

Methodology

Introduction:

For the gathering of my research, an opinion based, first hand collection of data will be used. This data will be relative to my research as it allows for a large demographic and mixture of the population within the Dyfed Powys and South Wales policing regions to aid in expressing their views. In the context of this research, this first-hand data will be collected within the form of a survey within Microsoft forms; expressing the public's view of taser usage within Wales and England, and how these views may impact policing practices. (Watson, 2018) states that a benefit of a survey such as the one in this research will allow for the data gathered to "be generalised across the entire group of people you are interested in." this standardisation and generalisation of answers will allow me to filter through the findings more accurately and a more in-depth profile of the public's attitude towards taser usage.

Research Strategy:

The primary research strategy that will be included within this research will be in the form of an online survey within Microsoft Forms. The strategy that will be implemented within this online survey will include a blend of qualitative and quantitative research questions due to the nature of the questions that will be included within the questionnaire. As the questions included will allow for the participants to include numerical answers which will contribute to the quantitative aspect of my research strategy alongside opinion based qualitative answers which will form the basis of the qualitative aspect of the research.

The reasoning behind the incorporation of these different research strategies will allow me to develop a "nuanced interpretation of results" (Ahmed *et al*, 2024) due to the combination of numerical and non-numerical insights , and this will be important especially for this research as the public insight to this topic lays on a wide spectrum and extensive reliance on one research strategy as opposed to another may develop a more tunnelled and restricted interpretation of the data.

Data Collection:

The form of data collection as previously mentioned earlier will be strictly online and within the confines of a Microsoft online form, this form will be presented to the public to complete within their own time. The parameters for this data collection will be subject to the accessibility of the public to a online connected device but within modern times and "68% of residential premises" (OFCOM, 2024) having a connection

to an online device such as a computer or smart phone this will offer a substantial enough demographic of the public to complete the survey. Secondly, the only other parameters and characteristics which will be required to complete the survey will include the age of the participant, this will be within a “generational” bracket (e.g. 18-25) to allow for anonymity to be upheld and alongside a general location of the participant to enable the sorting of police service regions to be allocated for their answer.

The main demographic that this survey is aimed at is broad, due to the diverse nature of Wales, the research will be available to anyone in the public who is aged 18 and above due to the sensitive nature of the survey and topic. This broad allowance of participants will allow for the data to be a more accurate representation of the public's opinions on taser usage and allow for a clearer interpretation of it because of this.

Data Analysis:

Due to the different strategies that will make up this research the analysis will also contain a mixture of strategies to accompany this as well, firstly to match the qualitative aspect of the survey which will be included of answers made from words that will be input by the participant, a thematic contextualised analysis of those answers will be used, analysing language, themes and overall feeling of the answers to allow the data to be categorised for the research. On the other hand, the quantitative aspect of the survey will be subjected to a statistical analysis, including primarily the implementation of averages to maintain an overall response to the public's opinion on taser usage.

I will use Microsoft Excel to both sort the numerical values given to the research by the participants and then further sort these results by policing service region to further deduce how the participants in these regions feel about taser usage, in the context of the qualitative research strategy I will analyse the sentence structure of the text results in a thematic format to analyse sentence structure and overall sentiments.

The reasoning for using these two different types of data sets remains symbiotic to the context of the research, firstly the use of the thematic analysis for this research was beneficial to develop a common understanding of the public's literary responses to taser usage. According to Mohammed *et al* (2025) “thematic analysis is efficient in interpreting patterns of meaning within datasets”, these patterns that will occur within the qualitative results of my research are more aptly suited to this form of analysis due to its self-written nature from the participants. On the other hand, for the quantitative analysis, the use of statistical analysis has been chosen, as it allows for a non-biased review of the numbers the data has provided, especially with the use of averaging the

number sets which will be developed, this will only add to building a more comprehensive profile of the opinion the public has on taser usage.

Limitations and Potential hurdles:

The potential limitations of my research strategies do include a predominant reliance on the public being able to participate in my research, as due to the nature of my research surrounding the public's view on taser usage, actually needing the public to undertake the survey will be a major proponent of that. Following on from this, as previously mentioned, the nature of my research does include the public's view on taser usage, now this topic may be distressing to some of the public who have possibly witnessed or been a part of taser deployment by the police, to combat this within the survey there will be an option to leave the survey at any time and leave questions blank if they have affected the participant of the survey in any way.

The validity of this survey, as it has been collected first hand and will be anonymous within its nature allows it to be viewed as reliable as, the researcher will not be able to alter or view any participants characteristics to suit a narrative or outcome, this will also have been approved by a senior lecturer at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David and will ensure that the questions that will be included within this survey are fair and that it is accessible to all that wish to partake in the survey as well.

Statement of Worth:

As within modern times, discourse between police services within England and Wales have reached a pinnacle of violence and mistrust, this research will not only reflect the views of the public who are affected by this discourse, but also those who are not and hold an objective view towards the police and taser usage within recent times. This research will allow for the public's voice to be heard on an often-turbulent topic and will also allow for recommendations to be curated with the help of the public and furtherly proposed to police services within England and Wales to aid in the mitigation of the modern public discourse.

Finally, the research is valuable to everyone as it is a very overlooked area in modern day policing and social observation groups, and this research will allow an often misunderstood and often overseen topic to have light shed upon it and more awareness of the public's view of it brought to the forefront of policing services which will furtherly aid the relationship between the public and policing services within England and Wales.

Reference List:

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Watson, M. (2023). *Why should we use surveys in user research?* Medium. Available at: <https://medium.com/@mikewatsonphd/why-should-we-use-surveys-in-user-research-46951a95cabf> [Accessed 6 Feb. 2026].