	☐
26	Are there any financial or other interests to the investigator or University arising from this study?	☐	☒	☐
27	Will the research activity involve deliberately misleading participants in any way, or the partial or full concealment of the specific study aims?	☐	☒	☐
28	If YES to any question, please provide full details			
	(this box should expand as you type)			

SECTION H: Anticipated Risks

	Outline any anticipated risks that may adversely affect any of the participants, the researchers and/or the University, and the steps that will be taken to address them. If you have completed a full risk assessment (for example as required by a laboratory, or external research collaborator) you may append that to this form.		
1	Full risk assessment completed and appended?	Yes	☒
		No	☐
2	Risks to participants For example: sector-specific health & safety, emotional distress, financial disclosure, physical harm, transfer of personal data, sensitive organisational information		
	Risk to participants:	How you will mitigate the risk to participants: Secure forms for the survey and questionnaire.	

	Data protection for the answers of the questions. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
3	If research activity may include sensitive, embarrassing or upsetting topics (e.g. sexual activity, drug use) or issues likely to disclose information requiring further action (e.g. criminal activity), give details of the procedures to deal with these issues, including any support/advice (e.g. helpline numbers) to be offered to participants. Note that where applicable, consent procedures should make it clear that if something potentially or actually illegal is discovered in the course of a project, it may need to be disclosed to the proper authorities	
	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	
4	Risks to the investigator For example: personal health & safety, physical harm, emotional distress, risk of accusation of harm/impropriety, conflict of interest	
	Risk to the investigator: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	<i>How you will mitigate the risk to the investigator:</i> <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
5	University/institutional risks For example: adverse publicity, financial loss, data protection	
	Risk to the University: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	<i>How you will mitigate the risk to the University:</i> <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
6	Environmental risks For example: accidental spillage of pollutants, damage to local ecosystems	

	Risk to the environment: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	How you will mitigate the risk to environment: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
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	Disclosure and Barring Service			
	If the research activity involves children or vulnerable adults, a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate must be obtained before any contact with such participants.	YES	NO	N/A
7	Does your research require you to hold a current DBS Certificate?	☐	☒	☐
8	If YES, please give the certificate number. If the certificate number is not available please write "Pending"; in this case any ethical approval will be subject to providing the appropriate certificate number.			

SECTION I: Feedback, Consent and Confidentiality

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

	A summary of my research will be sent to the experts as a debrief. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
2	Informed consent Describe the arrangements to inform potential participants, before providing consent, of what is involved in participating. Describe the arrangements for participants to provide full consent before data collection begins. If gaining consent in this way is inappropriate, explain how consent will be obtained and recorded in accordance with prevailing data protection legislation.
	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
3	Confidentiality / Anonymity Set out how anonymity of participants and confidentiality will be ensured in any outputs. If anonymity is not being offered, explain why this is the case.
	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>

SECTION J: Data Protection and Storage

	Does the research activity involve personal data (as defined by the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 “GDPR” and the Data Protection Act 2018 “DPA”)?	YES	NO
1	“Personal data” means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (‘data subject’). An identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person. Any video or audio recordings of participants is considered to be personal data.	☐	☒ x
	If YES, provide a description of the data and explain why this data needs to be collected:		
2			

	(this box should expand as you type)		
	Does it involve special category data (as defined by the GDPR)?	YES	NO
3	“Special category data” means sensitive personal data consisting of information as to the data subjects’ – (a) racial or ethnic origin, (b) political opinions, (c) religious beliefs or other beliefs of a similar nature, (d) membership of a trade union (within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992), (e) physical or mental health or condition, (f) sexual life, (g) genetics, (h) biometric data (as used for ID purposes),	☐	☐ x
	If YES, provide a description of the special category data and explain why this data needs to be collected:		
4	 (this box should expand as you type)		

	Will data from the research activity (collected data, drafts of the thesis, or materials for publication) be stored in any of the following ways?	YES	NO
5	Manual files (i.e. in paper form)?	☐	☒
6	University computers?	☐	☒
7	Private company computers?	☐	☒
8	Home or other personal computers?	☒	☐
9	Laptop computers/ CDs/ Portable disk-drives/ memory sticks?	☒	☐
10	“Cloud” storage or websites?	☒	☐
11	Other – specify:	☐	☐
12	For all stored data, explain the measures in place to ensure the security of the data collected, data confidentiality, including details of backup procedures, password protection, encryption, anonymisation and pseudonymisation:		
	Password protection , alongside anonymisation and encryption. (this box should expand as you type)pas		

	Data Protection		
	Will the research activity involve any of the following activities:	YES	NO
13	Electronic transfer of data in any form?	☐	☒
14	Sharing of data with others at the University outside of the immediate research team?	☐	☒
15	Sharing of data with other organisations?	☐	☒

16	Export of data outside the UK or importing of data from outside the UK?	☐	☒
17	Use of personal addresses, postcodes, faxes, emails or telephone numbers?	☐	☒
18	Publication of data that might allow identification of individuals?	☐	☒
19	Use of data management system?	☐	☒
20	Data archiving?	☐	☒
21	If YES to any question, please provide full details, explaining how this will be conducted in accordance with the GDPR and Data Protection Act (2018) (and any international equivalents, where appropriate):		
	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
22	List all who will have access to the data generated by the research activity:		
	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
23	List who will have control of, and act as custodian(s) for, data generated by the research activity:		
	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
24	Give details of data storage arrangements, including security measures in place to protect the data, where data will be stored, how long for, and in what form. Will data be archived – if so how and if not why not.		
	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
25	Please indicate if your data will be stored in the UWTSD Research Data Repository (see https://researchdata.uwtsd.ac.uk/). If so please explain. <i>(Most relevant to academic staff)</i>		
	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
26	Confirm that you have read the UWTSD guidance on data management (see https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/library/research-data-management/)	YES	☐ X
27	Confirm that you are aware that you need to keep all data until after your research has completed or the end of your funding	YES	☐ X

SECTION K: Declaration

	The information which I have provided is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have attempted to identify any risks and issues related to the research activity and acknowledge my obligations and the rights of the participants. In submitting this application I hereby confirm that I undertake to ensure that the above named research activity will meet the University's Research Ethics and Integrity Code of Practice which is published on the website: https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/research/research-ethics/		
1	Signature of applicant:		Date: 01/05/25

For STUDENT Submissions:

2	Director of Studies/Supervisor:	Mike Durke	Date:
3	Signature:		

For STAFF Submissions:

4	Academic Director/ Assistant Dean:		Date:
5	Signature:		

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

☒	I have read the guidance notes supplied before completing the form.
☒	I have completed ALL RELEVANT sections of the form in full.
☒	I confirm that the research activity has received approval in principle
☐	I have attached a copy of final/interim approval from external organisation (where appropriate)
☒	I have attached a full risk assessment (where appropriate) ONLY TICK IF YOU HAVE ATTACHED A FULL RISK ASSESSMENT

☒	I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that the above named research activity will meet the University's Research Ethics and Integrity Code of Practice.
☒	I understand that before commencing data collection all documents aimed at respondents (including information sheets, consent forms, questionnaires, interview schedules etc.) must be confirmed by the DoS/Supervisor, module tutor or Academic Director.

RESEARCH STUDENTS AND STAFF ONLY

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

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

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

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

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

Task 4). Justification of my chosen research methods.

The research methods that have been chosen, firstly include a qualitative form of data in the form of a questionnaire, with a large sample group this will allow my research to represent an accurate portrayal of the public's attitudes and beliefs towards less lethal munitions. Questionnaires are effective methods of standardizing forms of information as MacLeod states "This means a questionnaire can be replicated easily to check for consistency. Therefore, a second researcher can use the questionnaire to confirm consistent results." (MacLeod 2023). On the other hand, I will be using a numerical and quantitative style of survey alongside the previously mentioned qualitative questionnaire, this survey will allow me to both capture results that can be statistically standardized in the form of graphs and charts to show the overall similarities and differences between the contrasting answers. The method I will be using will allow for somewhat complete anonymity Aswell, only asking for an age range e.g., 18-35 and gender, this will protect participants anonymity and allowing the reassurance and positive aspects that "Anonymous surveys allow for more honest and unambiguous responses" (Balamurugan 2025).

For the other aspect of my research, I will be incorporating expert exempts from my own primary, first hand research that I will conduct. I believe that allowing experts to aid me with how less lethal munitions affect modern day and public lifestyles will be extremely beneficial to my research. "Expert opinions are based on specialized knowledge, training, or experience." (Ryskamp 2024), these specialists within the area of less lethal munitions will

help aid in my research by providing me with invaluable sources of information.

Task 5). 10 questions that could be used within my chosen data collection method.

- 1). How old are you?
- 2) What is your gender?
- 3) Have you seen a LLM trained officer?
- 4) Did this make you feel intimidated?
- 5) Have you ever seen LLM used in person? Or in any other form of media? (tv etc.)
- 6) How often do you see LLM used within the media?
- 7) Do you think any other strategies are more effective than LLM?
- 8) Why?
- 9) Do you think LLM is a cost-effective strategy?
- 10) If not, what do you think LLM funding could be made available too instead?

Task 6). Evaluation of my chosen data analysis method.

To evaluate my chosen data that I will be producing, I will be using a form of statistical data analysis this is the most reliable form of data analysis especially within the consideration of the quantitative survey I will be using as a main form of research within my dissertation.

By using this form of data analysis, I will be able to replicate and note the numerical values of the research within the survey. Allowing me to note trends, differences and similarities in the survey based by age range and gender, the two characteristics I will be allowing the participants to identify themselves by.

This usage of statistical analysis is further backed by expert opinion especially when considering the quantitative nature of my survey I will be researching. "Statistical analysis can help you investigate causation" (Hassan 2021), this appreciation to find causation and relationships between the links of research will be extremely beneficial to me as it will allow me to understand the publics ethos towards less lethal munitions.

For my questionnaire however, I will be using a quantitative form of a narrative analysis due to the qualitative nature of my questionnaire, this will allow me to “Look for recurring themes or patterns in various narratives. Think about the similarities and differences between these topics and personal experiences.” (QuestionPro 2022) this will enable me to use the publics own personal experiences to aid my research.

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