

Ethics Form

SECTION A: About You (Principal Researcher)

1	Full Name:		Sophie Lauren Jones			
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:	UWTSD
4	Campus:	Trinity St David
5	E-mail address:	2204235@student.uwtsd.ac.uk SophieLjones.slj@gmail.com
6	Contact Telephone Number:	07415778251
For students:		
7	Student Number:	2204235
8	Programme of Study:	Professional Policing
9	Director of Studies/Supervisor:	Mike Durke

SECTION B: Approval for Research Activity

1	Has the research activity received approval in principle? (please check the Guidance Notes as to the appropriate approval process for different levels of research by different categories of individual)		YES		NO	☐
					Date	
2	If Yes, please indicate source of approval (and	Research Committee	Degrees	☐		

	date where known): Approval in principle must be obtained from the relevant source prior to seeking ethical approval	Institute Research Committee	☐	
		Other (write in)		11/10/2024

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 E: Details of Research Activity

1	Indicative title:	Police officer responses to incidents of Domestic Violence		
2	Proposed start date:	September 26 th 2024	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>			
3	Purpose of Research Activity			

The purpose of this research activity is to investigate and evaluate the effectiveness of police responses to domestic violence incidents. By examining how officers across different ranks and divisions approach these situations, the research aims to identify factors that influence decision-making, the impact of current policies, and the adequacy of police training. The goal is to uncover strengths and weaknesses in existing practices, provide a clearer understanding of how police interventions affect victims and case outcomes, and offer evidence-based recommendations for improving law enforcement's role in addressing domestic violence (Bruce-Smith et al., 2023). Ultimately, the research seeks to contribute to safer, more supportive responses for victims and more effective policing strategies.

The primary aim of this research activity is to evaluate the effectiveness of police responses to incidents of domestic violence, identifying both strengths and weaknesses in current practices and policies. Specifically, the research seeks to understand the factors that influence police decision-making, including officer rank, training, and division assignment (Robinson et al., 2016). To achieve this aim, the study will conduct a quantitative survey of police officers from various ranks and divisions to gather data on their attitudes toward domestic violence policies and their experiences in responding to incidents. Additionally, the research will analyse anonymized police records to identify patterns in response rates, outcomes, and adherence to policies. Focus groups with domestic violence advocates and police trainers will provide insights into the effectiveness of current practices and highlight areas for improvement (Policing, 2024). Furthermore, the study aims to examine domestic violence victims' perceptions of police interventions to understand how these perceptions influence their willingness to seek help. Ultimately, the research will culminate in a set of evidence-based recommendations aimed at enhancing police training and practices related to domestic violence, thereby improving victim protection and support.

Existing research has significantly informed the proposed activity by providing foundational insights into police responses to domestic violence, highlighting both effective practices and critical gaps. Studies have identified various factors that influence police officers' decision-making, such as their training, rank, and the specific policies in place regarding domestic violence interventions (Davies and Charlotte Frederica Barlow, 2024). Research indicates that officers often face challenges such as high caseloads, lack of victim cooperation, and inadequate training on handling sensitive situations, which can impact their responses and ultimately affect victim safety. Additionally, literature emphasizes the importance of understanding victims'

	perspectives, revealing that negative past experiences with police can deter individuals from seeking help in the future. Insights from existing studies on the impact of community policing and collaboration with domestic violence advocates further underscore the need for a holistic approach to policing domestic violence, suggesting that improved communication and support systems can enhance overall outcomes (Shorey, Tirone and Stuart, 2014). Moreover, previous research has highlighted the varying effectiveness of domestic violence policies, such as mandatory arrest laws, depending on local contexts and police department cultures. This evidence base has guided the research activity to explore how different ranks and divisions within police departments handle domestic violence, as well as the implications of training and policy adherence on case outcomes. Overall, existing research provides a crucial framework for the proposed activity, allowing it to build on established knowledge, address identified gaps, and contribute to the development of more effective police practices in responding to domestic violence incidents (HMICFRS, 2021).
	Research Question Police officer responses to incidents of Domestic Violence
5	Aims of Research Activity The aim of this research activity is to critically examine how police officers respond to incidents of domestic violence, focusing on the effectiveness of current practices, policies, and training (HMICFRS, 2019). The study seeks to understand how factors such as officer rank, experience, and division assignment influence decision-making during domestic violence interventions. Additionally, it aims to assess the outcomes of these interventions, particularly in terms of victim safety and case resolution. By analysing police records, gathering quantitative data from officers, and consulting professionals through focus groups, the research will identify gaps in current practices and offer recommendations for improving police responses to domestic violence, with the goal of enhancing victim protection and reducing repeat offenses (Myhill, 2018). Ultimately, this research aims contribute to more effective policing strategies that improve victim protection and foster greater community trust in law enforcement.
6	Objectives of Research Activity The research activity focuses on a combination of surveys, case study analysis, and focus groups to explore police responses to domestic violence incidents. Structured

	surveys will be distributed to police officers from various ranks and divisions to gather quantitative data on their attitudes toward domestic violence policies, decision-making processes, and the impact of their training. A case study analysis will examine anonymized police records and reports from domestic violence cases to identify patterns in responses, such as arrest rates, response times, and case outcomes, offering a concrete view of police practices. Additionally, focus groups with domestic violence advocates and police trainers will be conducted to gather insights into the effectiveness of current practices and explore potential improvements in police training and intervention strategies. This approach provides both quantitative data and professional perspectives to assess and enhance police handling of domestic violence (HMIC, 2014). The research will examine existing literature and secondary data to understand domestic violence victims' perceptions of police interventions and how these perceptions impact their willingness to seek help. This research study will culminate in the development of a set of actionable, evidence-based recommendations aimed at enhancing police training, refining departmental policies, and improving responses to domestic violence, building a safer environment for victims and building community trust in police forces.
	Proposed methods (maximum 600 words) Provide a brief summary of all the methods that may be used in the research activity, making it clear what specific techniques may be used. If methods other than those listed in this section are deemed appropriate later, additional ethical approval for those methods will be needed. You do not need to justify the methods here but should instead describe how you intend to collect the data necessary for you to complete your project.
7	This research uses a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods to explore police officer responses to incidents of domestic violence. The methods target police officers across different ranks and divisions, victims of domestic violence, and professionals working in the field. The mixed methods approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of the issue from multiple perspectives. Target groups from police officers such as officers from various ranks and divisions, patrol officers, sergeants, detectives and domestic violence units. Using domestic violence victims/survivors as these individuals would have interacted with police officers after reporting a domestic violence. Using focus groups such as 5-8 people so you can discuss key issues like the effectiveness of police interventions, gaps in current practices and potential improvements. This method encourages interaction and diverse viewpoints. This research utilises a diverse range of methods, including focus groups and surveys (Policing, 2018). By including police officers from different ranks and divisions, victims

	and advocated, this study provides a comprehensive, multi-faceted understanding of how domestic violence incidents are handled and what improvements can be made to police practices. These methods ensure both qualitative depth and quantitative analysis, leading to well-rounded conclusions.
	Location of research activity Identify all locations where research activity will take place.
8	At Home University Library <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
	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	No <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>

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

SECTION F: Scope of Research Activity

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

16	Procedures that may have a negative impact on the environment?	☐	
17	Other primary data collection methods. Please indicate the type of data collection method(s) below.	☐	
	Details of any other primary data collection method: (this box should expand as you type)		

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: Police officers, different ranks and divisions (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?	10-20

11	Who will the participants be?	Students officers, police officers new and old
12	How will you identify the participants?	(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			
	(this box should expand as you type)			

	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			
	(this box should expand as you type)			

SECTION H: Anticipated Risks

	Outline any anticipated risks that may adversely affect any of the participants, the researchers and/or the University, and the steps that will be taken to address them. If you have completed a full risk assessment (for example as required by a laboratory, or external research collaborator) you may append that to this form.		
1	Full risk assessment completed and appended?	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		
	Risk to participants: No risk, questionnaire will be conducted via link online	How you will mitigate the risk to participants: (this box should expand as you type)	
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		
	(this box should expand as you type)		
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: N/A <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	How you will mitigate the risk to the investigator: N/A <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: N/A <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	How you will mitigate the risk to the University: N/A <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>
6	Environmental risks For example: accidental spillage of pollutants, damage to local ecosystems	
	Risk to the environment: N/A <i>(this box should expand as you type)</i>	How you will mitigate the risk to environment: 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.	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?
	When conducted questionnaire and gathered results, a summary of the research can be sent out to the individuals who completed the questionnaire.
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.
	N/A <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.
	Names can be set as anonymous to protect confidentiality. <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.	☐	
	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, (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:		
	All data collected will be stored under an account which only has access to myself and will be stored as a pie chart or bar chart. <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):		
	<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 My tutor <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 My tutor <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 held on the laptop for 12 months incase it needs to be referred back to then it will be destroyed <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. (Most relevant to academic staff)		
	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.uwtسد.ac.uk/library/research-data-management/)	YES	
27	Confirm that you are aware that you need to keep all data until after your research has completed or the end of your funding	YES	

SECTION K: Declaration

	The information which I have provided is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have attempted to identify any risks and issues related to the research activity and acknowledge my obligations and the rights of the participants. In submitting this application I hereby confirm that I undertake to ensure that the above named research activity will meet the University's Research Ethics and Integrity Code of Practice which is published on the website: https://www.uwtسد.ac.uk/research/research-ethics/		
1	Signature of applicant:	S.JONES	Date: 11/10/2024

For STUDENT Submissions:

2	Director of Studies/Supervisor:	Mike Durke	Date: 11/10/2024
3	Signature:	S.jones	

For STAFF Submissions:

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

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

	I have read the guidance notes supplied before completing the form.
	I have completed ALL RELEVANT sections of the form in full.

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

RESEARCH STUDENTS AND STAFF ONLY

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

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

Reference list

Bruce-Smith, R., Middleton, E., Moreton, K., Smith, J. and Quinton, P. (2023). *Ethical decision-making in policing A rapid evidence assessment*.

Davies, P. and Charlotte Frederica Barlow (2024). Policing domestic abuse: the onus on first responders. *Policing & Society*, 34(7), pp.1–14.

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HMIC (2014). *Everyone's business: Improving the Police Response to Domestic Abuse*.

Available at: <https://assets-hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/uploads/2014/04/improving-the-police-response-to-domestic-abuse.pdf> [Accessed 11 Oct. 2024].

HMICFRS (2019). *The police response to domestic abuse An update report i*. Available at:

<https://assets-hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/uploads/the-police-response-to-domestic-abuse-an-update-report.pdf> [Accessed 11 Oct. 2024].

HMICFRS (2021). *Police response to violence against women and girls: Final inspection report*. His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services. Available at: <https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/publication-html/police-response-to-violence-against-women-and-girls-final-inspection-report/> [Accessed 11 Oct. 2024].

Myhill, A. (2018). *The police response to domestic violence: Risk, discretion, and the context of coercive control*. Available at: <https://openaccess.city.ac.uk/id/eprint/19905/1/Myhill> [Accessed 11 Oct. 2024].

Policing, C. of (2018). *How to Guide: Conducting Focus Groups*. Available at: <https://assets.college.police.uk/s3fs-public/2021-05/conductingfocusgroups-guide.pdf> [Accessed 11 Oct. 2024].

Policing, C. of (2024). *Officer and staff perspectives on the police response to stalking Findings from focus groups conducted to support the investigation into the super-complaint on the police response to stalking*.

Robinson, A., Myhill, A., Wire, J., Roberts, J. and Tilley, N. (2016). *Risk-led policing of domestic abuse and the DASH risk model*. College of Policing.

Shorey, R.C., Tirone, V. and Stuart, G.L. (2014). Coordinated community response components for victims of intimate partner violence: A review of the literature. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 19(4), pp.363–371. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2014.06.001>.