



UNDERGRADUATE DISSERTATION RESEARCH PROPOSAL FORM

Please complete the following research proposal and submit it to Turnitin.

Which project option are you taking? Please tick:

8,000 word project: ☒

OR

~~4,000 word project and presentation:~~

Word count 1189

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DRAFT RESEARCH TITLE QUESTION: The release of police body worn video and its effect on police transparency and public perception. INTRODUCTION: Western police forces have faced increased scrutiny due to recent tensions surrounding their use of force and negative public perception. The consensus from the public is that the police need to be held accountable by independent bodies as a result of concerns that police behaviour is discriminatory and unfair based on its procedures (Rosignano & Preto-Hodge, 2021). One such tool that was introduced in an attempt to promote accountability is the body worn video camera (St. Louis et al., 2019). The police sector provides a vital service to both the state and members of the public who act as its clientele including those who come to the police for help (Maile et al., 2022), as well as people who are placed under police jurisdiction such as suspected criminals and those otherwise engaged with the justice system. These consumers have differing perspectives on police services following the calibre of services they receive from policing organisations. Gaining insight into the opinions regarding police of these clientele is essential to comprehending a basic aspect of the citizen-state relationship (Maguire & Johnson, 2010). Through conducting this research, I will attempt to identify and analyse the impact of the addition of police body worn video cameras and the release of the footage captured on police transparency and public perception; providing feedback and	

analysis around how it is currently used and identifying potential further applications in order to affect any further positive perception from the public and ensure further transparency from the police as required in the England and Wales police code of ethics (College of Policing, 2024).

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SUMMARY OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

Through my research, I will attempt to identify the effects on the public perception of the police coming from the introduction of body worn video.

I will identify how different police forces utilise body worn video, specifically the release of recorded events and analyse any differences and their impacts on public perception; looking at how the release of video affects views towards police officers. I will examine police policy in relation to the release of such video captured from body worn devices. I will research and analyse the impact of the release of both 'positive' footage relating to examples of exemplary police conduct and 'negative' footage relating to police misconduct or police complaints. This will be achieved through my own primary research in the form of a survey and using secondary research provided in literature.

Identification of the effects on the police transparency coming from the introduction of body worn video. Through both examining secondary research in literature and through primary methods I will analyse any impact on police transparency from the introduction and use of body worn video. My primary research may include contacting police forces for any data that they may hold as well as body worn camera manufacturers who may also have statistics relating to my research.

Through completing these objectives, I aim to be able to provide recommendations to policing organisations or other relevant bodies which will aim to improve public perception and transparency of policing organisations.

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LITERATURE REVIEW:

Along with my own, I will be utilizing several sources of secondary research data including that in existing literature. I will use work published by Davies (2022) which examines how body-worn cameras affect relationships between the police and the community in New South Wales and reveals that the goal behind the cameras' adoption was to increase transparency. The published literature is always changing as body worn cameras become more extensively used throughout the world.

because of the potentially broad implications of the study theme's results (Davies, 2022). Further work by Saulnier and Sytsma (2023) also investigates the effect of exposure to 'positive' body worn footage on levels of community trust in police services which has yielded that low confidence in the police can have a detrimental effect on community relations, but it can be mitigated by watching positive camera footage (Saulnier and Sytsma, 2023).

The objective with my research would be to focus on the effect of the release of such body worn footage, both 'positive' and 'negative', and explore potential differences which exist in the UK compared to other developed countries.

I will also look to utilize sources from the college of policing (2024) and other UK police agencies to examine relevant policies relating to body worn camera use and the release of such footage.

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SUMMARY OF RESEARCH –SURVEY METHOD:

I plan to use a combination of both primary and secondary research data to interpret. The secondary data I will utilise will come from existing literature which relates to my research goals as well as potentially coming from organisations such as police and government organisations and private companies such as body worn camera manufacturers who may possess relevant material which I will review, analyse, and interpret.

My research focuses on the public perception of police services and as such my primary research will need to be targeted as such. A survey is the approach I'll take in this case. I choose this because it is flexible enough to capture a wide range of data and answer a multitude of questions regarding the topic of my research. It can also be administered remotely using internet means, giving me a great deal of freedom in data analysis. Despite this, I will also be aware that respondents might not give truthful, precise responses, and that there might be data mistakes as a result of question non-responses. Bias may result from a difference in the proportion of participants that choose to reply to a survey question compared to those who did not (DeFranzo, 2023).

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SUMMARY OF SAMPLING FRAMEWORK:

My research focuses on the public perception of police services and as such my primary research will need to be targeted as such. Communities who rely on the police are diverse and so I will not restrict participation to any specific groups other than to restrict participation to any person under the age of 18. It is possible that camera footage may be unsuitable for those under the age of 18, whilst potentially being commonly exposed to footage online. Restricting participation to those aged

18 and over will also avoid the necessity to obtain parental consent in order to take part in any research.

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ETHICAL ISSUES:

Whilst I do not foresee any ethical problems, I do want to incorporate a survey in part of my study which needs to be done ethically. I will ensure not to gather any personal information from the survey, and I will keep all responses anonymous. Additionally, I'll make sure that participants understand how their data will be utilised and what their range of involvement will be. Finally, I'll make sure the survey only asks neutral questions that don't prompt specific responses. Any participation in any survey that is completed as part of this study will only be entirely voluntarily.

Outside of this primary research device, I will also look at research from secondary sources. This use of existing secondary material will be appropriately referenced and the risk of any ethical issues from this area is low.

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TIME SCALE:

The timescale for this project is as follows:

Literature Review	06/05/2024
Research Methodology & Planning	17/06/2024
Analysis of Results	05/08/2024
Findings & Conclusion	09/09/2024
Final project submission	07/10/2024

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REFERENCE LIST:

College of Policing (2024) Code of ethics, college of policing. Available at: <https://www.college.police.uk/ethics/code-of-ethics> (Accessed: 18 February 2024).

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Maguire, E.R. and Johnson, D. (2010) 'Measuring public perceptions of the police', *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies & Management*, 33(4), pp. 703–730. doi:10.1108/13639511011085097.

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Roscigno, V. and Preto-Hodge, K. (2021) 'Racist cops, vested "blue" interests, or both? evidence from four decades of the General Social Survey', *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*, 7. doi:10.1177/2378023120980913.

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