

Preparing for Research within Policing

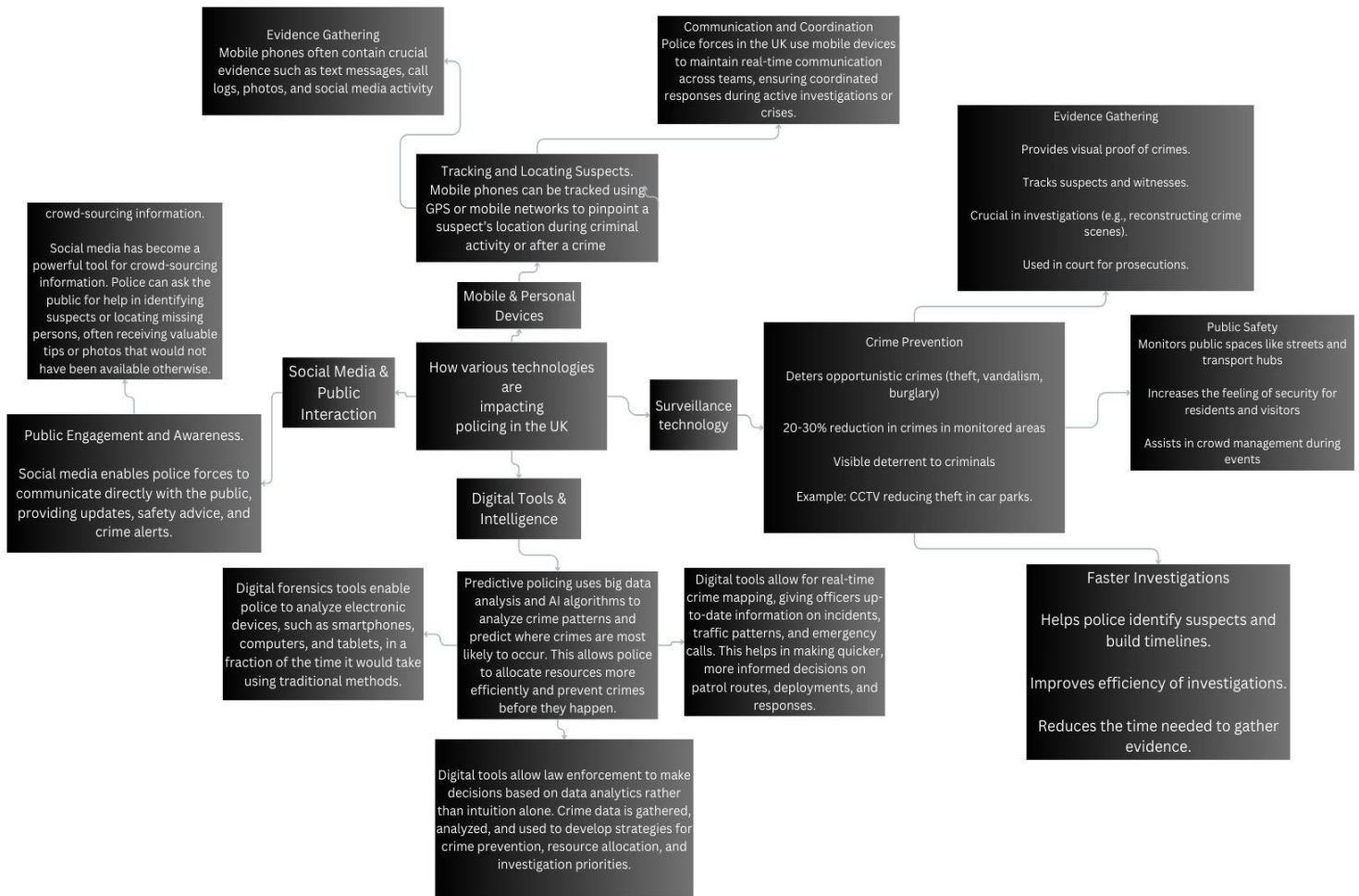
Luke Darnell

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TASK 1

Mind map of Ideas



Task 2: Reasearch proposal

UNDERGRADUATE DISSERTATION RESEARCH PROPOSAL FORM

NAME: Davies Luke Darnell

Student number: 2306084

DRAFT RESEARCH TITLE QUESTION

The Impact of Emerging Technologies on Policing in the UK: Opportunities, Challenges, and Public Perceptions

The rapid advancement of technology has transformed many aspects of society and policing is no exception. I have chosen to explore how various technologies are affecting policing in the UK because it is a subject that sits at the intersection of innovation, public safety and civil liberties. Technologies such as CCTV, body-worn cameras, mobile devices, predictive policing software and artificial intelligence are increasingly being integrated into everyday police work. These tools have the potential to improve efficiency, enhance accountability and support crime prevention. However, they also raise important questions about privacy, surveillance, data use and public trust. Therefore, there are many counter arguments for and against the use of technology in policing which will allow for a wide range of research for an Undergraduate Dissertation.

This topic is both timely and relevant, especially as the UK continues to invest in digital policing strategies while navigating the ethical and legal challenges that come with them. By examining how these technologies are shaping law enforcement practices, I aim to contribute to the wider conversation about the future of policing and its role within a technologically driven society. My interest in this subject stems from a desire to better understand the balance between innovation and oversight in the context of public service and justice.

This topic provides a compelling basis for an undergraduate dissertation, supported by extensive current research and real-world case studies that support thorough, evidence-based analysis. The fast-evolving nature of technology keeps the subject dynamic and highly relevant, with continual developments offering new avenues for exploration. It presents

opportunities to engage with contemporary debates, evaluate policy implications, and consider the practical effects of technology on policing and society. Moreover, it promotes independent thinking and the development of original insights. and society. Moreover, it promotes independent thinking and the development of original insights.

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH AIM & OBJECTIVES

This research aims to critically examine how emerging technologies are shaping modern policing practices in the UK, with a focus on their practical applications, benefits, and the ethical, legal, and societal challenges they present. The research seeks to gather a broad range of information to address four key objectives. Firstly, it will collect data on the technologies currently employed in UK policing — including CCTV, body-worn cameras, mobile devices, and artificial intelligence — as well as the official policies and guidelines that regulate their use. Secondly, it will examine evidence of the benefits these technologies offer, such as enhanced efficiency and improved crime prevention, drawing on case studies, academic literature, and perspectives from both the public and police. Additionally, the study will analyse the challenges and concerns associated with policing technologies, focusing on issues such as privacy, data security, ethical considerations, and the risk of misuse, as reflected in legal frameworks, media coverage, and public opinion. Finally, the research will examine the broader impact of technology on the relationship between the police and the public, looking at how it influences trust, transparency and communication. Together, this information will provide a balanced and in-depth understanding of how technology is reshaping policing in the UK.

1. To explore how different technologies, such as CCTV, body-worn cameras, mobile devices and artificial intelligence are currently being used in policing across the UK.
2. To examine the perceived benefits of these technologies for law enforcement, including improvements in efficiency, crime prevention and accountability.
3. To investigate the challenges and concerns associated with technology in policing, including issues related to privacy, data protection, public trust and ethical implications.
4. To evaluate the overall impact of technological advancements on the relationship between the police and the public, particularly in terms of transparency, surveillance and community engagement

THEORETICAL CONTEXT

The growing use of technology has notably transformed policing practices across the UK. As outlined by the (College of Policing, 2021), tools such as body-worn cameras, mobile data devices, and automated number plate recognition (ANPR) have become widely adopted by police forces to enhance efficiency, support evidence gathering, and promote accountability. Despite the practical advantages these technologies offer, they also present a range of ethical, legal, and societal challenges that must be carefully considered.

(Ariel et al., 2016), discuss how body-worn video (BWV) has been introduced to promote transparency and reduce complaints against officers. Their study found that while BWV can improve police-public interactions, the technology's effectiveness depends on how consistently and fairly it is deployed. Similarly, in a related discussion, (Lum et al. 2019) caution that although predictive policing tools can enhance resource deployment, they also risk perpetuating systemic biases embedded in historical crime data, which may disproportionately affect marginalised communities.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and facial recognition technologies are increasingly being adopted and tested within UK policing, as highlighted by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO, 2021). However, civil liberties organisations such as (Big Brother Watch, 2022) have raised significant concerns about mass surveillance, lack of public consent, and the reliability of these systems, particularly in public spaces. These discussions underscore the ongoing tension between technological advancement and the protection of fundamental civil rights.

Furthermore, the National Policing Digital Strategy (Home Office & Police Digital Service, 2020) sets out the UK government's vision for digitally transforming law enforcement, focusing on enhanced data sharing, the use of predictive analytics, and improved real-time communication between agencies. However, scholars such as (Ferguson, 2017) warn that excessive dependence on algorithm-driven systems may undermine human judgement, potentially weakening the foundations of community-oriented policing.

It is therefore crucial to assess these technologies not only in terms of their practical advantages but also considering their wider social consequences. This research will draw on key theoretical perspectives, including surveillance theory, trust in law enforcement, and ethical approaches to data use (Floridi, 2008), to underpin the analysis and support a balanced investigation into the role of technology in UK policing.

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH - SURVEY METHODS

This research will primarily utilise public surveys as a key quantitative method to gather data on societal perceptions of police use of technology, such as CCTV, facial recognition, body-worn cameras, and predictive policing tools. Public surveys are particularly effective for this study as they allow for the collection of broad, representative data across different demographics, locations, and communities—essential for understanding how technology is viewed across society.

The survey will incorporate a combination of closed-ended questions, including Likert scales and multiple-choice formats, to allow for statistical analysis of attitudes, levels of trust, and awareness. It will also feature a limited number of open-ended questions to capture personal concerns and experiences in greater depth. Topics will include perceived effectiveness of police technologies, concerns about privacy and surveillance, and levels of trust in police use of digital tools. Distributing the survey online through community forums and social media will enable access to a broad and diverse range of participants, including younger, digitally active individuals and groups that are typically harder to reach. Guaranteeing anonymous responses will encourage more honest responses, reduce bias, and improve the overall reliability of the results.

Data collected through public surveys will also help identify patterns and trends in public opinion, which are crucial for evaluating the legitimacy and social acceptability of technological practices in policing. This will also provide a clear picture of regional or demographic differences in attitudes, which may inform policy recommendations for more community-sensitive implementation of new technologies.

SUMMARY OF SAMPLING FRAMEWORK

Individuals from the age of 18 and above from the general public will be invited to take part in the research. The primary data collection method will be a general questionnaire designed to gather perspectives from members of the public, as well as, where possible, individuals with relevant professional knowledge or experience. The aim of this approach is to collect a wide range of responses that reflect public awareness, attitudes, and concerns regarding the use of technology in UK policing.

The sample will include participants from diverse age groups, backgrounds, and geographical locations to ensure the data is representative of a broad cross-section of the population. By distributing the questionnaire to a wide audience, the research will capture varied viewpoints, helping to produce reliable and usable primary data. A large number of responses will allow for more robust analysis and provide figures to strengthen the credibility of the findings. The topic of technology in policing is one that many members of the public will have formed opinions or experiences about—whether through direct interaction, awareness of related incidents, or general knowledge—ensuring the findings drawn from the survey are relevant to the target population. This sample will also provide perspectives from individuals who may have professional or lived experience of policing or related fields, as well as those with no direct experience, offering a broad range of data to analyse.

INITIAL REFERENCE LIST

Andrew Guthrie Ferguson (2017). *RISE OF BIG DATA POLICING : Surveillance, Race, and the Future of Law Enforcement*. S.L.: New York University Press.

Ariel, B., Sutherland, A., Henstock, D., Young, J., Drover, P., Sykes, J., Megicks, S. and Henderson, R. (2016). Wearing Body Cameras Increases Assaults against Officers and Does Not Reduce Police Use of force: Results from a Global multi-site Experiment. *European Journal of Criminology*, [online] 13(6), pp.744–755. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1177/1477370816643734>.

Big Brother Watch (2022). *Face Off Report (2018) — Big Brother Watch*. [online] Face Off Report (2018) — Big Brother Watch. Available at: <https://bigbrotherwatch.org.uk/campaigns/stop-facial-recognition/report/>.

College of Policing (2021). *Obtaining Data from Digital Devices – New Guidance Released*. [online] College of Policing. Available at: <https://www.college.police.uk/article/extraction-material-digital-devices-app>.

Floridi, L. (2008). Information Ethics, its Nature and Scope. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. doi:<https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3859207>.

Information Commissioner's Office (2021). *The use of live facial recognition technology in public places*. [online] Available at: <https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/2619985/ico-opinion-the-use-of-lfr-in-public-places-20210618.pdf>.

Lum, C., Koper, C.S. and Willis, J. (2016). Understanding the Limits of Technology's Impact on Police Effectiveness. *Police Quarterly*, [online] 20(2), pp.135–163. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1177/1098611116667279>.

NPCC (2020). *NATIONAL POLICING DIGITAL STRATEGY*. [online] Available at: <https://pds.police.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/National-Policing-Digital-Strategy-2020-2030.pdf>.

Police Digital Service (2020). *National Policing Digital Strategy – Police ICT*. [online] Police Digital Service. Available at: <https://pds.police.uk/national-policing-digital-strategy-2020/>.

Task 3
Ethics Form

APPLICATION FOR ETHICAL APPROVAL

In order for research to result in benefit and minimise risk of harm, it must be conducted ethically. A researcher may not be covered by the University's insurance if ethical approval has not been obtained prior to commencement.

The University follows the OECD Frascati manual definition of **research activity**: "creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications". As such this covers activities undertaken by members of staff, postgraduate research students, and both taught postgraduate and undergraduate students working on dissertations/projects.

The individual undertaking the research activity is known as the "principal researcher".

Ethical approval is not required for routine audits, performance reviews, quality assurance studies, testing within normal educational requirements, and literary or artistic criticism.

Please read the notes for guidance before completing ALL sections of the form.

This form must be completed and approved prior to undertaking any research activity. Please see Checklist for details of process for different categories of application.

SECTION A: About You (Principal Researcher)

1	Full Name:	Davies Luke Darnell			
2	Tick all boxes that apply:	Member of staff:	☐	Honorary research fellow:	☐
	Undergraduate Student	☒	Taught Postgraduate Student	☐	Postgraduate Research Student
3	Institute/Academic Discipline/Centre:	IMH – Institution Management of Health			
4	Campus:	Swansea			
5	E-mail address:	2306084@student.uwtsd.ac.uk			
6	Contact Telephone Number:	07955177935			
For students:					
7	Student Number:	2306084			
8	Programme of Study:	Bachelor of Science: Professional Policing			
9	Director of Studies/Supervisor:	Mike Durke			

SECTION B: Approval for Research Activity

1	Has the research activity received approval in principle? (please check the Guidance Notes as to the appropriate approval process for different levels of research by different categories of individual)	YES	☒	NO	☐
					Date
2	If Yes, please indicate source of approval (and date where known): Approval in principle must be obtained from the relevant source prior to seeking ethical approval	Research Degrees Committee	☐		
Institute Research Committee		☐			
Other (Mike Durke)		☒	1/5/2025		

SECTION C: Internal and External Ethical Guidance Materials

Please list the core ethical guidance documents that have been referred to during the completion of this form (including any discipline-specific codes of research ethics, location-specific codes of research ethics, and also any specific ethical guidance relating to the proposed methodology). Please tick to confirm that your research proposal adheres to these codes and guidelines. You may add rows to this table if needed.	
1	UWTSD Research Ethics & Integrity Code of Practice ☒
2	UWTSD Research Data Management Policy ☒
3	[List any other relevant documents here] ☐

SECTION D: External Collaborative Research Activity

If there are external collaborators then you should gain consent from the contact persons to share their personal data with the university. If there are no external collaborators then leave this section blank and continue to section E.

1	Institution					
2	Contact person name					
3	Contact person e-mail address					
4	Is your research externally funded?	YES	☐	NO	☐	
5	Are you in receipt of a KESS scholarship?	YES	☐	NO	☐	
6	Are you specifically employed to undertake this research in either a paid or voluntary capacity?	Voluntary	YES	☐	NO	☐
7		Employed	YES	☐	NO	☐
8	Is the research being undertaken within an existing UWTSD Athrofa Professional Learning Partnership (APLP)?	If YES then the permission question below does not need to be answered.	YES	☐	NO	☐
9	Has permission to undertake the research been provided by the partner organisation?	(If YES attach copy) If NO the application cannot continue	YES	☐	NO	☐

Where research activity is carried out in collaboration with an external organisation

10	Does this organisation have its own ethics approval system?	YES	☐	NO	☐

	If Yes, please attach a copy of any final approval (or interim approval) from the organisation (this may be a copy of an email if appropriate).
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SECTION E: Details of Research Activity

1	Indicative title:	The Impact of Emerging Technologies on Policing in the UK: Opportunities, Challenges, and Public Perceptions		
2	Proposed start date:	25/09/2024	Proposed end date:	2/5/2025
	Introduction to the Research (maximum 300 words per section) Ensure that you write for a <u>Non-Specialist Audience</u> when outlining your response to the points below: <i>Purpose of Research Activity</i> <i>Proposed Research Question</i> <i>Aims of Research Activity</i> <i>Objectives of Research Activity</i> Demonstrate, briefly, how Existing Research has informed the proposed activity and explain <i>What the research activity will add to the body of knowledge</i> <i>How it addresses an area of importance.</i>			
3	Purpose of Research Activity The purpose of this research is to investigate how emerging technologies are influencing contemporary policing practices within the UK. The study will examine the integration of tools such as body-worn cameras, mobile devices, predictive policing algorithms, and facial recognition systems. These technologies are intended to enhance law enforcement efficiency, transparency, and crime prevention efforts. However, their use also raises important questions related to ethics, privacy, data protection, and public trust. This research aims to provide a balanced evaluation of both the advantages and challenges of technology in policing, contributing to ongoing academic and policy discussions about the future of digital law enforcement in a democratic society.			
4	Research Question The Impact of Emerging Technologies on Policing in the UK: Opportunities, Challenges, and Public Perceptions			
5	Aims of Research Activity The primary aim of this research is to critically explore how emerging technologies are impacting policing practices in the United Kingdom. It seeks to assess the extent to which digital tools such as body-worn cameras, mobile data terminals, facial recognition, and predictive policing software contribute to operational effectiveness, accountability, and public safety. At the same time, the research aims to examine the ethical, legal, and social implications of their use, particularly concerning surveillance, data protection, and public trust.			
6	Objectives of Research Activity - To analyse how various technologies—such as CCTV, body-worn cameras, mobile devices, and artificial intelligence—are currently implemented within UK policing practices. - To assess the perceived advantages these technologies offer law enforcement, particularly in relation to operational efficiency, crime prevention, and accountability. - To explore the key challenges and concerns linked to policing technologies, including issues surrounding privacy, data security, ethical considerations, and public trust.			

	4. To evaluate the broader impact of technological developments on police-public relations, focusing on factors such as transparency, surveillance, and community engagement.
	Proposed methods (maximum 600 words) Provide a brief summary of all the methods that may be used in the research activity, making it clear what specific techniques may be used. If methods other than those listed in this section are deemed appropriate later, additional ethical approval for those methods will be needed. You do not need to justify the methods here, but should instead describe how you intend to collect the data necessary for you to complete your project.
7	This research will employ a mixed-methods approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques. The primary method will be an online survey distributed to members of the public to gather a broad range of views on the use of technology in UK policing. The survey will include both closed and open-ended questions, allowing for statistical analysis as well as qualitative insights. Participants will be recruited via social media, email, and relevant community forums. Consent information will be provided at the start of the survey, and participation will be entirely voluntary and anonymous. Secondary sources such as academic literature, policy documents, and government reports will also be analysed to contextualise and support primary findings. Quantitative survey results will be analysed using descriptive statistics, while open responses and interview transcripts will be examined using thematic analysis.
	Location of research activity Identify all locations where research activity will take place.
8	The research will be conducted entirely online. Surveys will be distributed and completed via a secure online platform (such as Google Forms or Microsoft Forms) making it accessible to a wide range of participants
	Research activity outside of the UK If research activity will take place overseas, you are responsible for ensuring that local ethical considerations are complied with and that the relevant permissions are sought. Specify any local guidelines (e.g. from local professional associations/learned societies/universities) that exist and whether these involve any ethical stipulations beyond those usual in the UK (provide details of any licenses or permissions required). Also specify whether there are any specific ethical issues raised by the local context in which the research activity is taking place, for example, particular cultural and/or legal sensitivities or vulnerabilities of participants. If you live in the country where you will do the research then please state this.
9	(this box should expand as you type)

10	Use of documentation not in the public domain: Are any documents NOT publicly available?	NO	☒
		YES	☐
11	If Yes, please provide details here of how you will gain access to specific documentation that is not in the public domain and that this is in accordance with the current data protection law of the country in question and that of England and Wales. (this box should expand as you type)		

	Does your research relate to one or more of the seven aims of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015?	YES	NO
12	A prosperous Wales	☐	☒
13	A resilient Wales	☐	☒
14	A healthier Wales	☐	☒
15	A more equal Wales	☐	☒
16	A Wales of cohesive communities	☒	☐
17	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	☐	☒
18	A globally responsible Wales	☒	☐
19	If YES to any of the above, please give details:		
	My research aims to examine how the integration of emerging technologies is influencing the practice of policing in the UK. (this box should expand as you type)		

SECTION F: Scope of Research Activity

	Will the research activity include:	YES	NO
1	Use of a questionnaire or similar research instrument?	☒	☐
2	Use of interviews?	☐	☒
3	Use of focus groups?	☐	☒
4	Use of participant diaries?	☐	☒
5	Use of video or audio recording?	☐	☒
6	Use of computer-generated log files?	☐	☒
7	Participant observation with their knowledge?	☐	☒
8	Participant observation without their knowledge?	☐	☒
9	Access to personal or confidential information without the participants' specific consent?	☐	☒
10	Administration of any questions, test stimuli, presentation that may be experienced as physically, mentally or emotionally harmful / offensive?	☐	☒
11	Performance of any acts which may cause embarrassment or affect self-esteem?	☐	☒
12	Investigation of participants involved in illegal activities?	☐	☒
13	Use of procedures that involve deception?	☐	☒
14	Administration of any substance, agent or placebo?	☐	☒
15	Working with live vertebrate animals?	☐	☒
16	Procedures that may have a negative impact on the environment?	☐	☒
17	Other primary data collection methods. Please indicate the type of data collection method(s) below.		
	Details of any other primary data collection method:	☐	☒

(this box should expand as you type)		
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If NO to every question, then the research activity is (ethically) low risk and **may** be exempt from **some** of the following sections (please refer to Guidance Notes).

If YES to any question, then no research activity should be undertaken until full ethical approval has been obtained.

SECTION G: Intended Participants

If there are no participants then do not complete this section, but go directly to section H.

Who are the intended participants:		YES	NO
1	Students or staff at the University?	☒	☐
2	Adults (over the age of 18 and competent to give consent)?	☒	☐
3	Vulnerable adults?	☐	☒
4	Children and Young People under the age of 18? (Consent from Parent, Carer or Guardian will be required)	☐	☒
5	Prisoners?	☐	☒
6	Young offenders?	☐	☒
7	Those who could be considered to have a particularly dependent relationship with the investigator or a gatekeeper?	☐	☒
8	People engaged in illegal activities?	☐	☐
9	Others. Please indicate the participants below, and specifically any group who may be unable to give consent.		
	Details of any other participant groups:	☐	☒
(this box should expand as you type)			

Participant numbers and source Provide an estimate of the expected number of participants. How will you identify participants and how will they be recruited?		
10	How many participants are expected?	100 (this box should expand as you type)
11	Who will the participants be?	General Public, Police Officers, People with experience in the field. (this box should expand as you type)
12	How will you identify the participants?	Share link through social media platforms to gain a wide range of responses. (this box should expand as you type)

Information for participants:		YES	NO	N/A
13	Will you describe the main research procedures to participants in advance, so that they are informed about what to expect?	☒	☐	☐

14	Will you tell participants that their participation is voluntary?	☒	☐	☐
15	Will you obtain written consent for participation?	☒	☐	☐
16	Will you explain to participants that refusal to participate in the research will not affect their treatment or education (if relevant)?	☐	☐	☒
17	If the research is observational, will you ask participants for their consent to being observed?	☐	☐	☒
18	Will you tell participants that they may withdraw from the research at any time and for any reason?	☒	☐	☐
19	With questionnaires, will you give participants the option of omitting questions they do not want to answer?	☐	☐	☒
20	Will you tell participants that their data will be treated with full confidentiality and that, if published, it will not be identifiable as theirs?	☒	☐	☐
21	Will you debrief participants at the end of their participation, in a way appropriate to the type of research undertaken?	☒	☐	☐
22	If NO to any of above questions, please give an explanation			
<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>				

	Information for participants:	YES	NO	N/A
24	Will participants be paid?	☐	☒	☐
25	Is specialist electrical or other equipment to be used with participants?	☐	☒	☐
26	Are there any financial or other interests to the investigator or University arising from this study?	☐	☒	☐
27	Will the research activity involve deliberately misleading participants in any way, or the partial or full concealment of the specific study aims?	☐	☒	☐
28	If YES to any question, please provide full details			
<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>				

SECTION H: Anticipated Risks

Outline any anticipated risks that may adversely affect any of the participants, the researchers and/or the University, and the steps that will be taken to address them. If you have completed a full risk assessment (for example as required by a laboratory, or external research collaborator) you may append that to this form.					
1	Full risk assessment completed and appended? <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>☒</td> </tr> </table>	Yes	☐	No	☒
Yes	☐				
No	☒				
2	Risks to participants For example: sector-specific health & safety, emotional distress, financial disclosure, physical harm, transfer of personal data, sensitive organisational information <table border="1"> <tr> <td> Risk to participants: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i> </td> <td> How you will mitigate the risk to participants: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i> </td> </tr> </table>	Risk to participants: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	How you will mitigate the risk to participants: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
Risk to participants: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	How you will mitigate the risk to participants: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>				
3	If research activity may include sensitive, embarrassing or upsetting topics (e.g. sexual activity, drug use) or issues likely to disclose information requiring further action (e.g. criminal activity), give details of the procedures to deal with these issues, including any support/advice (e.g. helpline numbers) to be offered to participants. Note that where applicable, consent procedures should				

	make it clear that if something potentially or actually illegal is discovered in the course of a project, it may need to be disclosed to the proper authorities	
	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	
4	Risks to the investigator For example: personal health & safety, physical harm, emotional distress, risk of accusation of harm/impropriety, conflict of interest	
	Risk to the investigator: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	How you will mitigate the risk to the investigator: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
5	University/institutional risks For example: adverse publicity, financial loss, data protection	
	Risk to the University: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	How you will mitigate the risk to the University: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
6	Environmental risks For example: accidental spillage of pollutants, damage to local ecosystems	
	Risk to the environment: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	How you will mitigate the risk to environment: <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>

	Disclosure and Barring Service			
	If the research activity involves children or vulnerable adults, a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate must be obtained before any contact with such participants.	YES	NO	N/A
7	Does your research require you to hold a current DBS Certificate?	☐	☐	☒
8	If YES, please give the certificate number. If the certificate number is not available please write "Pending"; in this case any ethical approval will be subject to providing the appropriate certificate number.			

SECTION I: Feedback, Consent and Confidentiality

1	Feedback What de-briefing and feedback will be provided to participants, how will this be done and when?
	If participants respond via email, I will provide them with a summary of the findings from their contributions as part of the research <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
2	Informed consent Describe the arrangements to inform potential participants, before providing consent, of what is involved in participating. Describe the arrangements for participants to provide full consent before data collection begins. If gaining consent in this way is inappropriate, explain how consent will be obtained and recorded in accordance with prevailing data protection legislation.
	Participants will be provided with an information sheet outlining the purpose of the research, what their participation will involve, and how their data will be used and stored. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>

3	Confidentiality / Anonymity Set out how anonymity of participants and confidentiality will be ensured in any outputs. If anonymity is not being offered, explain why this is the case.
	Anonymity and confidentiality will be strictly maintained throughout the research process. All participants will be assigned participant links which no identifiable personal information will be included in any transcripts, analysis, or final research outputs. (this box should expand as you type)

SECTION J: Data Protection and Storage

	Does the research activity involve personal data (as defined by the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 "GDPR" and the Data Protection Act 2018 "DPA")?	YES	NO
1	"Personal data" means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person. Any video or audio recordings of participants is considered to be personal data.	☐	x ☐
	If YES, provide a description of the data and explain why this data needs to be collected:		
2	(this box should expand as you type)		
	Does it involve special category data (as defined by the GDPR)?	YES	NO
3	"Special category data" means sensitive personal data consisting of information as to the data subjects' – (a) racial or ethnic origin, (b) political opinions, (c) religious beliefs or other beliefs of a similar nature, (d) membership of a trade union (within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992), (e) physical or mental health or condition, (f) sexual life, (g) genetics, (h) biometric data (as used for ID purposes),	☐	x ☐
	If YES, provide a description of the special category data and explain why this data needs to be collected:		
4	(this box should expand as you type)		

	Will data from the research activity (collected data, drafts of the thesis, or materials for publication) be stored in any of the following ways?	YES	NO
5	Manual files (i.e. in paper form)?	☐	☐
6	University computers?	☐	☐
7	Private company computers?	☐	☐
8	Home or other personal computers?	☒	☐
9	Laptop computers/ CDs/ Portable disk-drives/ memory sticks?	☐	☐
10	"Cloud" storage or websites?	☐	☐
11	Other – specify:	☐	☐

12	For all stored data, explain the measures in place to ensure the security of the data collected, data confidentiality, including details of backup procedures, password protection, encryption, anonymisation and pseudonymisation:		
	All stored data will be handled in compliance with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Digital data, including survey responses and interview recordings or transcripts, will be stored on a secure, password-protected computer accessible only to the researcher. If there are files containing personal or identifiable information, these will be encrypted and stored separately from anonymised research data. Participant names will be replaced with unique ID numbers to maintain confidentiality. A secure, encrypted file containing the ID key will be kept until the project is completed, then permanently deleted. No paper copies of data will be used during the research and all data will be securely deleted once it is no longer required for the purposes of the research or assessment.		

	Data Protection		
	Will the research activity involve any of the following activities:	YES	NO
13	Electronic transfer of data in any form?	☒	☐
14	Sharing of data with others at the University outside of the immediate research team?	☐	☐
15	Sharing of data with other organisations?	☐	☐
16	Export of data outside the UK or importing of data from outside the UK?	☐	☐
17	Use of personal addresses, postcodes, faxes, emails or telephone numbers?	☐	☐
18	Publication of data that might allow identification of individuals?	☐	☐
19	Use of data management system?	☐	☐
20	Data archiving?	☐	☐
21	If YES to any question, please provide full details, explaining how this will be conducted in accordance with the GDPR and Data Protection Act (2018) (and any international equivalents, where appropriate):		
	The research will involve the electronic transfer of data, specifically email responses from participants and digital consent forms. No identifiable data will be shared outside the research project, and all data will be stored securely in accordance with university policies. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
22	List all who will have access to the data generated by the research activity:		
	Davies Luke Darnell <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
23	List who will have control of, and act as custodian(s) for, data generated by the research activity:		
	Davies Luke Darnell <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		

24	Give details of data storage arrangements, including security measures in place to protect the data, where data will be stored, how long for, and in what form. Will data be archived – if so how and if not why not.		
	All collected data will be stored securely in accordance with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Digital data (including email responses, consent forms, and any analysis files) will be saved on a password-protected, encrypted device. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
25	Please indicate if your data will be stored in the UWTSD Research Data Repository (see https://researchdata.uwtsd.ac.uk/). If so please explain. <i>(Most relevant to academic staff)</i>		
	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
26	Confirm that you have read the UWTSD guidance on data management (see https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/library/research-data-management/)	YES	☒
27	Confirm that you are aware that you need to keep all data until after your research has completed or the end of your funding	YES	☒

SECTION K: Declaration

	The information which I have provided is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have attempted to identify any risks and issues related to the research activity and acknowledge my obligations and the rights of the participants. In submitting this application I hereby confirm that I undertake to ensure that the above named research activity will meet the University's Research Ethics and Integrity Code of Practice which is published on the website: https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/research/research-ethics/		
1	Signature of applicant:	Luke Darnell	Date: 1/5/2025

For STUDENT Submissions:

2	Director of Studies/Supervisor:		Date:
3	Signature:		

For STAFF Submissions:

4	Academic Director/ Assistant Dean:		Date:
5	Signature:		

Checklist: Please complete the checklist below to ensure that you have completed the form according to the guidelines and attached any required documentation:

☒	I have read the guidance notes supplied before completing the form.
☒	I have completed ALL RELEVANT sections of the form in full.
☒	I confirm that the research activity has received approval in principle
☒	I have attached a copy of final/interim approval from external organisation (where appropriate)
☐	I have attached a full risk assessment (where appropriate) ONLY TICK IF YOU HAVE ATTACHED A FULL RISK ASSESSMENT
☒	I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that the above named research activity will meet the University's Research Ethics and Integrity Code of Practice.
☒	I understand that before commencing data collection all documents aimed at respondents (including information sheets, consent forms, questionnaires, interview schedules etc.) must be confirmed by the DoS/Supervisor, module tutor or Academic Director.

RESEARCH STUDENTS AND STAFF ONLY

All communications relating to this application during its processing must be in writing and emailed to pgresearch@uwtsd.ac.uk, with the title 'Ethical Approval' followed by your name. You will be informed of the outcome of your claim by email; therefore it is important that you check your University and personal email accounts regularly.

STUDENTS ON UNDERGRADUATE OR TAUGHT MASTERS PROGRAMMES should submit this form (and receive the outcome) via systems explained to you by the supervisor/module leader.

This form is available electronically from the Academic Office web pages:
<https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/academic-office/appendices-and-forms/>

Task 4

Justification of the Chosen Research Method

For this study, public surveys have been selected as the primary quantitative research method to gather data on societal perceptions of technology in policing. This method is most appropriate due to its ability to collect standardized data from a large and diverse sample, allowing for the identification of trends and patterns across different segments of the population.

Surveys are particularly effective for research that seeks to understand public opinion, as they enable researchers to measure attitudes, beliefs, and experiences in a systematic and replicable way (Bryman, 2016). In the context of policing, where public trust, accountability, and transparency are central concerns, understanding the societal perception of technological tools such as body-worn cameras, facial recognition, and predictive policing software is essential.

Using a structured questionnaire ensures consistency across responses, which enhances the reliability and comparability of the data (Creswell, 2018). Moreover, surveys are cost-effective and can be distributed widely, enabling the researcher to reach a broad demographic and increase the generalisability of the findings (Denscombe, 2021).

This is particularly important when exploring perceptions that may vary by age, ethnicity, or geographical location.

Quantitative survey data can also be statistically analysed to test hypotheses and uncover correlations between variables, such as public support for surveillance technologies and perceived police fairness. This aligns with the research objective to assess the broader social implications of technological adoption in law enforcement practices.

In summary, public surveys offer a robust and efficient means to gauge public sentiment on policing technologies, making them the most suitable method for this research.

Task 5

Survey Questions

1. What is your age?

- Under 18
- 18–24
- 25–34
- 35–44
- 45–54
- 55–64
- 65 and over

2. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Prefer to self-describe: _____
- Prefer not to say

3. How confident are you in the police's use of technology (e.g., CCTV, body-worn cameras, facial recognition)?

- a. Very confident
- b. Somewhat confident
- c. Not very confident
- d. Not at all confident
- e. Don't know

4. Do you believe that the use of technology in policing improves public safety?

- a. Strongly agree
- b. Agree
- c. Neither agree nor disagree
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly disagree

5. Which of the following technologies are you aware that UK police currently use?
(Select all that apply)

- a. Body-worn cameras
- b. CCTV surveillance
- c. Facial recognition software
- d. Predictive policing algorithms
- e. Mobile phone data extraction tools
- f. Drones
- g. Other (please specify): _____

6. Do you believe facial recognition technology used by police should be allowed in public spaces?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

7. How concerned are you about privacy when police use surveillance technologies?

- a. Extremely concerned
- b. Somewhat concerned
- c. Neutral
- d. Not very concerned
- e. Not at all concerned

8. Do you believe that police use of technology leads to more accountability?

- a. Yes, definitely
- b. Yes, to some extent
- c. No
- d. Not sure

9. Have you personally had any interaction with police technology (e.g., been recorded by a body cam, seen drones during events, etc.)?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not sure

10. To what extent do you trust the police to use technology fairly and without bias?

- a. Completely
- b. Mostly
- c. A little
- d. Not at all
- e. Don't know

11. In your opinion, who should be responsible for overseeing the ethical use of police technology?

- a. The police themselves
- b. Independent watchdog or regulator
- c. Government body
- d. Public consultation groups
- e. Other (please specify): _____

12. Would you support the increased use of technology in policing in your local area?

- 13. Strongly support
- 14. Support
- 15. Neutral
- 16. Oppose
- 17. Strongly oppose

Evaluation of Chosen Data Analysis Method

For my study, I have chosen statistical analysis as the primary method for analysing the data collected through public surveys. I believe this method is the most suitable because it allows for a clear, structured, and objective way to examine quantitative data. This will allow me to identify trends, spot correlations, and explore variations in how the public views the use of emerging technologies in UK policing. Due to working with a large volume of responses, statistical analysis will help me turn that data into measurable insights that can support evidence-based conclusions (Field, 2018).

The survey mainly consists of closed-ended questions designed to generate numerical data on public perceptions of technologies such as body-worn cameras, facial recognition, and predictive policing tools. Using statistical techniques allows me to organise responses into frequency distributions, cross-tabulations, and summary statistics. This facilitates a clear understanding of how different segments of the population respond to specific aspects of digital policing, such as trust, privacy concerns, or perceived effectiveness.

One of the strengths I found of statistical analysis is that it reduces the potential for researcher bias in interpreting the data. As (Muijs, 2013) explains, using quantitative methods allows researchers to maintain a high level of objectivity, which enhances the credibility and reproducibility of the findings. Using both descriptive and inferential statistics will also help determine whether the patterns in my data are significant or just happened by chance, which will thereby draw clearer and more reliable conclusions.

This analytical method aligns well with the research objectives by allowing for comparisons across various demographic categories. It can highlight whether particular age groups are more in favor of surveillance technologies, or if certain regions express greater concern about data privacy. As noted by (Punch, 2014), statistical analysis facilitates in-depth comparisons and provides insight into how attitudes are distributed across a population.¹

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