

DEHEP Assignments

4 x 1000 word essays

Megan Evans

2134539

ESSAY 2

Response policing – In a recent survey by HMICFRS, 65% of respondents agreed “that police in their local area treat people fairly and with respect” (Justice Inspectorates, 2019). Evaluate the impact of public perception on response policing.

In this essay I will examine and evaluate how public perception affects response policing. I will describe what public perception is and use different case studies to analysis how they have impacted response policing and policing as a whole. I will use the survey by HMICFRS in 2019 and compare it to the 2022 and 2023 survey and draw upon the case studies used and how it has affected the figures.

Public perception is the thought, belief or opinion people make based on appearances and interactions with others. When using public protection in relation to policing, public perception is often affected by personal experiences or social media which shows minimal information, thus having a large impact on response policing (de France Doria, M., 2010).

A survey in 2018 by HMICFRS showed that 65% of respondents believed police treated people fairly and with respect (Justice Inspectorates, 2019). This has risen by 8% in a year. Whilst this survey shows a positive result, only 17,043 compared to the 59.6 million people living in England and Wales (GOV, 2022). However, whereas this is a great figure and shows improvements, the survey is very limited and gives minimal information. When comparing to the IOPC public perceptions tracker summary report, these figures are very different where 46% of people feel positive towards the police (IOPC, 2023). These surveys are a fantastic way of tracking the publics perceptions, however this lacks in critical information which is not available towards the public. This survey does not explain or state why the percentages are low or how and what they are going to do to improve them.

Police have attempted to improve public perceptions by different approaches. A socio-institutional approach have been sought and used by the police in order to increase trust within communities. The public and the police interact dynamically at every single incident (Schaap, D., 2021). Where this study explains how socio-institutional approaches have worked build better relationships within the communities, it is noted throughout the study that there is a misunderstanding from the police in what the public needs and wants. The study highlights its importance to that every situation/incident is ever changing (Schaap, D., 2021) and the publics needs are not always going to be met due to the police

having rules and procedures to follow. This does not include the aftermath of an incident when ownership is taken over by the Crown Prosecution Service. The study highlights a lack of understanding from the public and wanting to have someone to blame which is regularly the police for not doing their job effectively enough which in turn negatively impacts public perception of response policing.

The metropolitan police are under severe scrutiny since 2021, which has changed the perception on the police across the UK. In 2021, a metropolitan police officer Wayne Couzens who was off duty at the time of the incident, kidnapped, raped, and murdered Sarah Everard (Brown R and Hobbs A, 2023). This caused uproar within the United Kingdom (UK) and affecting the relationship between the police and the public. Trust in the police fell from 63% in 2020 to 53% in 2021 (GOV, 2022). Due to this being broadcasted on the news and social media across the UK, individuals began speaking up about interactions with police officers and negative discussions about police forces and officers circulated online and across communities. One bad police officer can have a magnificent effect on the UK police force, and it is enough to change the public's perception and for the public to believe all police officers are bad individuals and are not there to help individuals.

The College of Policing states that community engagement can increase public perceptions of safety and increase confidence and trust in the police (College of Policing, 2013). Whilst the College of Policing is correct, this has not been updated since 2013. Since then, there have been fluctuations due to the conduct of officers and the use of social media. Social media has played a big role in the public's perception, as a simple video can be shared to millions of people. Using a new TV series on channel 4 'To Catch a Copper'. This is based on Avon and Somerset police force and it dives deep into the criminalities of on duty police officers. In an article, it has stated that in 2022, less than 1% of 81,000 complaints made about the police resulted in formal misconduct proceedings and the Chief Inspector Sarah Crew expressed frustrations, this did not come across well to the public as they believed not enough was being done to discipline officers for their misconduct.

This essay has looked into the insights of public perception and how this has affected relationships between police and response policing. Throughout this essay, it has been highlighted that response policing faces backlash from the public due to their scrutiny of incidents and what they see or hear on social media. The police have acted ways to build the trust, however, due to the conduct of police officers and social media, the police are facing a losing battle when trying to build trust and respect.

For future research, more studies should look into what works in bringing trust and respect back into the public and the police and public's relationship. There was a lot of evidence as to why the public perceptions are so low and decreasing as years go on.

Social media and TV documentary series such as 'To Catch A Copper' I believe were to help aid the public by showing they do discipline police officers, in turn had the opposite effect and the public believe not enough discipline has happened. The police force as a whole need to think outside of what they perceive to be positive action and look at it from a non-police officers' perspective. Having said this, the public perception of police will always vary due to the nature of individuals having opinions which cannot be changed.

TOTAL: 1000

ESSAY 3

Evaluate the effectiveness of cognitive interviews as a strategy for obtaining initial accounts from victims and witnesses. Your answer must be based on academic research. Word limit: 1000 words.

In this essay I will evaluate the effectiveness of cognitive interviews for victims and witnesses. I will explain the components of a cognitive interview and analyse and evaluate how effective this is in order to maximise the amount of information that is recalled. I will use studies to evaluate the effectiveness and discuss how this is beneficial for police officers when taking initial witness and victims accounts for an incident.

Cognitive interview is a questioning technique that is used by the police in order for witnesses and victims to recall and provide in-depth information about an incident they were apart of (Memon, A., et al, 2018). The interview is split into 4 stages. The first stage is about giving the person being interviewed an explanation is given about the interview process. This enables the person to fully understand what is going to happen and will help reduce any ill emotions or worry towards the interview. The second stage is building a rapport. This enables a victim or witness to feel comfortable and respected by the interviewing person. The third part is where the cognitive interview starts. It is important to allow the person to speak freely when they are asking a question and to ask follow up questions which are not leading. This allows the person to reinstate their response in a reverse chronological order. The final part is the ending of the interview and ensure to allow them to add anything in case they remember something key which is beneficial. Cognitive interviewing is about ensuring the person who is being interviewed is comfortable throughout and is able to trust the person who is interviewing them (Fisher, R.P., and Geiselman, R.E., 2019).

Positives

A study by Deborah Crossland used a video of a crime and three groups of participants, sober, moderately, and severely intoxicated, and a week later they were interviewed. The study found that using cognitive interviews allowed all groups to recall accurate events in their accounts (Crossland, A., et al, 2020). This study shows how beneficial cognitive interviewing is

for police and will aid them in taking accounts and ultimately adding to the efficacy and accuracy of the investigation. Similarly, a study using a cognitive interview and a standard police interview for describing a perpetrator, the cognitive group were able to recall 30% more information than a standard interview (Satin, G.E. and Fisher, R.P, 2019).

By police adapting to cognitive interviews, it allows victims and witnesses a more therapeutic experience when compared to a standard interview(Fisher, R.P., and Geiselman, R.E., 2019). The stages of a cognitive interview allow for a more personal interview, where a small relationship is built between both the interviewer and the interviewee as their well-being during the interview is a priority. This also creates a better mind space for recalling events due to the interviewee feeling more relaxed and not pressured to try and remember as much detail as possible (Fisher, R.P., and Geiselman, R.E., 2019). Cognitive interviews being adopted by police forces not only increases recall of events but also increases public perception, trust and respect between victims/witnesses and police officers.

Negatives

Whilst cognitive interviews have proved to be beneficial for police, this ultimately reverts to how well an officer has been trained, and if they have received training at all. It has shown that officers who are trained and conduct interviews on a daily basis are likely to receive a better response from victims and witnesses (Dando. C., et al, 2009). Officers receive cognitive interviewing training early on in their career, usually in their initial training. It has shown that this is far too complex for officers due to most being on response for the first part of their careers and depending on area, the amount of interviews conducted vary (Colomb, C., et al., 2013), not to mention the emotions officers go through during their first few weeks when they leave training.

This was also proved previously by Dando who conducted another study looking at specialist officers and response officers. They had looked at a modified cognitive interview to enhance forensic opportunities, this was seen to be just as effective for response officers (Dando, C., et al, 2009). The modified cognitive interview encourages the interviewee to create the environment and incident in their mind, which allows them to feel and see exactly what happened. Whilst this provided much benefit, it required more skill and training which response officers are not given. This type of interview is used by psychologists along with

officers who are trained to a higher level of interviewing and know the procedures and questions to ask. Whilst the modified version provided benefits, there was not a significant difference between both, with only a 15% higher recall rate for the modified cognitive interview (Dando, C., et al., 2019). Another study compared standard cognitive interviews and modified versions, whereby the response rate from police officers conducting the interviews felt there were very little differences (Colomb, C., et al., 2013), this was later discovered to the lack of training given by the police force. Therefore, future recommendations for higher quality interviews are more training and more interviews.

In conclusion, cognitive interviewing for witnesses and victims is very beneficial for police officers. It should be used for nearly every interview. The negatives of cognitive interviews is the current training and police officers at the beginning of their careers may not have developed the skills in order to conduct an effective cognitive interview. This being a big downfall considering the volume of new officers that have been added to the UK police force and to come. When reviewing studies, most were conducted by showing a person a video. This is not a realistic setting as a person's feelings and emotions are stable, whereas at an incident, this could have greater effects on someone's emotions/adrenaline therefore affecting memory recall.

TOTAL: 973

ESSAY 4

Examine the positive and negative aspects of media attention when dealing with public protection incidents. Your answer must be based on academic research rather than personal experience. Word limit: 1000 words.

In this essay I will explain and discuss the positive and negative aspects of media attention whilst dealing with public protection incidents. I will use two case studies during this essay and discuss the positive and negatives of media attention during these incidents. This essay will explain different types of media attention and how incidents can quickly spread across the world due to the global population having access to different types of media.

It is important that the police have a positive working relationship with the media. Having a positive relationship enables the police to communicate to the public on a wide scale. Reaching a wider audience increases positive outcomes for investigations, solve crimes whilst bringing offenders to justice and keeping the community safe (College of policing, 2022). With a global population of around of 8.1 billion people and the use of social media, news media and more, individuals are able to connect, see what events are happening in different countries as well as share their experiences and opinions with the world.

Positives of media attention

In 2009, David Heiss was found guilty of the murder of Matthew Pyke. A media strategy was put in place by Senior Investigator Officers (SIOs) the main aims for media coverage was to identify witnesses to the murder and reassure the public (Reid, S., 2009). Witnesses came forward and the police were able to track down David Heiss. Witnesses provided information around an online war website, which was then investigated. Whilst this case came with a positive outcome from finding the killer, it also helped spread awareness of the dangers of sharing personal information on social media. Since this incident the UK government has released an 'Internet safety campaign', which will help keep children and young people safe from the internet (GOV. 2014). As well as campaigns, websites alongside bank accounts can

help protect users from over sharing their data and will alert a person if there is any fraudulent activity.

In 2007 the case of 3 year old Madeleine McCann took to the media, with the case being covered worldwide. A drawing was conducted and shared on the media for what the possible suspect looked like. Due to this being a high profile case, this received global media attention and contained many components needed for a successful identifications (Greer, C. and McLaughlin, E. 2017). The drawing of the potential suspect was released on worldwide news stations as well as online and social media. This enabled the public to come forward and speak with police if they knew a person or had seen someone in the area the night of the incident. The response rate was high for the photo with several individuals coming forward and identifying the individual, this then lead police to arrest a suspect and cross-examine Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) found at the scene against the suspect.

Negatives of media attention

Refereeing back to the case in 2009 where David Heiss was found guilty of the murder of Matthew Pyke. ISOs throughout the trial had regular meetings were held to control the information given out to the public(Reid, S., 2009). Throughout all the efforts, the media caused a lot of damage and concern to the investigation as the media reported inaccurate facts which in return, caused fear and anger from the public. Whilst all efforts were made to reduce inaccurate facts and fear in the public, the base line is the police are not able to control information given to the public by media. The public are able to access and gain information online – in this case details of a European arrest warrant was shared online for the public to view. Media can have detrimental effects on investigations and public perceptions of UK policing. The public took to media when the verdict was released and there was a lot of controversial opinions which caused reduced trust in the police as individuals felt the case was not dealt or handled properly causing backlash from the public.

Similarly, in 2007, the case of 2 year old Madeleine McCann caused eruptions in the United Kingdom (UK) and quickly became a trail by media. The focus was on her parents, Jerry and Kate McCan (Greer, C., et al. 2012) became targeted as the public believed that they were responsible for their daughters' disappearance. 17 years later, this case still attracts attention of the UK public with new theories surrounding Madeleine's disappearance forms (Are, C., 2021). The media had an impact on Madeleine's parents such as mental health as well as affecting their jobs. The media often want to blame someone for an incident, and like the Madeline McCann case, there was no definitive suspect for a decade, so people turned towards her parents and analysed what they had said and done, even coming up with conclusions as to how they would have committed the crime. This having a severe negative impact upon her parents lives and them trying to move forward without their daughter.

This essay has covered positive and negatives of media attention. it is important to understand that the media have a lot of benefits and negative towards public protection cases, neither of which outweigh the other. Media is effected a lot by the public and police are unable to control opinions of individuals or what information they are able to access. Whilst the police liaise with media and have regular meetings with high profile cases, the media distort the truth and journalists are often referred to as 'vultures' (Rughani, P., 2010). Ultimately media and social media are great tools for police for community engagement and aid with public protection incidents like, missing persons and murders which are mentioned within this essay, but negatives will always arise.

TOTAL: 954

ESSAY 5

“Despite some progress, the system of juvenile justice in the United Kingdom remains excessively punitive. The state’s response to juvenile crime should focus more on rehabilitation” (Hammarberg, 2012). Examine the effectiveness of rehabilitation and/or restorative justice as a means of reducing re-offending among young offenders. Your answer must be based on academic research, but you may make reference to relevant case studies. Word limit: 1000 words.

The juvenile system in the UK is known as the youth justice system (YJS). This covers those who are under the age of 18 who commit crimes. The youth justice system was brought into place in 1998 (Cunneen, C., et al., 2019). The aim of the YJS is to educate and rehabilitate children from their offending behaviour. There are many different reasons why children enter the YJS, some being diagnosed with a mental health disorder, coming from dysfunctional/chaotic families where there are drug & alcohol misuse as well as physical and emotional abuse (GOV, 2016). This article from the UK government shows that the majority of youths come from dysfunctional backgrounds and or have an underlying health issue, meaning that there is a lack of support and proper guidance for these youths which increases their risk of getting into trouble with the police.

Local Youth offending teams (YOT) were brought in as an early intervention to prevent children and young people offending. The YOT team assist the police with actions such as out of court disposals and acting as an appropriate adult during police interviews when a family member is unable too. Alongside this, YOT supervise children and young people when they are released from custody and if they are servicing a community sentence as well as providing reports to the courts (Rye., N. 2006). YOT are also notified when a youth gets in trouble with the police, this can provide a trigger for social services to be in contact with YOT and the offenders parents.

The YJS has been proven to significantly improve re-offending. In 2007, 47,000 children were cautioned or convicted. In 2015, this dropped by 79%, whilst children entering the system for the first time had also reduced by 82% (GOV., 2016). The YJS works alongside multiagency in order to help children and young people and guide them. The YJS has been proven to aid in juveniles’ behaviour. This being effective due to those youths being provided with the effective

guidance that they may not get from their parents or helping families understand and given the tools to help with their child's mental or physical disability.

Restorative justice (RJ)

The youth restorative justice programme was introduced in 2009, after failings from the YJS(ref). This made a dramatic impact by reducing reoffending by up to 14% (Ellis, T. and Kyo, A., 2019). By using a community resolution such as an RJ for low grade offences, allows the young offender to work on their behaviour. An RJ provides an overall satisfaction for both offender and victim. During this study, a victim survey was completed and 85% of all victims believed justice had been done. The victim feels satisfied as the offender is taking ownership for what they have done however they are given a second chance. An RJ experience is a great alternative for low grade crimes and often provides learning for the offender and support from other agencies such as YOT and social services.

The use of an RJ goes on a police record for 2 years, which enables the offender to correct their behaviour and learn and after 2 years, this record will no longer exist. If they get into trouble again with police, they could suffer further consequences (Banwell-Moore, R., 2022). An RJ is a very sought after alternative and is not a punitive punishment for youths who have committed a first time low level crime.

Having stated the positives, the negative of an RJ depends on the level of crime committed. If there juvenile was in possession of a weapon or class A drugs, this would not be sufficient. As per the government, juveniles who commit these crimes will have a custodial sentence -

Rehabilitation

The governments updated policy believes that sentencing will allow children and young people support to help them make better decisions whilst protecting the public (GOV, 2022). This is being done through increasing curfews from 16-20 hours and add monitoring or surveillance. The sentence instead of being 6 months will increase to 12 months and mandatory education will be required so the offender is able to learn from their behaviour (GOV. 2023). Where there is a lack of research about the effectiveness of curfews,

Youth Community Orders provide 15 different options. The most effective being supervised functional family therapy. This involves both the offender and the offender's family. This was proven to reduce bad behaviour and attitude by 21% out of a trial which included 200 youths in the YJS (Sexton, T., and Turner, C.W., 2011). This study has understood underlying issues, predominantly focusing on parenting and home issues. Therefore, the success rate being high in 2011. However, there has been no further research into functional family therapy and whether it is still being used to reduce reoffending. The study outlines how this will work if both parents and child engage together. It was shown that parents who have been involved in the criminal justice system prior or who are still involved, are less likely to engage, therefore making this not suitable for the young offender.

In this essay I have examined the effectiveness of rehabilitation and restorative justice as a means of reducing re-offending. This essay has proven that the most effective way of dealing with juveniles is through a restorative justice intervention. There is decreased rate of re-offending as well as providing satisfaction for the victim. The early intervention by YOT is used with RJ procedures to help support and guide the offender, thus making it highly effective.

The limits of this essay are briefly discussed and has been shown that the lack of support and guidance youths are having effects their behaviour. Since YOT has been introduced, they have had great success at reducing re-offending.

Further research should include the thoughts of the offenders in the YOT and YJS and how they could better support them. There is a lack of research surrounding the effectiveness of rehabilitation and research focuses more on RJ procedures, therefore further research should be looking into the effectiveness of rehabilitation and if the benefits outweigh the negatives and if it does decrease reoffending.

TOTAL: 1020

References

Essay 2

Brown, R. and Hobbs, A., 2023. Trust in the police.

College Of Policing: Engagement and communication (2013)

<https://www.college.police.uk/app/engagement-and-communication/engagement> (Accessed at 25/02/2024)

De Franca Doria, M., 2010. Factors influencing public perception. Pp. 1-19

GOV (2022) <https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/uk-population-by-ethnicity/national-and-regional-populations/population-of-england-and-wales/latest/> (Accessed at 25/02/2024)

GOV: Public perceptions of policing: A review of research and literature (2023)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-perceptions-of-policing-a-review-of-research-and-literature/public-perceptions-of-policing-a-review-of-research-and-literature#conclusions> (Accessed at 25/02/2024)

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2024/jan/29/to-catch-a-copper-review-a-shocking-disgusting-real-life-line-of-duty> (Accessed at 25/02/2024)

IOPC: Public perceptions tracker summary report – 2022-2023. (2023)

<https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/publications/public-perceptions-tracker-summary-report-202223> (Accessed at 25/02/2024)

Justice Inspectorates (2019) <https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/police-forces/data/public-perceptions-of-policing-surveys/survey-summary-2018/> (Accessed at 25/02/2024)

Schaap, D., 2021. Police trust-building strategies. A socio-institutional, comparative approach. *Policing and society*, 31(3) pp, 304-320

The Guardian: To Catch a copper review (2024)

Essay 3

Colomb, C., Ginet, M., Wright, D., Demarchi, S., and Sadler, C., 2013. Back to the real: Efficacy and perception of a modified cognitive interview in the field.

Crossland, D., Kneller, W. and Wilcock, R., 2020. Improving intoxicated witness recall with the enhanced cognitive interview. *Psychopharmacology*

Dando, C., Wilcock, R. and Milne, R., 2009. The cognitive interview: Novice police officers witness/victim interviewing practices. *Psychology, crime & law*

Dando, C., Wilcock, R. and Milne, R., 2011. Modifying the cognitive interview: Countenancing forensic application by enhancing practicability. *Psychology, crime & Law*

Dando, C., Wilcock, R., Milne, R. and Henry, L. 2009. A modified cognitive interview procedure for frontline police investigators. *Applied cognitive psychology: The official journal of the society for applied research in memory and cognition*.

Fisher, R.P. and Geiselman, R.E., 2019. Explaining the cognitive interview to non-criminal investigations. *Evidence-based investigative interviewing: Applying cognitive principles*, pp 1-28

Memon, A., and Gawrylowicz, J., 2018. The cognitive interview. *The handbook of communication skills*. pp 551-560

Mohorko, A. and Hlebec, V., 2015. Effect of a first-time interviewer on cognitive interview quality. *Quality & Quantity*

Satin, G.E. and Fisher, R.P., 2019. Investigative utility of the cognitive interview: Describing and finding perpetrators. *Law and human behaviour*

Essay 4

Banwell-Moore, R., 2022. The delivery of restorative justice in youth offending teams in England and Wales: examining disparities and highlighting best practice. *Laws*, 11(4), p.60

Cunneen, C., Goldson, B. and Russell, S., 2018. Human rights and youth justice reform in England and Wales: A systematic analysis

Ellis, T. and Kyo, A., 2019. Youth justice in England & Wales: past, present and future: *Ryukoku corrections and rehabilitation centre journal*

GOV. 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-justice-statistics-2022-to-2023/youth-justice-statistics-2022-to-2023-accessible-version> (Accessed at 27/02/2024)

Ministry Of Justice: Review of the youth justice system in England and Wales. (2016)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/577105/youth-justice-review-final-report-print.pdf (Accessed at 27/02/2024)

Ryrie, N., 2006> Working with a Youth Offending Team: Personal perspectives on challenges and opportunities for the practice of educational psychology. *Educational and child psychology*, 23(2), p6-20

Sexton, T., and Turner, C.W., 2011. The effectiveness of functional family therapy for youth with behavioural problems in a community practice setting

Essay 5

Are, C., 2021. Patterns of media coverage repeated in online abuse on high-profile criminal cases. *Journalism*, 22(11) pp2692-2710

College of policing: Media relations. (2017) <https://www.college.police.uk/app/engagement-and-communicatoin/media-relations> (Accessed at 28/02/2024)

GOV. Internet safety campaign launches (2014) <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/internet-safety/campaign-launches> (Accessed at 28/02/2024)

Greer, C. and McLaughlin, E., 2012. Media Justice: Madeline McCann, intermediatization and trial by media in the British press

Greer, C. and McLaughlin, E., 2017. News power and crime and media justice.

Greer, C. and McLaughlin, E., 2017. Theorizing institutional scandal and the regulatory state.
Theoretical criminology

Reid, S., 2009. Media: A useful investigative tool. *THE JOURNAL OF HOMICIDE AND MAJOR INCIDENT INVESTIGATION*

Rughani, P., 2010. Are you a vulture? Reflections on the ethics and aesthetics of atrocity coverage and its aftermath