

1.1 - Introduction.

The method of research that was undertaken within this dissertation consisted of a Microsoft form consisting of thirteen questions, both qualitative and quantitative in nature. Featuring three identifying questions tasked with sorting the participants via an age bracket, scale of rurality and then their geographical police service Aswell. This was undertaken to allow the research to be furtherly separated for analysis to identify any possible trends which may be contrasted or compared with the content in the literature review chapter. Furtherly, this age bracketing which was used within the research was important as it allowed the “significantly different social requirements and needs” (Yang *et al* , 2022) of the different generations to be recorded, an extremely effective factor alongside the participants geographical location to determine and note trends within the responses.

The predominant aim of this research aimed too firstly, critically analyse the public's perception of conducted energy device usage within South Wales and Dyfed Powys police service; with “54% of adults in Great Britain” (Owen-Evans *et al*, 2024) believing that policing was at a good enough standard for our modern society, and as a result of this within this research the hypothesis of a standardised positive attitude towards policing is something that was challenged within the survey presented to the public. The three primary objectives that were presented also aimed to develop a systemic profile of how these conducted energy devices are used and how the publics attitudes reflect on it, a key objective which has been expressed within the research in this project is objective two; an analysis of the public's view on conducted energy device usage within the South Wales and Dyfed Powys police services using both qualitative and quantitative forms of questioning, which would allow for a more in-depth analysis of these attitudes and allow for comparisons and further reasonings behind these attitudes to be explored due to CED` s being hailed as “One of the most contentious tools at the police’s disposal” (Khan, 2024).

1.2- Findings: Description of analysis and results.

With six qualitatively themed questions alongside two open input literary analysis questions, the feelings of the public towards taser usage were confidently expressed, and allowed for a thematic analysis of not just the two open input questions, but also allowed for numerical themes to be drawn due to the nature of the graphical tools within the Microsoft forms service. The first three questions within the survey were used as identifying parameters for the participant, these questions allowed for further

correlations and disparages to be drawn against the hypothesis within the literature review. With sixty-three participants in this survey, a broad range of geographical and personal parameters were met. Firstly, question number one shows that, of the participants that undertook this survey were in several different age brackets, with the most common of these age brackets falling into the 18-24 age range with 16 participants and then secondly the 55-64 age bracket with 13 participants, these participants were extremely valuable to the research due to their contrasting ages at both ends of the spectrum, allowing for possible contrasting views and attitudes to be shown within this research; the participants age brackets and number of participants are as follows:

Figure 1.

Age of Participant	18-24	24-35	35-44	45-54	54-65	65+
Number of Participants	16	13	13	12	13	4

Questions number 2 and 3 allowed for a geographical placement and police services to be named for the participants, allowing for attitudes to be categorised in terms of where the participant may be located within Wales and England, this was extremely important as it allowed for the attitudes of those who live in rural areas to be compared to those of an urban population within the future of the survey. The 63 respondents to the survey did provide a large and diverse sample size, with 36 of the participants describing their local area as rural, the “tyranny of rurality” (Bullock *et al*, 2023) did provide this research with a clear contrasting view which was beneficial to provide the objective of recommendation towards police services within South Wales and Dyfed Powys police services to be fulfilled:

Figure 2:

	Rural Location	Urban Location	Suburban Location	Unsure	South Wales Police	Dyfed-Powys Police	Gwent Police
Number of Participants	36	17	7	3	5	56	2

Question 4 and 5 allowed the research to investigate what the publics attitudes towards conducted energy devices are within the current social climate, with increasing financial and societal issues which has led to the “taser” being at risk of “losing its legitimacy in the eyes of the public” (IOPC, 2021) this question would act as an effective

analysis of CED usage and possible armament of the police to reinforce legislation and public safety. Firstly question 4 was purposely open within its geographical nature, and allowed the participants regardless of their local police service or location, the answers from the 63 participants agreed with the hypothesis that public service may need to be improved and a conduit for this may be a necessity for CED training to be mandatory for police officers within England and Wales; With a resounding majority agreement towards the armament of police officers within England and Wales, 53 participants agreed that they would feel safer regardless of location or service that they would feel safer if police officers with CED trained. With 6 participants voting “no” and 9 participants voting “unsure”. This is furtherly reinforced and reflected within question 5, and shows similar results to a survey 2019 North Yorkshire Police survey with their local population and shows that out of the local population “66% would feel safer” (Chambers, 2024) if their local police officers were armed with CED`s. Question 5 allowed participants to show how they feel towards CED`s being used as a “deterrent towards crime” not just the context of CED being present within modern day policing, and once again showed a similar output as question 4, with 22 of the participants selecting “Strongly Agree” and 33 participants selecting “Agree” and followed by 7 presenting as “neutral” and only 1 participant selecting "disagree”.

Figure 3:

	Yes	No	Unsure
Number of Participants	48	6	9

Figure 4:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Number of participants	22	33	7	1

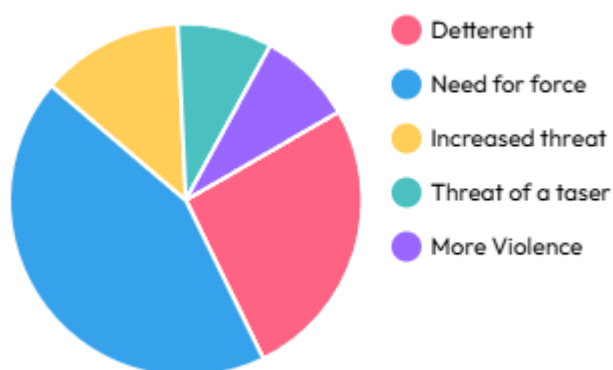
Question number 6 and 7 used a combination of both qualitative and thematic analysis to ensure participants could portray their thoughts on how the presence of a conducted energy device may change a police officer officer's approach to a scenario, this question was extremely important as tensions within modern day society as have led to an increased number of violent incidents , with “45,907 assaults on officers in England and Wales” (Surrey Police Federation, 2025) question number 6 allowed for a reflection from the public to assess the perception of how often a CED trained officer may use force in comparison to another untrained officer. With trained officers using force “48%” (Ariel, 2018) more than untrained officers this was not reflected within the public's attitudes. With only 15 participants choosing the correct answer and the

highest number of answers (26) selecting the “26% lower” option this reveals that the public's attitude towards CED usage is skewed, and may recognise that the public does not understand the “behavioural manifestation of aggression and assault” (Lawes, 2018) that is a byproduct of the presence and deployment of the CED. This was furtherly explored upon within question 7, an open answer in which participants can voice their opinion with their own words. Thematically, the answers provided did concur with the majority answer within question 6; the use of the word deterrent occurred 6 times within this answer, showing how the presence of a taser may provide enough confrontation to the scenario to mitigate any further violence. Secondly the phrase “Need for Force” was followed 10 times within the answer to question 7, showing how the application of force was unnecessary when a CED was present within a scenario.

Figure 5:

	10% higher	26% Lower	48% Higher	43% lower
Number of Participants	9	26	15	13

Figure 6:



Questions 8, 9 and 10 warranted responses from the participants surrounding their perception of the competency and deployment aspect of CED usage, with question 8 challenging the participants knowledge and participation of how often CED` s have been deployed within England and Wales in 2025, this question was beneficial for the research due to it secondarily providing a scope into how the public perceives the necessity for CED deployment and what actions may warrant this. With violent crime reports increasing “primarily within major cities.” (TPP, 2025) the challenge proposed to the participant of the survey was of how often a CED was warranted to be used within a violent scenario; with 33,421 deployments of a CED within 2025 in England and Wales a

surprising majority of the participants seemed to be unaware of the commonality in which CEDs were deployed, out of the 62 responses to this question , the highest number and majority of participants selected the “under 10,000” option. Showing their possible lack of awareness towards the growing rates of violent crime and possibly a lack of knowledge in where the CED may lie within the use of force pyramid available to police officers. In addition to this, question 9 tackled the competency and secondarily the training aspect surrounding CED usage, with “18 hours minimum contact time” (British Transport Police, 2024) in the training period of a CED qualification, question 9 aimed to see if this nationalised standard towards training affected the competencies of the officers within their local force area. Out of the 62 responses to this question, the highest number of participants (25) “agreed” that officers were adequately trained in the deployment of CEDs, followed secondly by the “Strongly Agree” option with 18 selections, showing a positive reception on how police officers use CEDs within modern day policing. To add onto question 9, the next question (10) allowed for the participants to furtherly expand upon their reasoning, with the analysis of these answers it is evident that the participants are aware of the ever-changing scenarios that police officers face and are content with the training and deployment parameters that are put forward to the officers within their local area, this is evident within the results as the theme “adequate training” and “proportionate training” are 2 of the most common results, appearing 6 times within the data set.

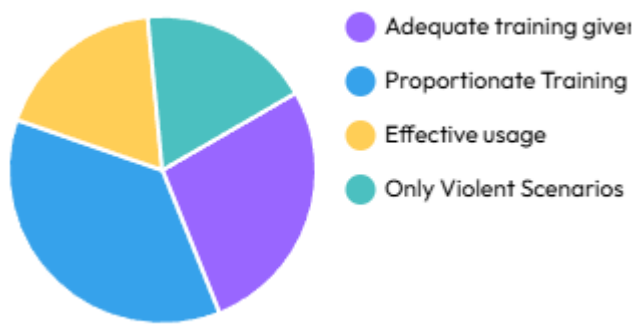
Figure 7:

	>10,000	33,421	60,965	101,206	<100,000
Number of Participants	27	17	9	4	5

Figure 8:

	Strongly Agree	Mostly Agree	Neutral	Mostly Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Number of Participants	18	25	16	2	1

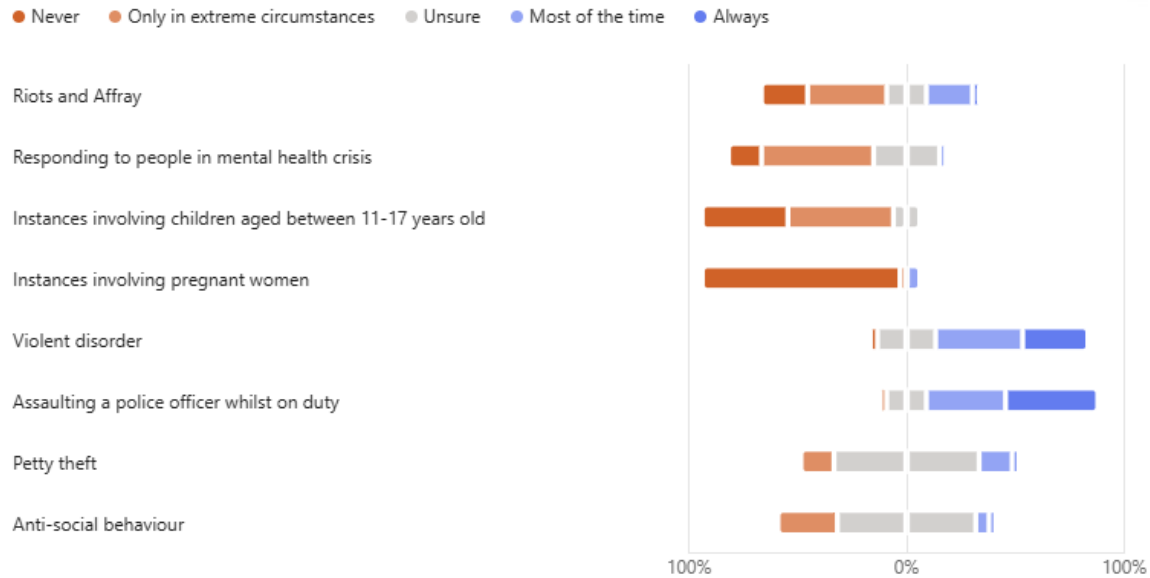
Figure 9:



Question 11 used a “Likert” template to compare and measure the participants attitudes towards the context of CED deployment and when and how they may deem it appropriate in modern day policing, as seen within figure 10 the consensus put forward by the participants showed a tolerance towards CED usage in violent scenarios such as “Assaulting a police officer“ and “Violent disorder“ , this consensus shows the participants acknowledgement of when a CED should be deployed in the most violent and suitable of scenarios, however when in instances involving ”children aged between 11-17 years old” it is seen that the public has a majority outstanding disapproval of CED usage towards this demographic, this then furtherly clashes with the real world application of CED discharge in which ”88 instances” (Chambers, 2024) of CED dischargement against children was recorded within 2022-2023.

Figure 10:

11. In your opinion, which of the following warrant a taser discharge by the police?



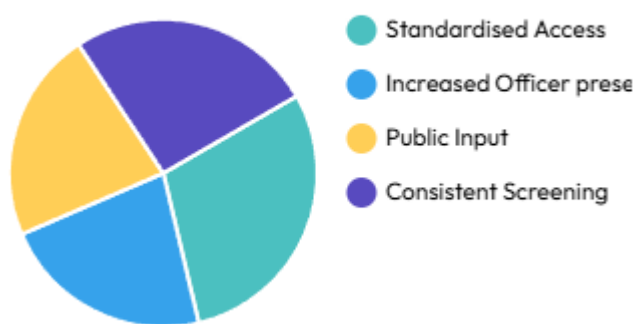
Penultimately question 12 allowed for the location of the participant to influence their attitudes towards CED usage to be made, more specifically the hypothesis in which rurality affects the influence and increases the frequency of CED`s needing to be used in scenarios due to an increase in police response time due to longer travel necessity's. The participants to this survey as a majority agreed with this hypothesis, allowing recommendations to be put forward to police services. Within the results it is evident that out of the 63 responses to this question, that 24 participants “Strongly Agree” with this hypothesis and a significant proportion (22 participants) “Agree” with this statement, giving validity to the hypothesis and giving way for recommendations to be proposed.

Figure 11:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Number of participants	24	22	12	4	1

Finally, question 13 allowed for any recommendations the participants may have to be voiced in consideration to CED deployment and usage, this was done as a closing remark and to gauge any patterns that may be present within the public's consensus towards CED usage that may aid in the third objective of this research project. Within the results of this question the 4 most common themes which were present included mentions of firstly, standardised access to CED`s and increased officer presence, both key recommendations in terms of how modern-day policing may improve its methods to target violent crime. But more surprisingly the 3rd and 4th most common themes included notions surrounding consistent screening of police officers to mitigate incidents of mismanaged CED usage which is becoming more prevalent in scenarios such as that of the death of “Oladeji Adeyemi Omishore” (Tidy, 2024) in which Taser usage has led to avoidable deaths.

Figure 12:



1.3: Synthesis and Final Summary

To link the literature and academic findings that has been previously mentioned within the research, key hypothesis must be addressed and notified as to be able to relate this first-hand research to the appropriate research within the literature review. Firstly, one of the most predominant hypotheses within the literature review is the statement that “Tasers seen as an effective deterrent against violent crime, enhancing community

safety” (Deuchar *et al*, 2024) this hypothesis is validated with the research presented via the Microsoft form , as seen within question 5 of the survey , with over 55 respondents and the majority providing an agreement to the hypothesis it shows that the predominant majority of the public agree with the statement and secondary hypothesis presented which presents the notion that the public would feel safer within their communities if every officer was CED trained and had access to them. This was evident within question 4 of the Microsoft form in which 76% of the respondents agreed in that they would feel safer if every officer in their community was taser trained. The sobering hypothesis of how children and other vulnerable groups are affected was also noted in the survey and research of this project, with recommendations proposed within the previous literature review. Within the Likert style questionnaire of question number 11 it has been shown that the public and participants agree with this and significant and imperative changes need to be made to ensure the safety of these vulnerable groups.

In conclusion the findings created within this research proposed a correlation between the findings and hypotheses successfully, covering how the public does still show a faith and trust within Police services within England and Wales. But more importantly in the context of South Wales and Dyfed Powys Police services it shows a wary appreciation of the CED equipped officers , acknowledging the power and force that they are trained to manage on a day to day bases but failing to understand the severity of that power and the consequences that may result as a secondary product of that force.

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