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The effect of a young in service police force on their ability to provide a valuable service to victims of crime.

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2125196

Operational policing

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Abstract

This research will focus on establishing whether there is a link between the length of service in which a police officer has and the level of service in which they are able to provide to victims of crime. This will aim to achieve this by researching literary works which have been completed by other authors of a similar nature previously whilst acknowledging their research, and by conducting further research in the form of questionnaires with two targeted groups. The first of these being serving police officers, with a particular focus on younger in service officers. The second being victims of crime themselves. The aim of this research is to identify if there is a correlation between the two groups, and if learning can be applied to develop a better understanding and working relationship between the two groups.

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Introduction

This dissertation will look to examine the relationship between such a young in service police force and its effect if any on the victims of crime. It will achieve this by completing literary reviews of past publications which have researched the relationships between police forces and victims of crime, as well as the communities which police officers serve as a whole.

In completing this research it was noted that there was a substantial amount of research which had already been conducted into the relationships held between police and the public they serve. There appeared to be a significant lack in research in which studies were conducted on a young in service police force in relation to this relationship.

With the introduction of 20,000 new police officers brought in by previous governments, this appeared to be an area in which it was necessary to conduct valid research to see if there was any effects this was having on the relationship with the public and victims of crime, and if there were any improvements or learning which could be achieved from studying this relationship.

This dissertation looks to explore that relationship through both Quantitative and Qualitative data collection. This will be achieved through researching other literary works and surveys which have previously been conducted, and by conducting targeted research with both young in service police officers and victims of crime.

Literature review

As part of my research into my proposed study into the relationship between a relatively young in service police force and victims of crime, I have reviewed other similar works which have already been published in relation to this. In doing this I have discovered numerous pieces of literature which do already explore the relationship between members of the public and their perception of the police.

One such piece of literature is '*Procedural justice in contacts with the police: The perspective of victims of crime*'. This article examines the concept of procedural justice from the perspective of persons who have experience of crime as a victim, and is very relevant to my chosen topic for my dissertation. The main focus of this study emphasises and refers to the fairness of the processes used to resolve disputes, and focuses on the importance of how individuals are treated during this process by the police. The study explores specifically how victims of crime perceived police behaviour during interactions between them and how it affected their overall sense of justice and ultimately their confidence in the police. Both authors argue how victims' evaluations of police actions, including whether police listen to them, treating them respectfully or were explaining their actions, played a significant role in shaping their perceptions of police as well as the justice system as a whole. The study aimed to understand the views of victims, taking into account factors such as ethnicity, socioeconomic status and prior experiences with the police.

In conclusion this research highlighted that procedural justice was not only important to legal outcomes but also in maintaining the trust and co-operation of the public. It found that ensuring fair, respectful, and transparent interactions, police were able to act with greater levels of trust which was found to be essential for future community engagement. There was no specific connection to victims perception of the length of time in which the police officers they dealt with had served however.

Another piece of literature which I reviewed was '*Victims of crime – The dimensions of risk*'. This explored the factors which contributed to an individuals risk of becoming a victim of crime. It focused on identifying and understanding the various dimensions of risk, drawing information from criminological theories and empirical research to discuss how certain characteristics of individuals, as well as their environments and other societal factors influenced their vulnerability to criminal victimization. It examined various risk factors that increased the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime, including characteristics such as age, gender, socioeconomic status and lifestyle choices. Overall it highlighted that the risk of becoming a victim of crime was influenced by a complex combination of personal, social and environmental factors. It highlighted that by understanding these risks, more effective strategies can be developed by police forces to help mitigate victimization and to improve public safety. Whilst this piece of literature was relevant to my proposed dissertation by informing how certain factors can lead to persons becoming victims of crime, it still did not focus on the specific demographics of the police officers who dealt with those crimes.

Further reading into my chosen topic revealed the journal '*Crime-Victim evaluation of police investigative performance*'. This piece of literature explores how crime victims assess the performance of police officers during the investigative process. It delves into the relationship between victims' perceptions of the police and their investigative practices, and victims' overall satisfaction with the criminal justice system. It continues to highlight the importance of these perceptions for maintaining public trust and cooperation.

This piece of literature underscores the importance of considering victims perspectives when evaluating police investigative performances. It concluded that by improving victim satisfaction through fair, transparent and compassionate investigative practices, police forces can enhance public trust, improve cooperation and lead to more effective policing. This literature was extremely helpful with regards to my dissertation, as it does focus highly on the relationship between victims of crime and the police during investigations. Whilst showing that studies have already been done in relation to this, once again it did not specifically focus on the level of service of individual police officers whilst conducting investigations, or how this affected the victims perceptions of the police.

I also read '*A narrative review of the literature on the recruitment of younger police officers in age and in service: What are the Implications for the police in England and Wales?*' This much more recent journal published in 2002 focused specifically on the implications for policing due to a younger in service police force. It examined the trends, challenges and potential benefits of recruiting younger officers, whilst considering factors like their age, experience and length of service. The piece of literature argues that there are both benefits and challenges associated with recruiting younger officers into the police force. It found that while younger recruits bring energy, adaptability and technological fluency, there were also concerns regarding their lack of maturity and experience which would need to be addressed through training and ongoing support. It found that the implications of these recruitment strategies for police effectiveness, community relations and workforce retention were crucial considerations for police forces to take. This literature did focus highly on the effect of a young in age work force. Whilst this is relevant to my dissertation and many new younger in service recruits are in fact younger in age also, it is not the only factor I will be examining and younger in age is not exclusive to many newer officers who have been recruited. The primary focus of my dissertation remained to ascertain if victims of crime associated a younger in service police force with a lack of competent investigative qualities.

Other works of literature which have explored this topic included '*Crime victims' decisions to call the police: past research and new directions*'. This piece of literature provided a comprehensive examination of the factors which influenced victims of crime and their decisions of whether to contact police. It reviewed other existing research on the topic and proposed new avenues for further study to better understand the complex dynamics and reasons behind victims' decisions to contact the police following the commission of a crime. The research conducted suggests that both individual and contextual factors, ranging from personal experiences with police to the nature of the crime committed, played a significant role in shaping victims choices. It ultimately called for more in-depth research to be conducted into these dynamics and offered practical recommendations which may improve a police response for victims of crime, with an aim to enhance reporting rates and an improvement in victim cooperation. Whilst being another relevant piece of literature to mention whilst carrying out my research, it once again emphasised a larger focus on the factors which influence a victim directly to report crimes, with no focus on the actual officers who would investigate that crime and the effect that would have on victims' continued engagement.

As part of my research, I also read '*Understanding victims of crime*'. This critical piece of research focused on the various ways in which crime can affect its victims, as well as the types of support which they needed to help them to recover. The book draws on both theoretical and empirical research to examine the emotional, as well as the psychological and practical consequences of victimization. It emphasises that the impact of crime is multifaceted, with individuals experiencing a wide range of responses dependant on the nature of the crime, their personal circumstances and the social context. It is able to provide a holistic understanding of victimization and advocates for more comprehensive and personalised support systems to victims of crime recover and rebuild their

lives. Whilst this was not originally considered to be a large focus of my dissertation, reading this has helped me to ensure that the focus is still on the victims of crime, despite the primary research being on how length of service of officers affects them. It has assisted in making myself much more aware of the wording used, particularly whilst engaging with persons who have been subjected to criminal actions.

'When are victims unlikely to cooperate with the police?' was another critical piece of research which bears relevance to my chosen topic. This was particularly relevant to my choice of research as it explores the factors that influence whether victims of crime choose to cooperate with police after their experience. It examined the various situational, social and personal variables that can affect either a victims' willingness or their reluctance to engage with police in reporting crimes or providing any type of evidence or participating in an investigation as a whole. As with many others it examined how factors such as age, gender and socioeconomic status can influence the cooperation of a victim. As has been a common theme which has continued through much of my reading on this subject, it was found that a victims willingness to engage was influenced by many of these factors with regards to the victim. It found that there was a need for police to understand these different dynamics when it came to victims of crime, and that police may need to adapt their approach in order to better support and engage victims in the investigative process. Yet again the primary focus was on the demographics of the victims themselves and not on the demographics of the police officers who investigated their crimes.

Finally, another piece of literature which is worth a more in depth analysis is *'Victim willingness to report crime to the police: Does procedural justice or outcome matter most'*. The primary focus of this literature is to examine the factors that influence whether victims choose to report crimes to the police, giving a particular focus to the roles of procedural justice and outcome justice in shaping their decision. The concept of procedural justice refers to how fair and transparent the processes of the criminal justice system are perceived by the victim. The author emphasises that victims are much more likely to report a crime if they believe that the police will treat them fairly, listen to their concerns and involve them in the decision-making.

Outcome justice on the other hand refers to the perceived fairness or desirability of the outcomes that result from reporting a crime. This involves factors such as the likelihood of the offender being apprehended or punished, the effectiveness of the police actions and the perceived benefits of justice achieved from the criminal justice process. The findings of the research suggested that victims of crime preferred procedural justice as it was often deemed to be more influential in encouraging victims to report crimes. Typically, victims would be more likely to report a crime if they feel that the police will treat them fairly and with respect, even if the outcome is uncertain. This relates particularly well to my chosen topic as it is suggestive that the police officer dealing directly with the victim is more of an important factor than the demographic of the victim themselves. It forms a critical part of my research and, despite not focusing on the police officer demographic specifically, is one of the few articles which alludes to the investigating officer being a much larger factor in the relationship and ongoing engagement in which they have with the police.

There were many other considerations which I have cited in the bibliography whilst conducting my research into this topic. In summary it is evident that there is an abundance of research which has already been conducted with a high degree of focus on the demographics of the victims themselves with regards to a police investigation. Whilst conducting my research into reviewing literature which has already been published regarding my chosen topic, I made two key discoveries. The first critical discovery was that much of the work which was related to my chosen topic was published years earlier, and that a more current up to date study was much more difficult to find. The second critical

piece of learning which I have taken away from reviewing other pieces of literature, is that I have yet to find a piece of literature which focuses primarily on the ages and experience of the officers when dealing with victims of crime. There are many articles focused around the victims of crime themselves and how their demographics affect perceptions of police, but there is little to no literature exploring the demographics of the police officers. In this I feel that my work is unique, and as a result the primary focus will be specifically how a younger in service police force is interpreted and evaluated by victims of crime.

Methodology

As part of my research methodology I am seeking to ascertain if there is a direct correlation between a victim of crimes willingness to engage with a police investigation, and the length of service of the investigating officer. As part of this research I am looking to gather results from both current serving police officers, in particular those who are young in service, and members of the public who have been victims of criminal activities.

The aim of this research is to identify if younger in service officers and the coinciding lack of experience in the job role, has any affect on the experience in which victims of crime receive. I have reviewed numerous other pieces of literature as stated in previous chapters in preparation for this, and whilst writing about the relationship between victims of crime and police is plentiful, there is a gap in the specific research regarding any correlation between the length of service of the police officers and serving the victims of crime.

To accomplish this research I have used surveys in the form of questionnaires which I have presented in two different formats. One questionnaire has been sent out to a group of currently serving police officers. Another was sent out to a group of members of the public who have identified themselves as being victims of crime. The reason for choosing this method is to try and get as accurate a representation as possible of how both sides, being the police officers and members of the public, feel about the service in which younger in service officers provide to victims. By analysing both groups of surveys, it may be possible to draw comparisons as to whether there is a gap in beliefs between serving police officers and the communities they serve. By identifying if any such gap in the responses exists, the research is able to potentially identify further methods and ideas in which improvements could be made to the modern day approach to policing.

The reasons for choosing a questionnaire method to collect this data is twofold. On the one part, it is a simplified way to gather data from a larger group of people and compare answers to the same collection of questions thus creating a general consensus of how the participants in the survey feel. The other part is that it assists in keeping the anonymity of the participants, which also has the added side effect of minimising the unconscious bias which may inevitably creep into my analysis of the results.

In analysing the findings, I will be carefully examining the responses given on each questionnaire. First I will see if there are any matching answers on any given questionnaire presented to the same group of people. Following this, for any answers which are the same, I will then analyse if the same answers are repeated throughout the questionnaire which will either show that there is a generalised consensus among that particular group, or if there is a vast differing of opinions. Furthermore, both groups of questionnaires will then be analysed together, as many of the questions will be the same for both groups of people. This will allow for comparisons to be made to identify if there is a gap in the thinking of police officers and victims, on the perception of how crimes are investigated and dealt with by police. By identifying any potential gaps, this could lead to a greater understanding of how police could potentially improve their approach to become more victim lead.

At this stage it would be prudent to consider the limitations and potential problems of the approach which I am broaching. Firstly there is always the possibility that participants in the survey may not be entirely truthful in their answers, which could affect the overall authenticity of the results. Secondly

although every care has been taken to target the relevant audiences for this research, there may be some participants who neither fall into the category of a younger in service police officer, nor a victim of crime. As such, these results could be disregarded in terms of this research but they will still need to form a part of the research as a whole. Finally in preparing this questionnaire approach, although attempts are made to gather a group from as variable a background as possible, ultimately the majority of the participants are likely to be working or residing in the South Wales and Gwent policing areas, so it may not be representative of the policing situation across England and Wales entirely.

Overall this research aims to be as fair and unbiased as possible, but it would be foolish not to acknowledge the potential pitfalls and limitations which are placed on it. Whilst attempting to get as large a response as possible with the targeted groups, there is no guarantee that all participants will actually complete the questionnaire. This is unfortunately another factor which may hinder the full analysis of results, but hopefully there will be enough results to show some pattern of behaviour and thought which can form a general consensus of how both victims of crime and those tasked with serving those victims, feel about this issue faced by modern day policing.

Analysis of results

Following the completion of my research providing questionnaires to both serving police officers and members of the public who identified as being victims of crime, I have been able to analyse the results as follows.

Firstly on looking at both questionnaires it must be acknowledged that participation was much higher from serving police officers than it was from victims of crime. This will unfortunately make it more difficult to compare the results as opposed to a situation whereby there were an equal number of participants for each questionnaire. Two of the participants in relation to the questionnaire for victims of crime also stated initially that they had not previously been the subject of any victimization in terms of criminal activity. As a result these two participants were not asked any further questions and are not included in the overall data gathered.

From reviewing the responses from serving police officers first, it is clear to see that whilst there is a generally held consensus on many of the questions, opinion is also quite divided amongst professionals who are completing the same profession. Of the thirty two participants, twenty three stated that they had less than 3 years of service within the police. And of the remaining nine participants, only one had served over 10 years with eight serving between three and five years. This critically demonstrates that I have acquired my target audience for this questionnaire, as I was specifically targeting younger in service officers for my research.

There is also a particularly large participation from officers identifying as working on response policing, which is a very public facing and victim engaging set of officers. This further demonstrates the relevance of this questionnaire in relation to the opinions of the service provided to victims of crime. There was as can be expected from this an overwhelming response in favour of officers stating that they have frequent contact with victims of crime. In relation to the level of service in which the police participants felt that they themselves provided to victims of crime, the vast majority of participants being 21 believed that they had provided a good or brilliant level of service towards victims of crime. Interestingly in contrast however, when asked how they felt about public opinion of their response, there was an overwhelming statement of support suggesting that the victims would be indifferent to the level of service which was provided to them.

In terms of the overall question in which this research was established to discover, twenty of the thirty two serving police officer participants stated that they believed that length of service did have an affect on the level of service which was provided to victims of crime. Twenty one of the participants also felt that a greater length of service would improve the level of service provided to victims of crime. Whilst not an overwhelming victory, it is a minor indication that police officers do feel that more experience within their role directly translates to a better service provided to their communities.

On analysing the results of the questionnaires completed by victims of crime, it was quite a varied response but all reported that they had been victims of crimes reported to the police within the last 5 years. Whilst five of the participants did state they were unsure of the length of service of the officer handling their case, it appears that seven of the participants perceived their officers to be less than two years into their service.

Overall opinion of the level of service that victims received was very mixed, with six rating the performance of the officers in their case good or brilliant and seven rating the performance of their

officers as bad or awful. In contrast when analysing how victims of crime felt that serving police officers would rate the level of service which was provided to them, the majority felt that police officers would not form any opinion with regards to the service they had provided with seven participants suggesting this. Six of the victims of crime felt that officers would feel that they performed very well whilst only one of the participants felt that the police officer would feel pretty bad about the level of service which they provided. This shows that victims of crime are aware that police officers are capable of showing pride in their work and are also aware that police may employ reflective practices in their approach to dealing with incidents.

The general opinion of victims of crime appears to be from this questionnaire that the length of service of the officer handling their incident does have a large affect on the officers ability to deal with them. This is indicated by eleven of the fourteen participants stating they believed that the length of service of the officer had a direct effect on the level of service provided to them, with only three of the participants believing that length of service of the officer played no part at all in the levels of service offered to them.

Once again the majority of the participants in the victims questionnaire also believed that if a police officer was more experienced in their role, then they would be better placed to be able to provide an improved level of service to them. This is shown by eight of the participants stating that they agree or strongly agree with this, whilst only three of the participants stated that they disagreed that a longer length of service would result in an improved response towards their needs.

Finally it was a very mixed response to the final question which asked victims of crime how likely they would be to report a further crime to police based on their experience. This was demonstrated by five of the participants stating that they would be either likely or very likely to engage with police again following their experience, with three stating that they would be unlikely or very unlikely to further engage with police. There was a larger response of six of the participants who were neither likely or unlikely to consider their experience when it came to making further reports to police.

Conclusion and recommendation

In conclusion and on comparing both sets of questionnaires, it demonstrates a very mixed view from two different perspectives. Whilst it must be acknowledged that there was a larger response to the questionnaires from serving police officers, the findings are still indicative of possible trends which can be observed.

Based on the police responses it is evident that the majority of participants were less than five years in their service, and this is also reflected in the beliefs of the victims of crime who many stated that they believed the police officers to be less than 5 years length of service. There was however a disconnect as a much larger proportion of victims of crime answered that they did not know the length of service or the department with which the officers worked within.

There is a stark contrast between the perceived levels of service and perceptions of the other side of the questionnaire with both groups. Whilst serving police officers felt that they were performing well with victims of crime, the opposite would be suggested to be true based on these limited findings when it comes to victim opinion. Likewise police officers have demonstrated within this questionnaire that their perception of victims of crimes reaction to the level of service they received was indifferent. On the counter argument, the perception that victims of crime have of police officers feelings towards how they handled their crime was that it was a positive. This actually correlates with the feedback provided by serving officers. This is actually suggestive that members of the public may have more of a realistic grasp of the feelings of police officers, than police officers themselves actually have of the members of the public.

Overall opinion of the level of service that victims received was very mixed, with six rating the performance of the officers in their case good or brilliant and seven rating the performance of their officers as bad or awful. This is a stark contrast to the questionnaire completed by police officers, in which they themselves believed that they provided an overall good experience to victims of crime. This highlights a significant gap in the general feelings of serving police officers and the communities they serve. Whilst many police believed that the public were ambivalent in their opinion, it is actually much more mixed with the victims holding much more of an opinion than officers believe one way or the other.

This is suggestive that there is a large divide in the perceptions shown by victims of crime and by police officers. As a result, this divide could be indicative of improvements which need to be made by police forces in their response to the public. It shows that police officers are potentially out of touch with the actual opinions of the communities that they serve. The general consensus from this research suggests police officers do not feel that the public forms much of an opinion of police following being victims of crime, however the research would suggest that the opposite is true and that victims of crime are in fact very opinionated when it comes to the level of service they receive. This gap in understanding has the potential to lead to a worst service being provided to victims of crime due to a potential nonchalant attitude displayed by young in service police officers.

One comparison which can be drawn from this research however is that both victims of crime and serving young in service police officers, generally both feel that the length of service does play a critical role in the level of service which is provided to victims. It is through this understanding that the police service is able to be aware and more in touch with the communities they serve. Ultimately this is suggestive that the police service does recognise that a younger in service police force does

come with certain hurdles to overcome in terms of the service that is provided to victims of crime, and demonstrates that further training for police to improve their communication with victims of crime may be well received and welcomed by both police officers and victims of crime alike.

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8,000 word project:

NAME: Gareth Morris	STUDENT ID No.: 2125196
DRAFT RESEARCH TITLE QUESTION: What is the effect of a young in service police work force on the relationship with victims of crime?	
INTRODUCTION: I have chosen this topic as a main reason that I got into policing myself is to make a difference to the communities in which policing serves, and in particular the level of service which is provided to members of the public. I believe it is worthy of consideration for an undergraduate dissertation as there is an especially large number of younger in service officers currently serving within police forces in England and Wales, particularly since the uplift programme which has run in recent years to recruit 20,000 new police officers. In preparation for this research I have read numerous articles and journals which I have located. Whilst there does appear to be a large amount of research on the relationships between victims of crime and police officers, I have noted that research appears to be very limited in terms of determining if there is a correlation between the service provided to victims of crime, and the length of service of the police officers who serve these communities.	
SUMMARY OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES: As part of my chosen research topic I am seeking to collect information firstly on the level of service which victims of crime feel that they have received from police officers handling their cases I recent years. Secondly my objective is to see if police officers, with a particular emphasis on young in service officers, feel that they are giving a good level of service to victims of crime themselves. Thirdly I will look to draw comparisons between the two groups opinions, and also to identify any drastic	

differences of opinion between the two groups. Through completing this research it may be possible to identify gaps in the level of service perceived to be offered and the level which is actually offered, therefore suggesting potential options which may aid in improving efficiency and the overall service provided to victims of crime. I will be seeking to achieve the answers to this research primarily through my own research in the form of two sets of questionnaires. One set for serving young in service police officers, and another for persons who have been subjected as victims of crime particularly in recent years with the perspective of far more younger in service officers being readily available.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

In considering this research I have considered many sources of literature. This includes articles and journals which are found online, as well as certain websites which deal specifically in facts such as reputable news sites and government sites for statistics. I will also be utilising the available library from the university's selection of books and literature to identify and inform my research as it develops. Through my brief research thus far I believe that I have already identified a specific gap in research. Whilst I have been able to locate many different pieces of literature which focus on the relationship between the police and the communities they serve; I have also through my brief research thus far identified that there does appear to be a gap in which no person has studied the relationship between newer younger in service police officers and the impact this lack of experience may potentially have on victims of crime. Some worthy mentions so far in my research are '*victims of crime, the dimensions of risk*' which focuses on factors which contribute to a certain individuals risk of becoming a victim of crime. Another note worthy piece of literature I have so far discovered on this topic and will be utilised to inform my research is '*Understanding victims of crime*' which focuses on how criminal activity affects victims.

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH –SURVEY METHOD:

I propose utilising the research method of questionnaires. I believe that in utilising this method, I will be able to collate a larger amount of data from a targeted group of people and critically analyse the data. This will enable me to discuss the results in my findings and assess if there are any gaps or general trends in the levels of service perceived by participants in the questionnaires. It will allow me to critically analyse the data in the form of a spreadsheet and outline any potential improvements to the level of service which can be provided by police.

SUMMARY OF SAMPLING FRAMEWORK:

My target sample for this research will be both serving members of the police with a particular focus on younger in service police officers, as well as members of the public who have been victims of crime. I will be seeking the perspectives of police who should be able to offer a more expert and professional opinion on the issues. The members of the public questionnaires will enable me to gauge a potentially more accurate view of the real opinions harboured towards current police officers.

ETHICAL ISSUES:

There is the ethical issue to consider that conducting my research in this way will be reasonably targeted towards specific groups of people. As such, whilst every effort will be made to maintain the anonymity of each participant in the survey, there is a risk that some individuals may be identified through the completion of certain questions. It will be important for myself to design the questions so that they allow for a variance which may not identify specific individuals whilst also maintaining as accurate and pin pointed data as possible to achieve.

TIME SCALE:

In considering the timescale for completing this research I propose completing it in segments over the course of a 12 month period. By breaking it up into segments such as the literature review and preparation for the questionnaire as well as giving an extended length of time to receive responses and analyse results, I will be able to adapt my dissertation as information becomes available to digest.

APPLICATION FOR ETHICAL APPROVAL

RESEARCH STUDENTS

This form is to be completed by the student within **SIX** months for full-time students and **TWELVE** months for part time students, after the commencement of the research degree or following progression to Part Two of your course.

Once complete, submit this form via the ***MyTSD Doctoral College Portal*** at (<https://mytsd.uwtsd.ac.uk>).

This document is also available in Welsh.

RESEARCH 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.

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.

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:	Gareth Morris			
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:	Policing studies
4	Campus:	Swansea
5	E-mail address:	2125196@student.uwtsd.ac.uk
6	Contact Telephone Number:	07446976402
For students:		
7	Student Number:	2125196
8	Programme of Study:	Operational policing
9	Director of Studies/Supervisor:	Jane Davies

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 (write in)		☐			

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	<i>[List any other relevant documents here]</i>	☐

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 has 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).	

SECTION E: Details of Research Activity

1	Indicative title:	Effects of a young in service police work force on the relationship with victims of crime
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2	Proposed start date:	17/03/24	Proposed end date:	30/12/24
	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 <u>Existing Research</u> 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 the research activity is to identify factors which may assist in the greater understanding of the role of a police constable and the importance of the relationship between the police and victims of crime. (this box should expand as you type)			
4	Research Question What are the effects of having such a primarily young in service police force on the relationship with victims of crime, and does this affect their willingness to report crime and engage with police services? (this box should expand as you type)			
5	Aims of Research Activity The aim of my research activity is to ascertain if there is a direct link between the length of service under which a police officer has served, and the effect this has if any on the response which victims of crime give to police. It aims to identify if there are any improvements which can be made through learning the opinions of victims of crime as well as serving police officers. (this box should expand as you type)			
6	Objectives of Research Activity			

	Through critical analysis of the answers which are provided by participants, it will allow me to demonstrate how the public and serving police officers perception of the relationship between newly appointed police officers and victims of crime is effected, as well as identifying any improvements which may be made to allow potential for a better service to be provided to victims of crime. (this box should expand as you type)
	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	I will be conducting research into what has been documented by others in past research, and identifying what has not been explored in as much depth. I will use methods such as accessing online journals and articles as well as utilizing the library for any other books or literature which may assist in this. I will be utilising questionnaires which will provide valuable targeted research into my chosen subject, so that a more direct working hypothesis may be obtained. (this box should expand as you type)
	Location of research activity Identify all locations where research activity will take place.
8	Online – surveys sent out to serving police officers via internal networks within the police service. In public streets – Digital survey to be completed with willing participating members of the public. (this box should expand as you type)
	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	N/A <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>

10	Use of documentation not in the public domain: Are any documents <u>NOT</u> 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. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		

	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:		
	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		

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)		

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?	30+ (this box should expand as you type)
11	Who will the participants be?	Serving police officers and members of the public who have engaged with police services as victims of crime (this box should expand as you type)
12	How will you identify the participants?	The first questions on a questionnaire will identify which category they fall into. Any other personal identifiable information will not be obtained. (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	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Full risk assessment completed and appended?</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>No</td> <td>☒</td> </tr> </table>	Full risk assessment completed and appended?	Yes	☐		No	☒
Full risk assessment completed and appended?	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: Risk of sensitive information being disclosed through questions. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i> </td> <td> <i>How you will mitigate the risk to participants:</i> All questionnaires will be completed digitally with no requirement to enter personal details. All answers will be strictly for research purposes and will not serve any purpose such as identifying any individuals in any way, other than </td> </tr> </table>	Risk to participants: Risk of sensitive information being disclosed through questions. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	<i>How you will mitigate the risk to participants:</i> All questionnaires will be completed digitally with no requirement to enter personal details. All answers will be strictly for research purposes and will not serve any purpose such as identifying any individuals in any way, other than				
Risk to participants: Risk of sensitive information being disclosed through questions. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	<i>How you will mitigate the risk to participants:</i> All questionnaires will be completed digitally with no requirement to enter personal details. All answers will be strictly for research purposes and will not serve any purpose such as identifying any individuals in any way, other than						

		identifying which category they fall into e.g. member of the public or serving police officer. <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: Potential conflict of interest due to ongoing role as a serving police officer. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	<i>How you will mitigate the risk to the investigator:</i> All potential bias will be acknowledged within the body of the dissertation. Despite this all research will be reviewed and presented in a fair and unbiased manner, acknowledging some information which may show a negative factor regarding the police service. <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: Adverse publicity <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	<i>How you will mitigate the risk to the University:</i> It will be made clear that although the surveys and research is conducted as part of the university assignment, all formed opinions and findings from research are directly connected to myself and do not necessarily represent the views of the university.

		(this box should expand as you type)
6	Environmental risks For example: accidental spillage of pollutants, damage to local ecosystems	
	Risk to the environment: N/A (this box should expand as you type)	How you will mitigate the risk to environment: (this box should expand as you type)

	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? Participants will be provided digitally with all information relating to the purpose of the research and assuring them that no personal information which could identify them will be retained prior to them completing a survey. Information on how they can get in touch with myself should they have any queries after completing the survey will be provided and be transparent. (this box should expand as you type)
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.

	A consent form will be available to be signed prior to completing any survey. This will list details of the purpose of the research and assurances that no identifiable personal information will be sought. <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.
	All forms will be posted in a forum or with a selected group of people digitally. I will have access to the completed forms, but will not have any way of knowing who has completed each form. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>

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	<i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
	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,	☐	X

	(h) biometric data (as used for ID purposes),		
	If YES, provide a description of the special category data and explain why this data needs to be collected:		
4	 <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		

	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:		
	Laptop used is encrypted with password protection and is secured by the police organisation. All information collected will be stored within a file only accessible by the laptop used by myself. Microsoft forms will be used to complete surveys which has it's own data storage protection. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		

	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):		
	Forms will be sent electronically within a larger group of people. I am not expecting full participation from the selected groups, and there will be no questions which can identify from whom the information provided has come from. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
22	List all who will have access to the data generated by the research activity:		
	Myself and university personnel directly related to the research proposal. <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:		
	Myself <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.		
	Data will be stored in a drive contained within my personal allocated work laptop. This will only be accessible by me and not shared via any cloud sharing drive. The laptop is password protected and encrypted so that only myself is able to access it. Data will be retained until the completion of my research and until a final grade is awarded. After this time it will be deleted. <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>		
	N/A <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	☒

