

Research Proposal

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Professional Policing

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<https://mm.tt/map/3688493421?t=DezbmrkCMt>



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DRAFT RESEARCH TITLE QUESTION:

Why this topic? Why is it worthy of consideration for an undergraduate dissertation?
400

How forensics has developed and how it could be used in the future.

The reason that the topic of forensics got chosen, was due to the fact of how much interest it brings, but also how informationally rich it is. Forensics has also been around for many years, so it's a great way to incorporate history into the dissertation. Forensics has also played a crucial role in solving crimes that would otherwise most likely not have been solved. For example, in reviewing cold cases that eventually got solved due to the advancement in forensics. It can also allow police to see how a situation occurred and even help form a type of pattern recognition, for instance, according to Forensic Access (2024) the way blood splatters can allow the forensic specialist to piece together on how the situation might have taken place. The world is also starting to get more technologically advanced, especially with use of AI, which means there is potential to further develop forensics within this field. There is no doubt on how important forensics is and how much of a crucial role it plays in bringing people to justice, one being the murder of Mary McLaughlin, after being a 35 year cold case, the development of forensic helped solve the case "previously experts could look at 11 individual DNA markers but the latest technology was capable to identify 24" *BBC, 2021*.

Forensics is also always a good read to a lot of people due to natural human curiosity, especially when it comes to mysteries "evolutionary experts say we're drawn to these tales because murder, rape and theft have played a significant part in human society since our hunter-gatherer days, we instinctively want to know the 'who', 'what', 'when' and 'where' *BBC Science Focus, 2020*

Why it is important? Forensics is an important topic to talk about due to the fact of how deep rooted it is in our society, possibly without people even realising, and how far back forensics actually goes in history.

This topic is also relevant because forensics has an impact on society in many ways. For instance, like ensuring the safety of the public through positively identifying suspects that have committed crimes, that ultimately can help towards them land in jail, keeping them away from the public. Even though the world is constantly developing, new ways to commit crimes are being invented, forensics has always been there to find the truth. It's also a great way to bring in the possible negatives of forensics to introduce further thought into the subject, for example one negative can be that

according to London.Gov, even evidence submitted as urgent takes 36 hours for results to come back, the longest 21 days, and that is just for fingerprints, for digital evidence it can take 237 days.

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH AIM & OBJECTIVES:

The assessment specification has broken down the structure of the dissertation or placement-based project. Here, you are required to clarify the information you want to collect on your research topic in the form of two, three or four key objectives: 400

Explain forensic science and its different branches.

This aim is to fully explain what forensic science is, and its different branches that specialise in specific areas that other branches of forensics cannot. This will allow readers to fully understand the topic at hand, so it assures that when certain titles or words come up, it does not lose its meaning due to it not being understood. It's also human nature to be drawn to topics like forensics because naturally humans want to know the when where, who and how and forensics shows all those answers. This will also allow to bring in the history of forensics and how it's helped change policing in many ways. This will be done through gathering information through websites like official policing websites, BBC science or similar websites. It will be assured that these websites will be trustworthy and are not websites like Wikipedia where anyone and everyone can edit the information.

The reliability of forensics and why its irreplaceable.

It is no doubt that forensics is extremely important, especially in the modern world where crimes are getting more and more complex. The aim of this is to demonstrate how forensics is truly unparalleled in its importance to confirming suspicions the police have, but also could be the difference to a guilty verdict. To show how forensics is irreplaceable, real-life cases that went previously unsolved will be used as examples but also professional standpoints that explain how forensics help land people in jail, that otherwise without forensics would not be in jail.

The potential issues with forensics.

Forensics as a whole is a very positive thing that has happened with bringing people to justice, but there is no doubt some potential issues. These issues would be instances like pinning the wrong person to a crime and sending them to jail. There have been

cases where this exact thing has happened, and the further development of forensics helped prove their innocence a couple of years into the innocent's prison sentence. One case being the “Cinderella murder” case where Michael Shirely was wrongfully convicted in 1986 due to wrongful DNA evidence, he was later found innocent in 2003 due to new DNA evidence that proved he was not the murderer. This aim will allow a more balanced view of forensics, as it is not completely seeing the positives it brings, and sometimes when forensics is talked about, the implications it can pose are rarely discussed. This will be shown through using cases where forensics has wrongly placed a person in jail but also bringing in how forensics has been underfunded in the past through official government journals that have been posted online to view.

How forensics can develop in the future.

The world is forever changing and developing and with that, everything else must develop with it- this includes forensics. There’s already AI analysis being used in a multitude of things, forensics being one and them, and it would be a good title to bring up arguments and find potential pros and cons of the use of AI in forensics.

To show that forensics is being used, it will be useful to use websites like the Police Foundation, as they are British based and discuss the topic of AI in policing. This will be relevant as it can be related back to AI being used in forensics, and this will be shown through journals, books and websites that are all trustworthy.

THEORETICAL CONTEXT:

Please clarify some of the key literature to be utilised as part of your research. Consider textbooks, journals, articles, government reports, organisational strategic plans, and list a short bibliography of these key sources. This need not be extensive but will give your supervisor a good point to start from. 230

Blackstone’s Handbook for policing students 2023.

According to Blackstone’s Handbook for policing students 2023, “IDENT1 contain more that 8.45 million individuals tenprints. If an arrested suspects tenprints are already in the IDENT1 system, then their identity can be verified in 10 minuets”. This can be a great point to find arguments about, for example, a person who committed a low-level offence when they were 18, and their prints are still in the system 6 years later, even though that 18-year-old hasn't committed a crime since, some people may find this unethical .

The Police foundation.

According to the Police Foundation (2025) police are currently using AI “To perform repetitive office tasks of a human worker, such as extracting data, filling in forms,

moving files and more”. This is to show that AI is already being used in policing and will open up the discussion of using AI in forensics, and what positive effects and negative affects it can have when it comes to forensic research.

House of Lords

According to the House of Lords (2019), there has been some serious oversights when it came to forensic science from the Home Office and from the Ministry of Justice. It was further stated that the House of Lords recommend that they switch forensic strategy. This was due to the department being under immense pressure, from the amount of forensic evidence needing to be decoded as well as not having enough money flowing in to support the research. For this reason, service may be slow and not as pristine as what it could be and this could lead to even bigger problems down the line, the dissertation will explore this and use it as a talking point.

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH –SURVEY METHOD:

Summary of qualitative or quantitative methods, and survey techniques being considered. 230

When it comes to the survey, some questions will be open ended and would require explanation to allow the participants to fully write down their opinions. The questions will not be misleading and will not use confusing wording to fully assure the participants fully understand and give the answers they want to give. It will also be stated that they will be anonymous, and that the survey is for research purposes only and to only be used in the dissertation and nothing else. These methods will allow the participants to be as honest and as descriptive as possible, making the quality of the findings much better than what they would be if it was a simple multiple-choice survey. The reasoning behind using a survey as one of the research methods is because it allows specific questions to be answered that other sources may not have, but it also allows a wide range of data to be collected in an efficient and easy way, and the results will be the opinion or experience of others.

Research will also be done through using news articles, this will be for bringing in cases to help support points being made, for instance, how forensics can put an innocent person in jail, for example, as stated previously, the ‘Cinderella Murder’. It will be made sure that these news websites will be as reliable and as non-biased as possible. Research will also be conducted through books and journals using libraries, this will bring peace of mind, as it is literature that has been carefully reviewed and published, meaning it could be more trustworthy than certain online sources that can easily be altered.

SUMMARY OF SAMPLING FRAMEWORK:

Provide details of target sample. For example, who are you intending to ask to participate in your research, will you be seeking perspectives from experts who work in a given field, or will you be using a general questionnaire to gauge perspectives from members of the public? 230

It would be beneficial to gain the opinions of those who work in the service, as they have the insider knowledge and the personal experience when it comes to working with forensics, that the general public would not have. It may also be beneficial though to include the general public to see if their opinions would be different to those who are in the service, this can allow different talking points and hypothesis as to why there may be differences in opinion. Due to the intention of using both opinions, the survey will not be worded in a way that the public would normally not understand, and to gain full opinion the participants will need to type out their answers rather than tick a box- this will allow to see their perspective and possibly why their opinions may differentiate.

INITIAL REFERENCE LIST:

Please follow the Harvard referencing system

BBC News, (2021), *Mary McLaughlin murder: Killer jailed after DNA solves 35-year mystery*, Available at: [Mary McLaughlin murder: Killer jailed after DNA solves 35-year mystery - BBC News](#) (accessed on 09/04/2025).

BBC Science Focus, (2020), *Why are we so obsessed with true crime?* Available at: [Why are we so obsessed with true crime? - BBC Science Focus Magazine](#) (accessed on 09/04/2025).

Birmingham Live, (2012), *Crimes From The Archives: Michael Shirley wrongly jailed for 'Cinderella murder'* Available at: [Crimes From The](#)

[Archives: Michael Shirley wrongly jailed for 'Cinderella murder' - Birmingham Live](#) (accessed on 14/04/2025)

College of Policing (2022), *Forensics*, Available at: [Forensics | College of Policing](#) (Accessed on 13/04/2025).

Forensic Access (2024), *The intricacies of blood pattern analysis*, Available at: [The Intricacies of Blood Pattern Analysis - Forensic Access](#) (accessed on 07/04/2025).

HistoryPlex (2021), *History of Forensic Science: From Ancient Egypt to the Modern Courts*, Available at: [History of Forensic Science: From Ancient Egypt to the Modern Courts](#) (Accessed on 10/04/2025).

House of Lords (2019), *Forensic science and the criminal justice system: A blueprint for change*, Available at: [Forensic science and the criminal justice system: a blueprint for change](#) (accessed on 07/04/2025).

London Assembly, (2022), *Forensic wait times*, Available at: [Forensic wait times](#) (accessed on 10/04/2025).

SmartSurvey (2024), *Why Are Surveys Good For Research?*, Available at: [Why Are Surveys Good For Research? - SmartSurvey](#) (Accessed on 17/04/2025).

The Independent (2024), *AI could be used to solve Britain's most notorious cold cases, police chief says*, Available at: [AI could be used to solve Britain's most notorious cold cases, police chief says | The Independent](#) (accessed on 12/04/2025).

The Open University (2024), *Comparing academic sources: Postgraduate study skills*, Available at: [Comparing academic sources: Postgraduate study skills | Help Centre | The Open University](#) (accessed on 23/04/2025).

The Police Foundation (2025), *Policing and artificial intelligence*, Available at: [Policing and artificial intelligence - The Police Foundation](#) (Accessed on 10/04/2025).

The Police Foundation (2025), *Policing and artificial intelligence*, Available at: [policing-and-ai.pdf.pdf](#) (accessed on 10/04/2025).

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)

	Full Name:	Cerys Rebecca George			
	Tick all boxes that apply:	Member of staff:		Honorary research fellow:	☐

	Undergraduate Student	☒	Taught Postgraduate Student		Postgraduate Research Student	☐
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	Institute/Academic Discipline/Centre:	University of Wales Trinity Saint David IMH Institute of management and health
	Campus:	Swansea Business Campus
	E-mail address:	2305881@student.uwtsd.ac.uk
	Contact Telephone Number:	07884 961507
	For students:	
	Student Number:	2305881
	Programme of Study:	Professional Policing
	Director of Studies/Supervisor:	Mike Durke

SECTION B: Approval for Research Activity

	Has the research activity received approval in principle? (please check the Guidance Notes as to the appropriate approval process for different levels of	YES	x	NO	
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	research by different categories of individual)				
					Date
	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) Mike Durke		x ☐	10/04 /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.	
	UWTSD Research Ethics & Integrity Code of Practice	x
	UWTSD Research Data Management Policy	x
	<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.

	Institution	
	Contact person name	

	Contact person e-mail address				
	Is your research externally funded?	YES		NO	
	Are you in receipt of a KESS scholarship?	YES		NO	☐
	Are you specifically employed to undertake this research in either a paid or voluntary capacity?	YES		NO	
		YES		NO	

	Is the research being undertaken within an existing UWTSD Athrofa Professional Learning Partnership (APLP)?			
		YES		NO

	Has permission to undertake the research has been provided by the partner organisation?		YES	NO	

[illegible]

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

	Does this organisation have its own ethics approval system?				
	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

	Indicative title:	<u>How forensics has developed and how it could be used in the future.</u>		
	Proposed start date:	September 2025	Proposed end date:	May 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 <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>			
	Purpose of Research Activity The purpose of the research activity is because forensics is crucial and is the main backbone in helping solve cases, and to aid the police in bringing criminals to justice. It is no doubt that forensics is an irreplaceable science, and it deserves to be praised, but there are still problems in the background that are less talked about and need to be brought to light. The dissertation will look at both positives and negatives of forensics, how it has developed, how it can further develop with the emergence and the evolving use of AI and whether forensics should adopt AI or keep the methods being used now.			

	(this box should expand as you type)
	Research Question <u>How forensics has developed and how it could be used in the future.</u> (this box should expand as you type)
	Aims of Research Activity <u>Explain forensic science and its different branches.</u> This aim is to fully explain what forensic science is and its different branches that specialise in specific areas that other branches of forensics cannot. This will allow readers to fully understand the topic at hand, so it assures that when certain titles or words come up, it does not lose its meaning due to it not being understood. It's also human nature to be drawn to topics like forensics because naturally humans want to know the when where, who and how and forensics shows all those answers. This will also allow to bring in the history of forensics and how it's helped change policing in many ways. <u>The reliability of forensics and why its irreplaceable.</u> It is no doubt that forensics is extremely important, especially in the modern world where crimes are getting more and more complex. The aim of this is to demonstrate how forensics is truly unparalleled in its importance to confirming suspicions the police have but also could be the difference to a guilty verdict. <u>The potential issues with forensics.</u> Forensics as a whole is a very positive thing that has happened with bringing people to justice, but there is no doubt some potential issues. These issues would be instances like pinning the wrong person to a crime and sending them to jail. There have been cases where this exact thing has happened, and the further development of forensics helped prove their innocence a couple of years into the innocent's prison sentence. One case being the "Cinderella murder" case where Michael Shirely was wrongfully convicted in 1986 due to wrongful DNA evidence, he was later found innocent in 2003 due to new DNA evidence that proved he was not the murderer. This aim will allow a more balanced view of forensics as it is not

	completely seeing the positives it brings, and sometimes, when forensics is talked about the implications it can pose are rarely discussed. <u>How forensics can develop in the future.</u> The world is forever changing and developing and with that, everything else must develop with it- this includes forensics. Theres already AI analysis being used in a multitude of things, forensics being one and them, and it would be a good title to bring up arguments and find potential pros and cons of the use of AI in Forensics. (this box should expand as you type)
	Objectives of Research Activity To assure that all the aims will be met, the sources being used will be trustworthy and backed up by well supported evidence. A range of research methods shall be used like, websites, books, journals and possibly videos. (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.
	The methods to be used for research for the dissertation will be the survey, finding articles online, and books/ journals. It will be assured that where the research is from is by a reliable source and websites like Wikipedia will not be used as that domain can get edited by anyone and the information can go unverified, whilst other sources will be verified. (this box should expand as you type)
	Location of research activity

	Identify all locations where research activity will take place.
	The location of the research will be the UK, as the survey will be accessible online but only to those in the UK. Domains being used will be British and for books, university and local libraries will be utilised. (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.
	N/A (this box should expand as you type)

	Use of documentation not in the public domain: Are any documents NOT publicly available?	NO	☒
		YES	☐
	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. N/A (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
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	A prosperous Wales		x
	A resilient Wales		x
	A healthier Wales		x
	A more equal Wales		x
	A Wales of cohesive communities		x
	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language		x
	A globally responsible Wales		x
	If YES to any of the above, please give details:		
	N/A (this box should expand as you type)		

SECTION F: Scope of Research Activity

	Will the research activity include:	YES	NO
	Use of a questionnaire or similar research instrument?	x	
	Use of interviews?		x
	Use of focus groups?		x
	Use of participant diaries?		x
	Use of video or audio recording?		x
	Use of computer-generated log files?		x
	Participant observation with their knowledge?		x
	Participant observation without their knowledge?		x
	Access to personal or confidential information without the participants' specific consent?		x

	Administration of any questions, test stimuli, presentation that may be experienced as physically, mentally or emotionally harmful / offensive?		x
	Performance of any acts which may cause embarrassment or affect self-esteem?		x
	Investigation of participants involved in illegal activities?		x
	Use of procedures that involve deception?		x
	Administration of any substance, agent or placebo?		x
	Working with live vertebrate animals?		x
	Procedures that may have a negative impact on the environment?		x
	Other primary data collection methods. Please indicate the type of data collection method(s) below.		x
	Details of any other primary data collection method: N/A (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
	Students or staff at the University?		x
	Adults (over the age of 18 and competent to give consent)?	x	

	Vulnerable adults?		x
	Children and Young People under the age of 18? (Consent from Parent, Carer or Guardian will be required)		x
	Prisoners?		x
	Young offenders?		x
	Those who could be considered to have a particularly dependent relationship with the investigator or a gatekeeper?		x
	People engaged in illegal activities?		x
	Others. Please indicate the participants below, and specifically any group who may be unable to give consent.		x
	Details of any other participant groups: N/A (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?	
	How many participants are expected?	At least 50 would be beneficial <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
	Who will the participants be?	Members of the police service and those who do forensics and the general public. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
	How will you identify the participants?	Questions on the survey will ask whether they are in the group of law enforcement or not. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>

	Information for participants:	YES	NO	N/A
	Will you describe the main research procedures to participants in advance, so that they are informed about what to expect?	x		
	Will you tell participants that their participation is voluntary?	x		
	Will you obtain written consent for participation?			x
	Will you explain to participants that refusal to participate in the research will not affect their treatment or education (if relevant)?			x
	If the research is observational, will you ask participants for their consent to being observed?			x
	Will you tell participants that they may withdraw from the research at any time and for any reason?			x
	With questionnaires, will you give participants the option of omitting questions they do not want to answer?			x
	Will you tell participants that their data will be treated with full confidentiality and that, if published, it will not be identifiable as theirs?	x		
	Will you debrief participants at the end of their participation, in a way appropriate to the type of research undertaken?			x
	If NO to any of above questions, please give an explanation			
	(this box should expand as you type)			

	Information for participants:	YES	NO	N/A
	Will participants be paid?		x	

	Is specialist electrical or other equipment to be used with participants?		x	
	Are there any financial or other interests to the investigator or University arising from this study?		x	
	Will the research activity involve deliberately misleading participants in any way, or the partial or full concealment of the specific study aims?		x	
	If YES to any question, please provide full details			
	N/A <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.		
	Full risk assessment completed and appended?	Yes	x
		No	☐
	Risks to participants For example: sector-specific health & safety, emotional distress, financial disclosure, physical harm, transfer of personal data, sensitive organisational information		
	Risk to participants: There should be no risks as the participants do not need to include their personal data like names and email addresses to	<i>How you will mitigate the risk to participants:</i> It will be made sure that there will be no need to include personal data like	

	answer the survey and there will be no questions that can lead to the exposure of a participant's identity. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	names and emails need to be included to answer the survey and there will be no questions that can reveal a person's identity. The participants will also be made aware that the survey is being used for a dissertation, but their personal data cannot be leaked as it is not included. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
	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	
	N/A <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	
	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: No risks. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	<i>How you will mitigate the risk to the investigator:</i> N/A <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
	University/institutional risks For example: adverse publicity, financial loss, data protection	

	Risk to the University: No risks. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	<i>How you will mitigate the risk to the University:</i> N/A <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
	Environmental risks For example: accidental spillage of pollutants, damage to local ecosystems	
	Risk to the environment: No risks. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	<i>How you will mitigate the risk to environment:</i> N/A <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.	Y E S	N O	N/ A
	Does your research require you to hold a current DBS Certificate?		☒	☐
	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.	N/A		

SECTION I: Feedback, Consent and Confidentiality

	Feedback What de-briefing and feedback will be provided to participants, how will this be done and when?
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	If wanted, the participants can see the results of the survey at the end, and a quick explanation at the start and the end of the survey that it is being used for the dissertation and dissertation only, and that they do not need to worry about identity leaks as there is none of their personal information being stored. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
	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.
	To ensure consent, when the participants load onto the survey, it should have a display that states that going further and answering the surveys questions displays consent. To further assure that informed consent is given, it will state that no personal data is collected and there is no need to share their personal data, and that the survey is for the dissertation and dissertation only and by ticking the box they give full consent for their answers to be converted into statistics and used in the dissertation. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
	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.
	To ensure anonymity, there will be no sections at all that require them to share their personal data, it will also be stated to the participants that at no point they should share their personal data. <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
	“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:		
	N/A (this box should expand as you type)		
	Does it involve special category data (as defined by the GDPR)?	YES	NO
	“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:		
	N/A (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?		NO
	Manual files (i.e. in paper form)?		X
	University computers?		X
	Private company computers?		X
	Home or other personal computers?	X	
	Laptop computers/ CDs/ Portable disk-drives/ memory sticks?		
	“Cloud” storage or websites?	X	
	Other – specify:		X
	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:		
	It will be assured that no one else will go on where the data will be stored and that passwords and 2/3 step verification will be used to assure no break ins and leaks can occur. (this box should expand as you type)		

	Data Protection		
	Will the research activity involve any of the following activities:	YES	NO

	Electronic transfer of data in any form?		x
	Sharing of data with others at the University outside of the immediate research team?		x
	Sharing of data with other organisations?		x
	Export of data outside the UK or importing of data from outside the UK?		x
	Use of personal addresses, postcodes, faxes, emails or telephone numbers?		x
	Publication of data that might allow identification of individuals?		x
	Use of data management system?		x
	Data archiving?		x
	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):		
	N/A <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
	List all who will have access to the data generated by the research activity:		
	The only people who will have access to the research is the main researcher and the supervisor. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
	List who will have control of, and act as custodian(s) for, data generated by the research activity:		
	Only main researcher and supervisor. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
	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 on a laptop and passwords will be put in place with 2/3 step verification to assure there is no break ins. <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>		
	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>		
	Confirm that you have read the UWTSD guidance on data management (see https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/library/research-data-management/)		X
	Confirm that you are aware that you need to keep all data until after your research has completed or the end of your funding		X

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/		
	Signature of applicant:	C.R.George	Date 15/04/2025

For STUDENT Submissions:

	Director of Studies/Supervisor:	Mike Durke	Date: 15/04/2025
	Signature:	C.R.George	

For STAFF Submissions:

	Academic Director/ Assistant Dean:		Date:
	Signature:		

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

x	I have read the guidance notes supplied before completing the form.
x	I have completed ALL RELEVANT sections of the form in full.
x	I confirm that the research activity has received approval in principle
x	I have attached a copy of final/interim approval from external organisation (where appropriate)
x	I have attached a full risk assessment (where appropriate) ONLY TICK IF YOU HAVE ATTACHED A FULL RISK ASSESSMENT
x	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.
x	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.

The reasoning for choosing the survey as the main research method, is due to the fact that it allows specific series of questions to be answered that online articles or books may not have. It also allows to have an insight on the opinions of those from a different background on forensics, like a group of the participants being in the police and working closely with forensics, and the other being the general public. Surveys are also a great way of assuring that the information being used is from a reliable source and not taken from a website that may be biased or doesn't have a wide enough range of participants. According to SmartSurvey.com (2024) online surveys are a great way to gather information due to the large amount of people that can participate, and this can in turn can improve the statistical significance. It is also a very cost-effective way of gathering information as there are applications out there that allow a person to create surveys for free, and the participants could be volunteers. Using books centred around the same topic will also help, as according to The Open University (2024), textbooks provide a more focused view on the topic at hand. Also, a lot of the time have citing that can help provide as evidence but also shows that the author or authors, have taken the time and research to produce the book. These factors can make books a very safe option, but there can be an issue of having to find the book. For example, if libraries near do not provide the book needed, a payment may have to be made to obtain the book.

For the survey, there needs to be at least 10 questions that need to be asked in order to gain the most information and the most reliable statistics possible that will be beneficial for the dissertation. One question will be asking for the age range of the participants. It is beneficial to ask for the age range as it allows to have better insight on whether certain ages have differing opinions, for example, whether the participants think AI should be used in forensics or not.

The next question would be asking what the participants think of forensics and how they think it aids the police. This question would be good for those who do work in the police to answer as they would have first-hand experience on how forensics can aid them or change how they do certain things. The next question could then be to ask whether the participants work in the police/forensics then other. This would be good to see whether people who work in the forensic or police background have a difference in opinion to those who work in completely different jobs.

The next potential question can be to ask whether the participants thinks that there are any potential negatives to forensics, if it can affect policing, and ask them to expand why they do not think it does, or why they do think it does. The next question could be whether in their opinion, forensics has taught people to better cover up their crimes, the reason for this question is to gage that in the modern world, people are starting to find new ways to commit crime, and if most of the participants answer yes to this it can further support that point.

Then the survey can ask how the participants think forensics could develop in the future; this is where it could get even more interesting. The participants who do work close with forensics may bring in information that the other participants do not have, therefore they will have a more realistic outlook on how forensics may develop in the future. The follow up question could be if the participants think

forensics has affected policing in any way and explain how they think it has.

For the next question, it would be beneficial to ask how they think technology has developed forensics and whether it was good changes or not. Then it could be asked if there are any old or original methods being used and whether the participants feel if other newer methods should be used or not. Then it could be asked whether the participants feel as though the use of AI in forensics is a good or bad thing and explain why they would think it is a good or bad thing.

Using a survey to collect and interpret data is a great way to gather statistics and it is also a great way to ask the questions that need to be asked that other books or websites may generally not have. According to SmartSurvey (2024), surveys help provide quantitative and qualitative data, these types of data are for statistics, which would be quantitative data and more thorough explanations to the participants answers which is qualitative. Both are extremely valuable when it comes to data collection to support points being made.

Using a survey also makes it simpler and easier, and because the source of the information has come from a known place, there is no need to speculate where the information came from and whether it is trustworthy or not. It will also be made sure that the survey will not require the participants to reveal personal data like emails, names or numbers to assure anonymity and to prevent any data leaks that will reveal personal data if there ever is any. It will also be made sure that the participants give their informed consent to participate in the survey and that their answers will be used in the dissertation and only in the dissertation. To make sure it is informed consent, there will be a page that discusses what is needed and that they will remain anonymous and at no point their personal data is needed and to consent, they must select a box that states they understand and they consent for their answers to be used.

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