

This dissertation described the technique for this research using the "research onion" developed by Saunders, Lewis, and Thornhill (2007) in the preceding chapter. This chapter will look at the research that was done and evaluate the information that was obtained from it. The data gathered from the primary research will be examined and presented in this chapter. In an effort to examine how police body worn video affects public perception and police transparency, the researcher designed a survey aimed at eliciting opinions and views surrounding police use of body worn video and its effect on police transparency and public perception from the general public. Google Forms was used to construct and disseminate this survey; a link to this survey was also posted on social media and included on a leaflet drop. The gathered and examined data will then be included into the research's concluding chapter, which will present the findings, conclusions, and recommendations. Appendix B contains a complete copy of the primary research's findings.

In research, data analysis is an especially important component. Data analysis compiles gathered information and entails interpreting collected data by applying logical and analytical methods to identify trends, correlations, or patterns (University of Pretoria, 2024). The quantitative data obtained from this primary research were collated using the Google Forms application and presented in a graphical manner which made it easy to understand and visualise any patterns.

The survey produced during this primary research achieved a total of 30 respondents, of these respondents and despite a request listed at the beginning of the survey and next to all links which were sent to the public, two respondents indicated that they were under the age of 18 and were automatically taken to the end of the survey by the survey application with no ability to answer further questions. This joined with the option to skip any questions this meant that each question received between 24 and 28 responses each. The actual figure for the response count for each question is listed against the survey results found in appendix B. Although the number of respondents is less than the research aim of 50, for the majority of the questions it satisfies the minimum sample size of 25 required by Flick (2015) for quantitative research.

In relation to the effect police body worn video has on police transparency, Mrozla and Pieper (2023) found that the public believed that the release of body-worn camera material improved police transparency and that the public was mostly in support of the option to see released film. The primary research, in question 12, found that 92.3% of respondents believed that police transparency is improved when police agencies make body worn footage available to the public, 76.9% of these respondents expressing a strong view in support of this claim. These figures are also supported by data provided from question 22 where respondents stated that police body worn video improves transparency and that positive body worn footage would both improve transparency and public perception of police. This both validates the results of earlier studies and shows that the conclusions and viewpoints drawn from this primary research conducted in the UK are congruent with those of earlier studies done in the USA.

The effect police body worn video has on public perception was examined through a number of questions included within the survey. Firstly, 100% of respondents to question 4 and 5 indicated they felt safer interacting with police officers and had more trust in police when those officers possess a body worn camera. All of the respondents to question 21 of the survey indicated they had a positive over-all opinion of police body worn video, 46.2% of these holding a strong opinion in favour of it. For the 'policing by consent' model in the UK to work, the public's trust and confidence in the police is crucial. It has been demonstrated that obedience and cooperation with the police are facilitated by a high degree of respect and trust in the police (Brown and Hobbs, 2023). According to this primary research, the usage of body worn video enhances the trust necessary for the UK's police by consent approach.

Question 14 asked if respondents agreed or disagreed that police body worn video cameras make a positive impact on public relations where question 15 asked if they make a negative impact on public relations. Rather than drawing conclusions that if body cameras make a positive effect, they do not have a negative effect, the survey sought to explore differing effects these cameras could have. Where 24 respondents (96%) selected that body worn video cameras have a positive impact on public relations, 5 respondents (20.8%) also agreed that they could have a negative effect on public relations. This response can be further explained by questions 16 and 17 where participants were asked if they had seen police body worn camera footage which has improved their view of police or had a negative impact on their view of police respectively. The vast majority of respondents indicated that they had both seen footage that has improved and had a negative impact on their view of police. Further supporting answer to question 6 where 96.1% of respondents said that viewing footage has or would have the potential to change their views or opinion in relation to policing incidents. Despite these figures, 33.3% of participants indicated that they do not think that all police officers should use body worn cameras when dealing with the public. Further research would be required to explore the reasons behind this discrepancy. Nonetheless, the data from this survey indicates that the findings from earlier studies found in the literature review are accurate and that body-worn video generally improves the public's perception of the police. Still, it is important to realise that "negative" video might negatively impact the public's perception.

An interesting finding of the survey is that participants are seemingly unaware how or if their local police force publishes body worn video with 46.2% indicating that they did not know and 34.6% indicating that they did not publish body worn video. Question 10 also found that participants local police force does not make their footage available to the public. This potentially highlights another area for further research as 96.2% of participants want police agencies to release more body worn footage and the findings seem to support the positive impact that body worn video has upon communities and their relationship with police.

Finding the difference between an event that is occurring and a true or false effect is the main goal of data analysis. A biased inference is more likely to be drawn if there is bias

either in the data gathering process or in the choice of analysis method. Bias can arise when research participant recruitment falls short of the minimum number needed to show statistical power or when an adequate follow-up period isn't maintained to show an impact (Egger, Smith and Altman, 2001). The setting, context, or technique used to gather the data may have undermined the integrity of the data analysis. When performing data analysis, researchers should consider the possibility that the environment, context, or method might have an impact on the data gathering process as well as the data which has been collected (Office of Research Integrity, 2005).

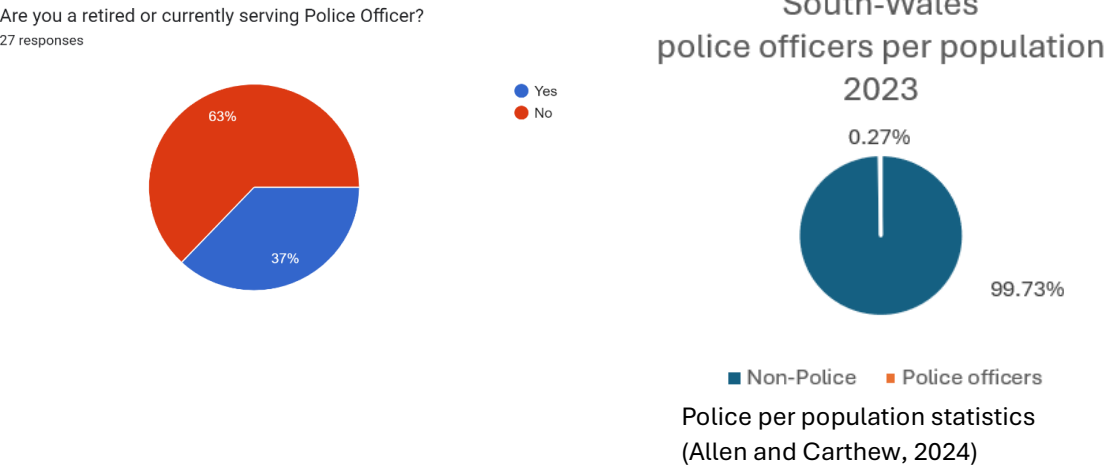
Only one respondent to the primary research survey, in question 3, indicated that they did not know what police body worn video is and had not seen them used. This may be contrasted with the remaining 28 answers to the question, all of which said that the respondents had some sort of experience with police body-worn video. The two most often reported experiences were seeing police utilize body cameras on TV or in other media (78.6% of respondents) and viewing police body worn video footage online (82.1% of respondents). Police using their body-worn cameras when engaging with respondents directly face the least frequency of occurrences (28.6% of respondents). The survey's validity is supported by the fact that just one respondent said they were unaware of the purpose of police body worn video, despite the vast majority of respondents being aware of this information. It is believed that the other respondents would have understood the questions, even though the one responder who said they didn't know was unlikely to have been able to. In this case, one would have thought that, rather than selecting at random, this lone respondent would have passed over the questions they were unsure of how to answer. There aren't many truly aberrant findings, and there are a small number skipped replies for each question, which gives this optimism further credence.

Only two responses were received to question 22 which was the only short text answer question and the only question which was not multiple choice, requiring participants to type out their own individual response. This contrasts with an average of 25 responses per question. The non-response bias and abandonment rate rise with survey length. Because they often require the participant to expend much more effort than multiple choice, short and long text-based replies are less likely to be responded to than multiple choice.

A noteworthy constraint identified in this primary research relates to the survey sample. 37% of all respondents said they were police officers, either currently serving or retired. This is explained by the fact that, because the research was done as part of the police officers education framework, a significant number of the researcher's peers are also police officers. As a result, when the survey link was distributed, a significant portion of the researcher's peers responded, even though the survey was also distributed to people outside of the policing community. The distribution of the survey link through police-related social media channels may have further exacerbated the problem and had a detrimental impact on the sample. The research sample may not accurately reflect the opinions of the general public or be representative of them, as evidenced by

the fact that police officers make up just 0.27% of the population in the area where the study was performed, see *figure A* (Allen and Carthew, 2024). Further potential issues with the sample are also brought to light when the age range of responses are examined. The majority of responses being from those aged between 25 and 29 years old. 63.4% of all respondents indicated that they were aged between 18 and 29 years old. This may be attributed to the fact that older individuals are far less inclined to participate in surveys. Because 25% of this demographic does not use the internet, they are considerably less likely to take part in online surveys (Mahmutovic, 2023). Although mail-in surveys, phone interviews, and in-person interviews could be the more effective means to reach this demographic, these methods were not possible for this research because of time constraints.

Figure A



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doi:<https://doi.org/10.1080/1478601x.2023.2169826>.

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<https://library.up.ac.za/c.php?g=485435&p=4425510> (Accessed: July 2, 2024).

Appendix A. Blank copy of survey

BSc Professional Policing Practice - Dissertation Research: The effect of Police Body Worn Video on transparency and public perception

This survey will take approximately 4 minutes to complete.

This survey is intended for those aged 18 and above - **If you are not aged 18 or over, please close this survey.**

There are no rewards or remunerations associated with taking part in this survey; participation is completely optional.

All replies are entirely anonymous, and the only data gathered is what you provided into the survey.

All questions are voluntary, you may choose to skip individual questions if you do not wish to answer them.

All of the data collected will be erased after this dissertation is finished. This will be during October 2024.

If you have any questions about this research or would like to withdraw your replies before the dissertation is finished, please email 2124833@student.uwtsd.ac.uk

Once you have verified your age below, please press 'NEXT' at the bottom of this page to continue

2124833@student.uwtsd.ac.uk [Switch account](#)



Not shared

* Indicates required question

What is your age? *

Q1

This field is used to verify suitability for the survey - Please press 'NEXT' at the bottom of this page to continue

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18 - 24 Years
- ☐ 25 - 29 Years
- ☐ 30 - 34 Years
- ☐ 35 - 39 Years
- ☐ 40 - 44 Years
- ☐ 45 - 49 Years
- ☐ 50 and over
- ☒ I'd rather not say

BSc Professional Policing Practice - Dissertation Research: The effect of Police Body Worn Video on transparency and public perception

2124833@student.uwtsd.ac.uk [Switch account](#)



Not shared

Survey

You may choose to skip questions if you do not wish to answer them.

Are you a retired or currently serving Police Officer?

Q2

☐ Yes

☐ No

What are your experiences with police body worn video?

Q3

Check all that apply

- ☐ I have seen police officers use body worn video cameras first hand
- ☐ I have seen police officers use body worn video cameras whilst they have been dealing with other people
- ☐ Police officers have used body worn video cameras when interacting with me (Whether recording or NOT recording)
- ☐ I have watched police body worn camera footage online
- ☐ I know that some police officers use body worn video
- ☐ I did not know that police use body worn video
- ☐ I do not know what police body worn video is
- ☐ I have NOT seen police officers use body worn video
- ☐ I have used body worn video myself
- ☐ I have seen police use body worn video cameras on TV or other media (including online)

I feel safer interacting with a police officer if they have a body worn video camera

Q4

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 Strongly Agree

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

I have more trust in the police if the officers use a body worn camera

Q5

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 Strongly Agree

Viewing police body worn camera footage has/would have the potential to change my views or opinion on an event.

Q6

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 Strongly Agree

Body worn video footage is unbiased

Q7

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 Strongly Agree

Body worn camera footage holds police officers accountable for their actions

Q8

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 Strongly Agree

Body worn camera footage holds members of the public accountable for their actions

Q9

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 Strongly Agree

My local police force makes police body worn camera footage accessible to the public

Q10

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 Strongly Agree

I want police agencies to release more of their body worn camera footage

Q11

Strongly Disagree 1 2 3 4 Strongly Agree

Q12
Allowing the public to view police body worn footage makes police agencies more transparent

	1	2	3	4	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Q13
The use of police body worn video improves the relationship between the police and public

	1	2	3	4	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Q14
Police body worn cameras make a positive impact to public relations

	1	2	3	4	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Q15
Police body worn cameras make a negative impact to public relations

	1	2	3	4	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Q16
I have seen police body worn video that has improved my view of the police

	1	2	3	4	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Q17
I have seen police body worn video that has negatively impacted upon my view of the police

	1	2	3	4	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Q18
All police officers should use body worn video cameras when dealing with the public

	1	2	3	4	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Q19

I would be happy to report crimes to police officers when they are using body worn video

	1	2	3	4	
Strongly Disagree	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Agree

Q20

My local police force publishes police body worn camera footage

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know

Q21

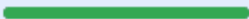
What is your over-all opinion on the police use of body worn video

	1	2	3	4	
Strongly Negative	☐	☐	☐	☐	Strongly Positive

Q22

What effect does Police Body Worn Video have on your view of police transparency and the public perception of the police?

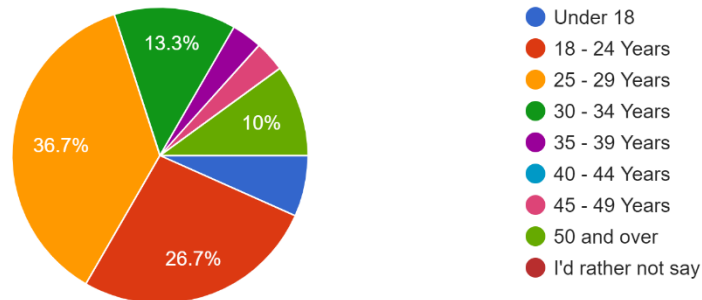
Your answer

[Back](#)[Submit](#) Page 2 of 2[Clear form](#)

Appendix B. Survey results

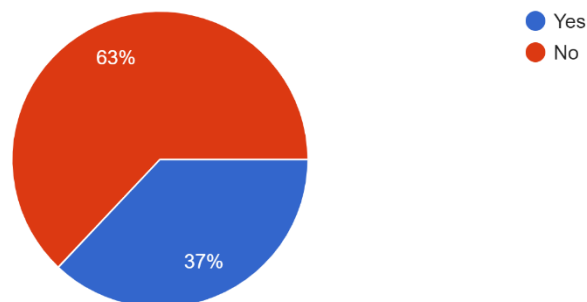
What is your age?

30 responses



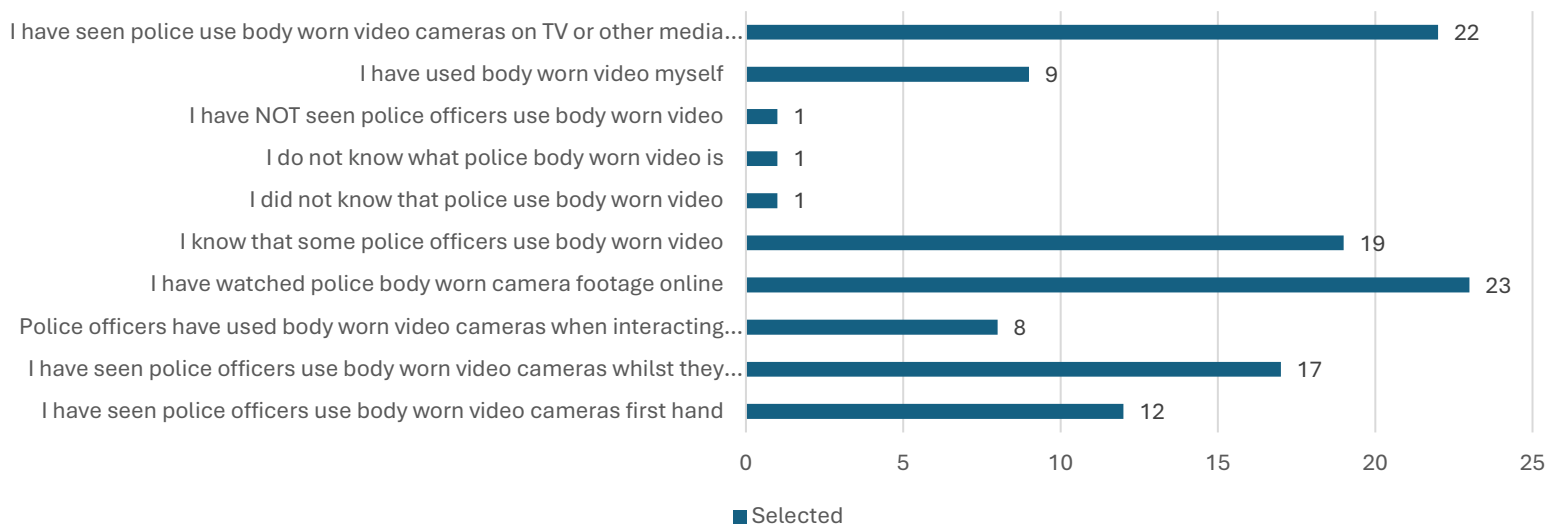
Are you a retired or currently serving Police Officer?

27 responses



What are your experiences with police body worn video?

28 responses

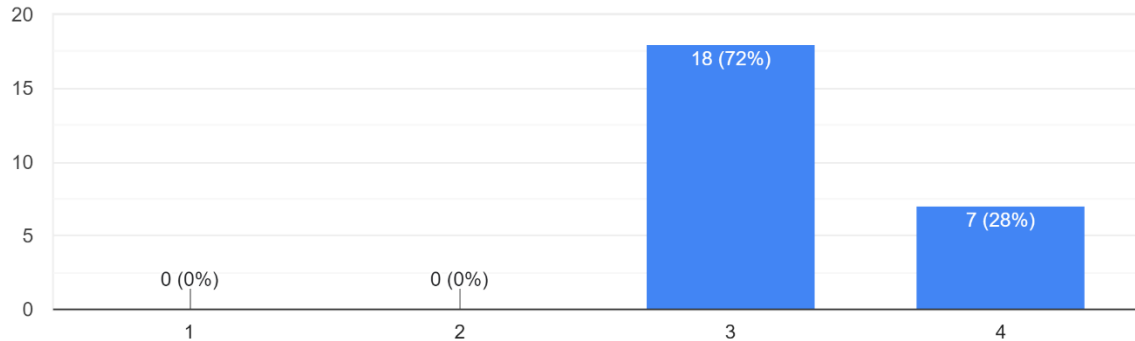


SCALE:

STRONGLY DISAGREE 1 – 4 STRONGLY AGREE

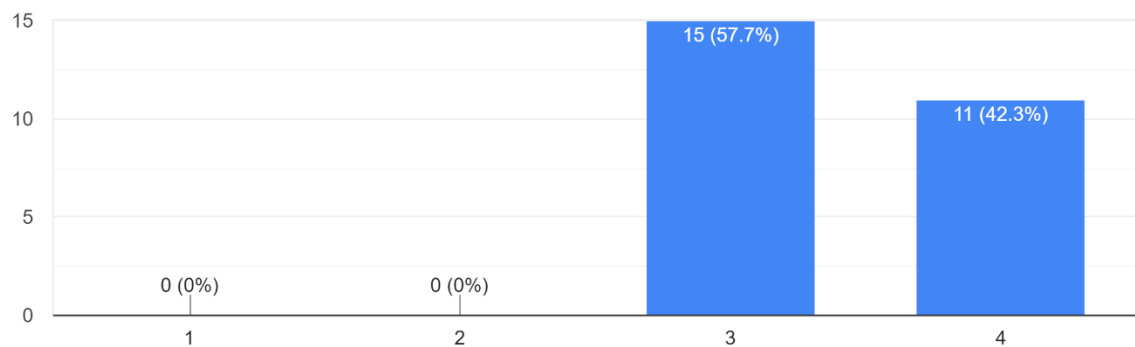
I feel safer interacting with a police officer if they have a body worn video camera

25 responses



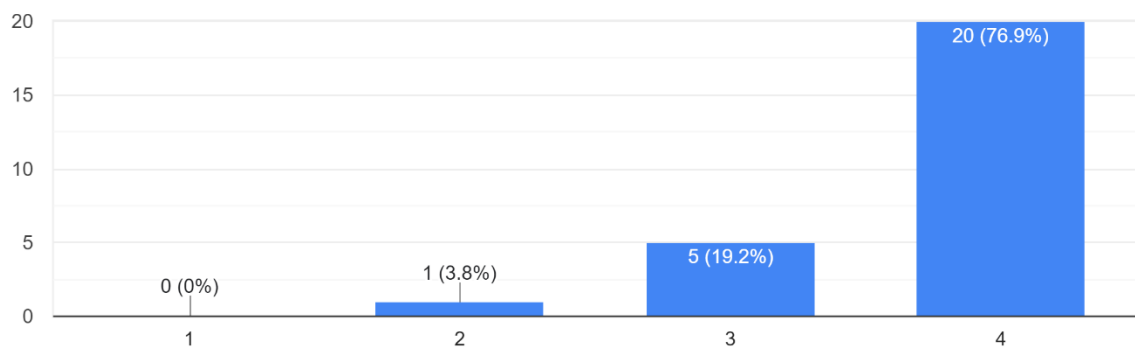
I have more trust in the police if the officers use a body worn camera

26 responses



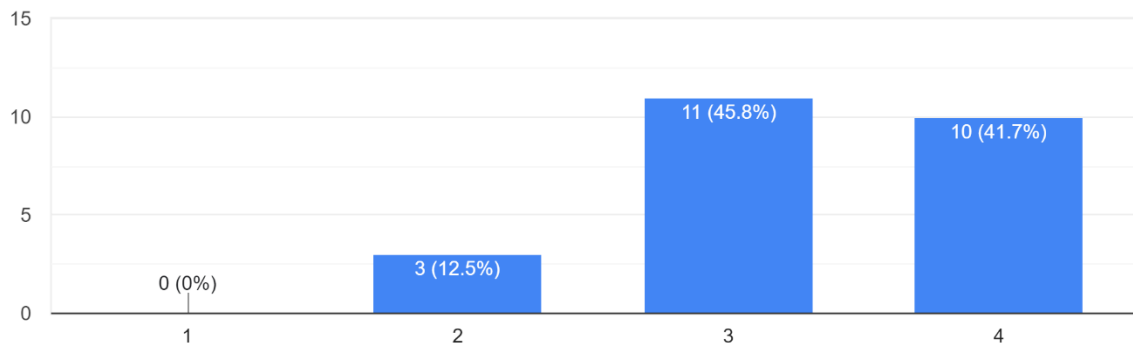
Viewing police body worn camera footage has/would have the potential to change my views or opinion on an event.

26 responses



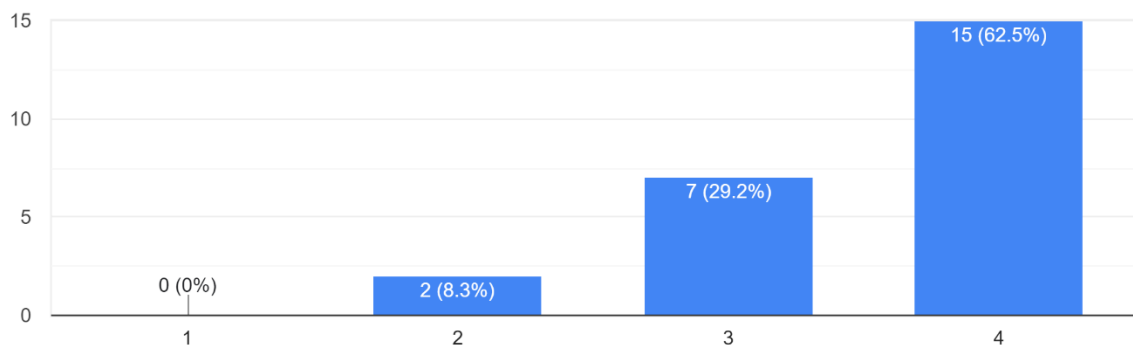
Body worn video footage is unbiased

24 responses



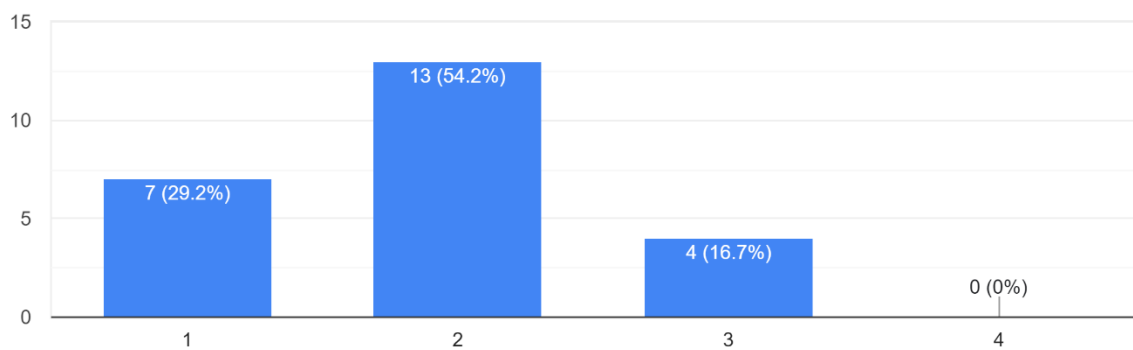
Body worn camera footage holds police officers accountable for their actions

24 responses



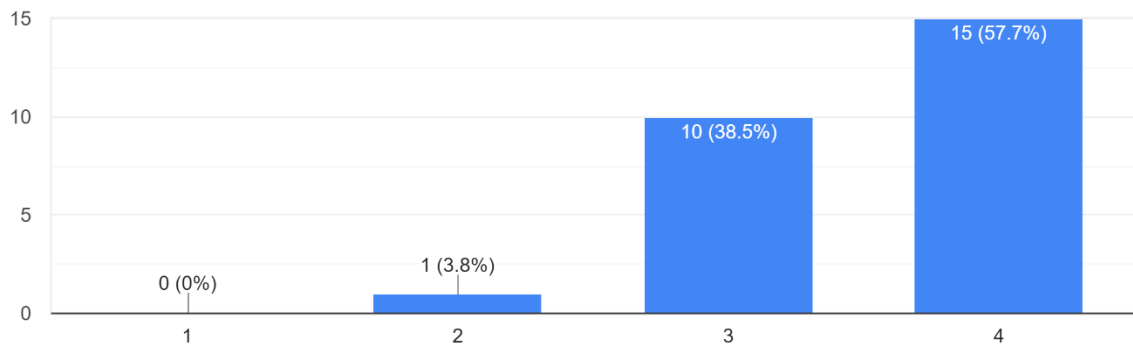
My local police force makes police body worn camera footage accessible to the public

24 responses



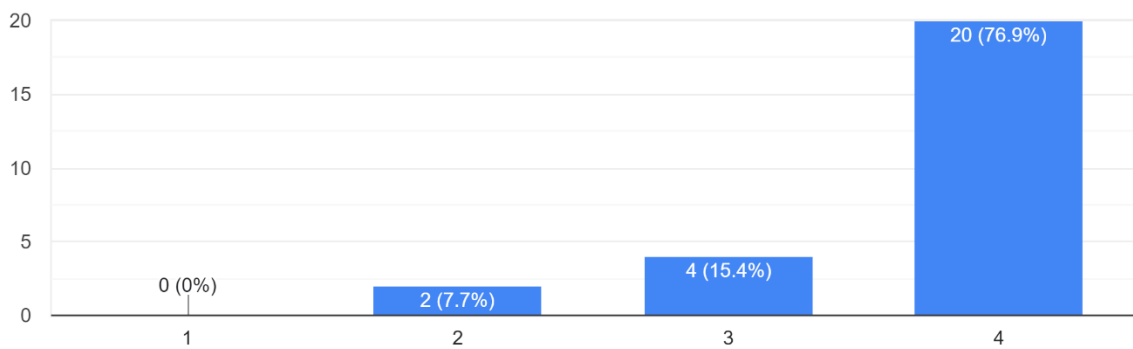
I want police agencies to release more of their body worn camera footage

26 responses



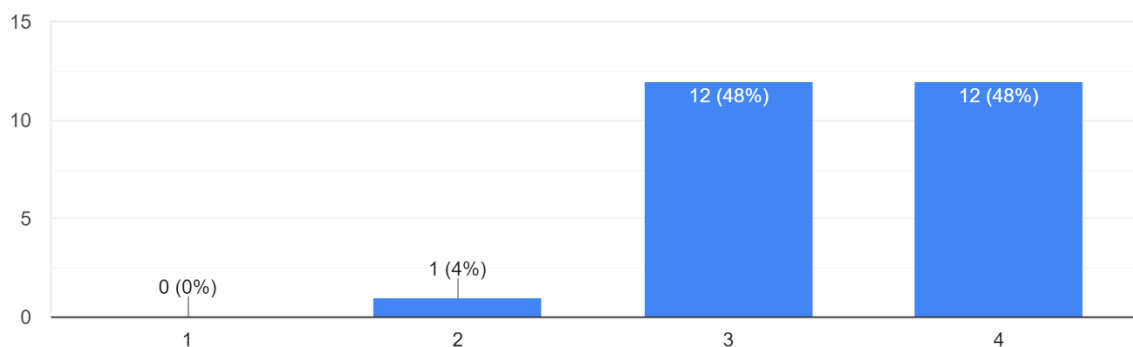
Allowing the public to view police body worn footage makes police agencies more transparent

26 responses



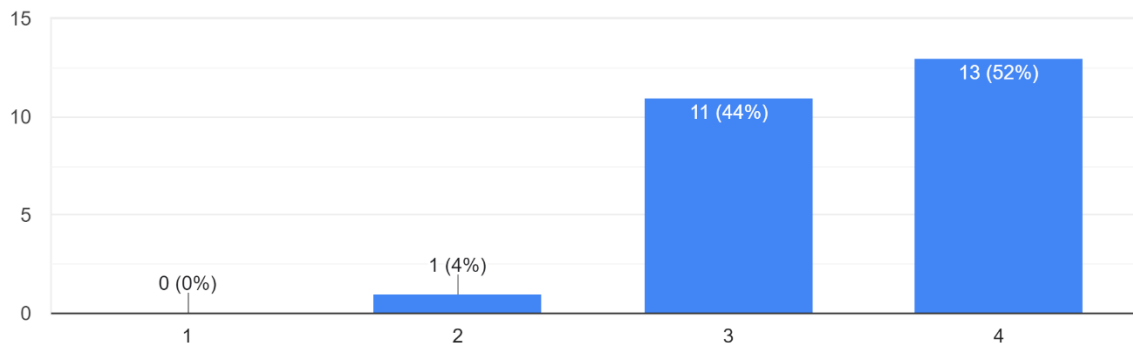
The use of police body worn video improves the relationship between the police and public

25 responses



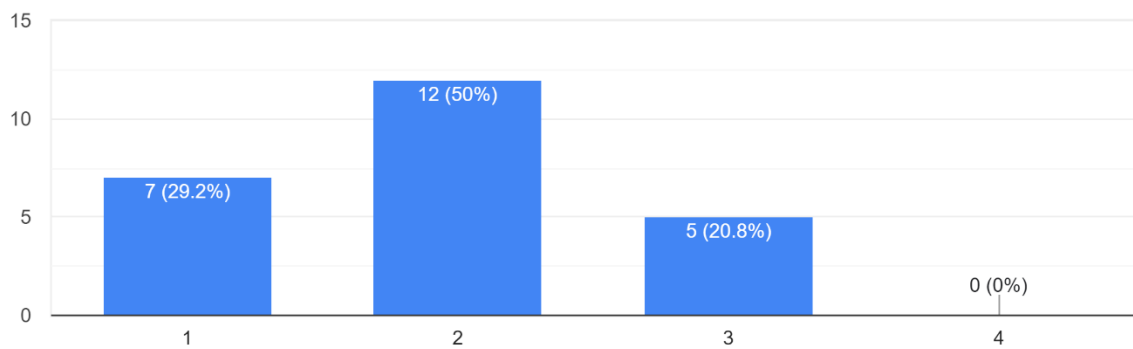
Police body worn cameras make a positive impact to public relations

25 responses



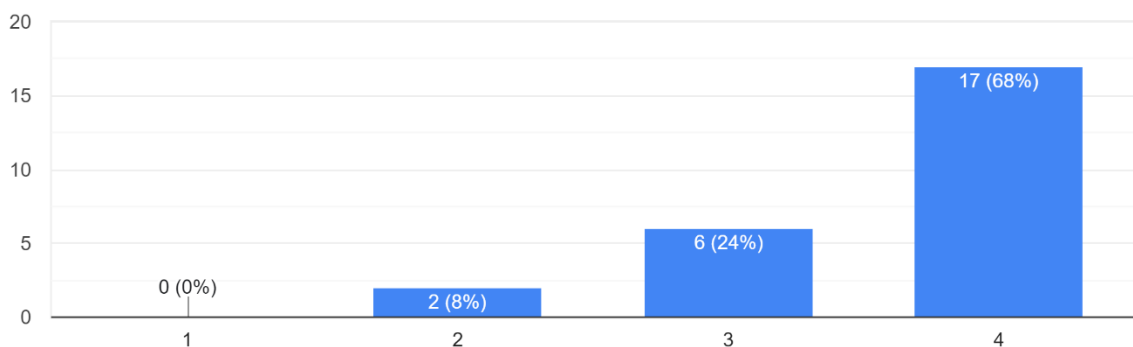
Police body worn cameras make a negative impact to public relations

24 responses

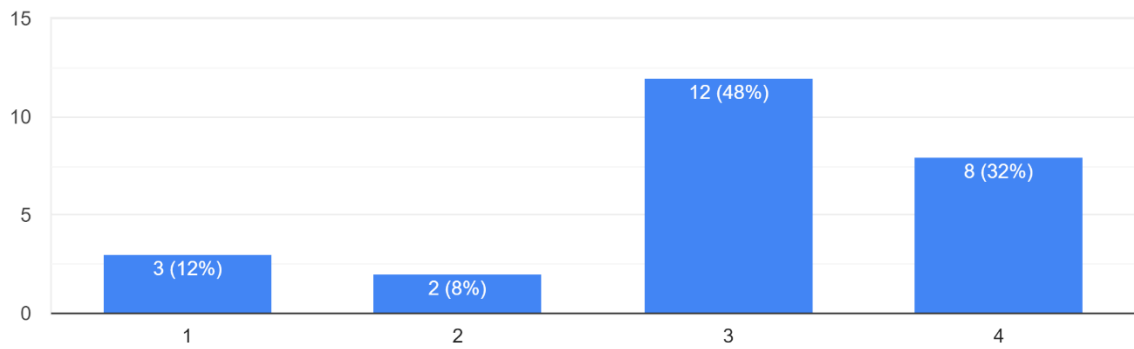


I have seen police body worn video that has improved my view of the police

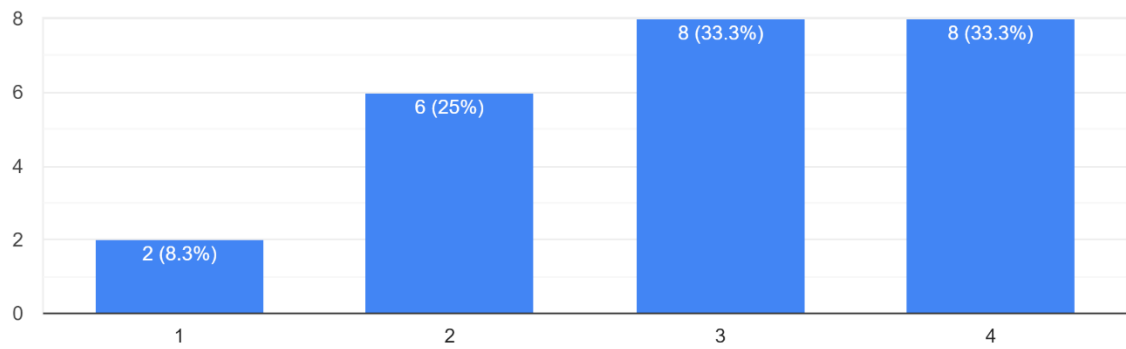
25 responses



I have seen police body worn video that has negatively impacted upon my view of the police
25 responses

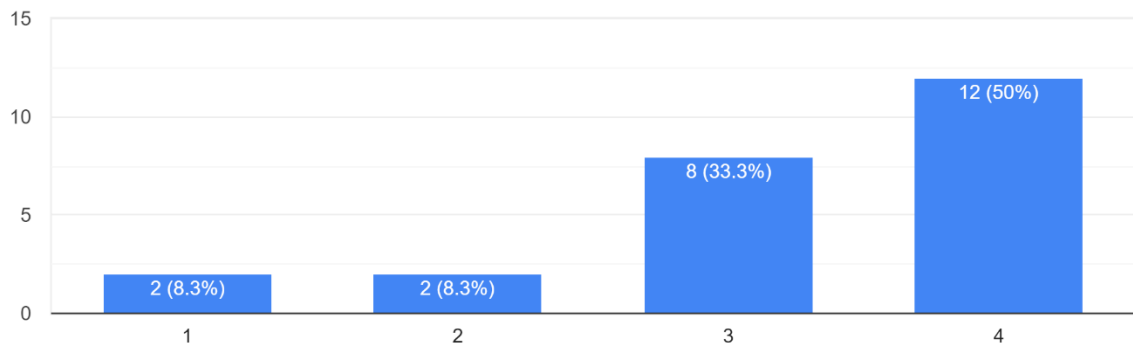


All police officers should use body worn video cameras when dealing with the public
24 responses



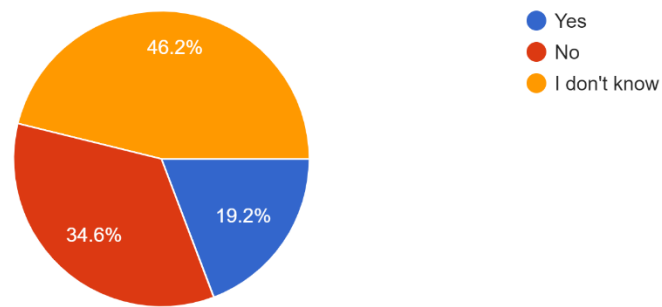
I would be happy to report crimes to police officers when they are using body worn video

24 responses



My local police force publishes police body worn camera footage

26 responses

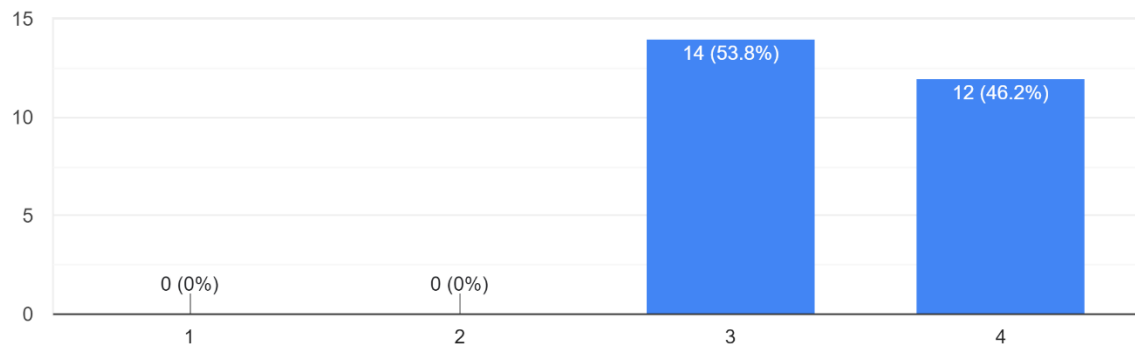


SCALE:

STRONGLY NEGATIVE 1 – 4 STRONGLY POSITIVE

What is your over-all opinion on the police use of body worn video

26 responses



What effect does Police Body Worn Video have on your view of police transparency and the public perception of the police?

2 responses

It improves transparency and so should improve public perception

Videos showing police doing bad things has a negative effect. Positive footage has the opposite effect