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University of Southampton

Faculty of Social Sciences

Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology

# Armed Policing in England

Volume 2 of 2

by

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Thesis for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

September 2019





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## Appendix 1 – Images

**Marked BMW X5 ARV** (Example image taken from Flickr)



**Example Unmarked BMW X5 ARV** (Example image taken from Flickr)



**ARV Firearms and Less-Lethal Weapons display** (Image supplied by collaborating forces)

From Left to Right: X2 TASER (the inert model is blue, live TASERs are yellow); Glock 17 Handgun, AEP Launcher and LMT CQB 10.5" Carbine.





**AFOs Attending a Firearms Deployment** (Image supplied by collaborating forces)

Note ballistic helmets with goggles, body-worn video cameras, a ballistic shield resting by the wall in the foreground and the AEP Launcher slung by the side of the furthest officer. This image also provides a good view of their holstered handguns and the patches worn on their body armour.





## Appendix 2 – Semi-Structured Interview Guide

**This document serves as a draft of guide questions to aid the interviews along.**

1. What made you choose this particular specialism within the Service?
2. Had you used or had any experiences with a firearm before joining the police?
3. In your opinion, should the police be routinely armed?
4. What is their role and attitude of the Police Federation towards firearms?
5. Do you feel your service needs more armed police?
6. Do you feel you are/have been provided with the appropriate and adequate tools to do your job properly?  
[Prompt: Do you feel safe?]  
[Prompt: Would you do this job without a firearm?]
7. What do you think the police-public relationship is like?  
[Prompt: Do you think firearms matter to that relationship?]
8. When carrying a firearm, do you feel the public have the same willingness to approach you for assistance or information?
9. The Media have an influential role in the 'image-making' of policing (Mawby, 2002).  
How do you think the media portrays armed police?  
Does this portrayal have direct consequences for how you are perceived in terms of trust?
10. What implications would the use of Helmet Cameras and/or Microphones by police in firearms incidents [whether firearms are discharged or not] in your jurisdiction?





## Appendix 3 – Fieldwork Participants

The fieldwork took place between February and April 2018

SERVICE	FIELDNOTES	INTERVIEW	AFOs
1	1	1	AFO1 & AFO2
1	2	2	AFO3, AFO4 & AFO5
1	3	3	AFO3 & AFO4
2	4	4	AFO6 & AFO7
2	5	5	AFO8 & AFO9
1	6	-	AFO2 & AFO10
1	7	7	AFO11 & AFO12
1	8	8	AFO13 & AFO14
2	9	-	AFO15 & AFO16
2	10	10	AFO17 & AFO18
2	11	11	AFO19, AFO20 & AFO21
2	12	12	AFO22 & AFO23
2	13	13	AFO 24 & AFO25
2	14	-	AFO19 & AFO20
2	15	15	AFO15 & AFO26
2	16	16	AFO27 & AFO28
2	17	17	AFO29 & AFO30
1	18	18	AFO31 & AFO32
1	19	-	AFO11 & AFO12
1	20	20	AFO33 & AFO34
1	21	21	AFO35 & AFO36
1	22	22	AFO37 & AFO38

Scheduled interviews 6, 9, 14 and 19 did not take place.



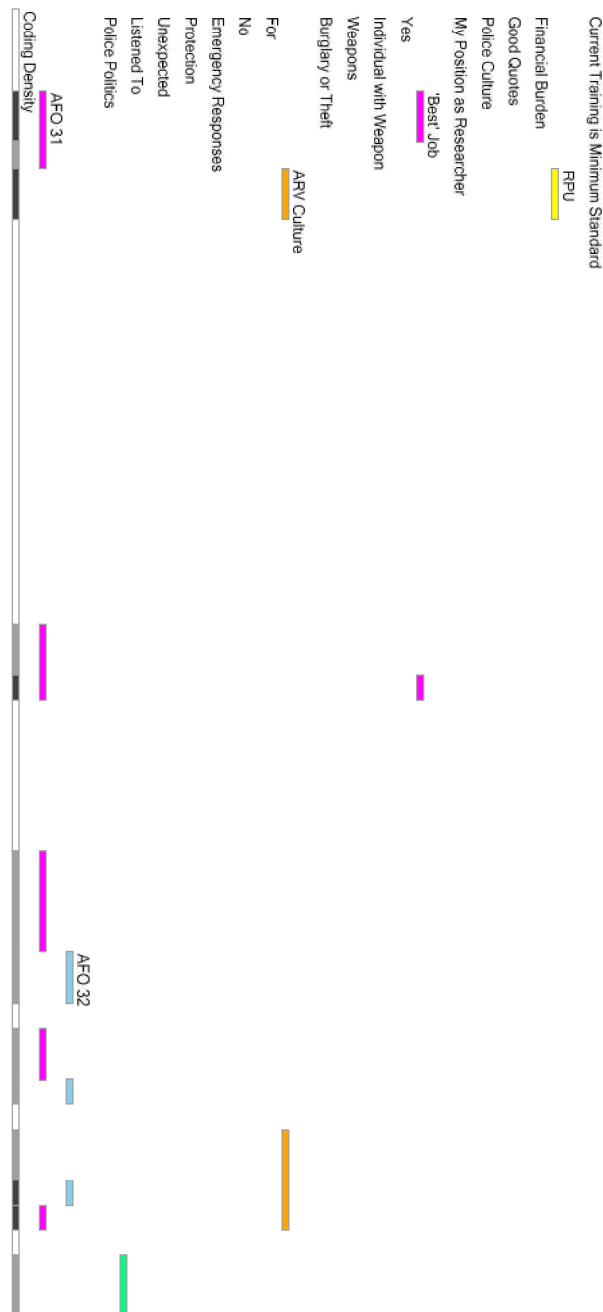
## Appendix 4 – Coding Example

The following section contains an example of coding in NVivo. It demonstrates a section of the fieldnotes alongside the Nodes used to code the data.

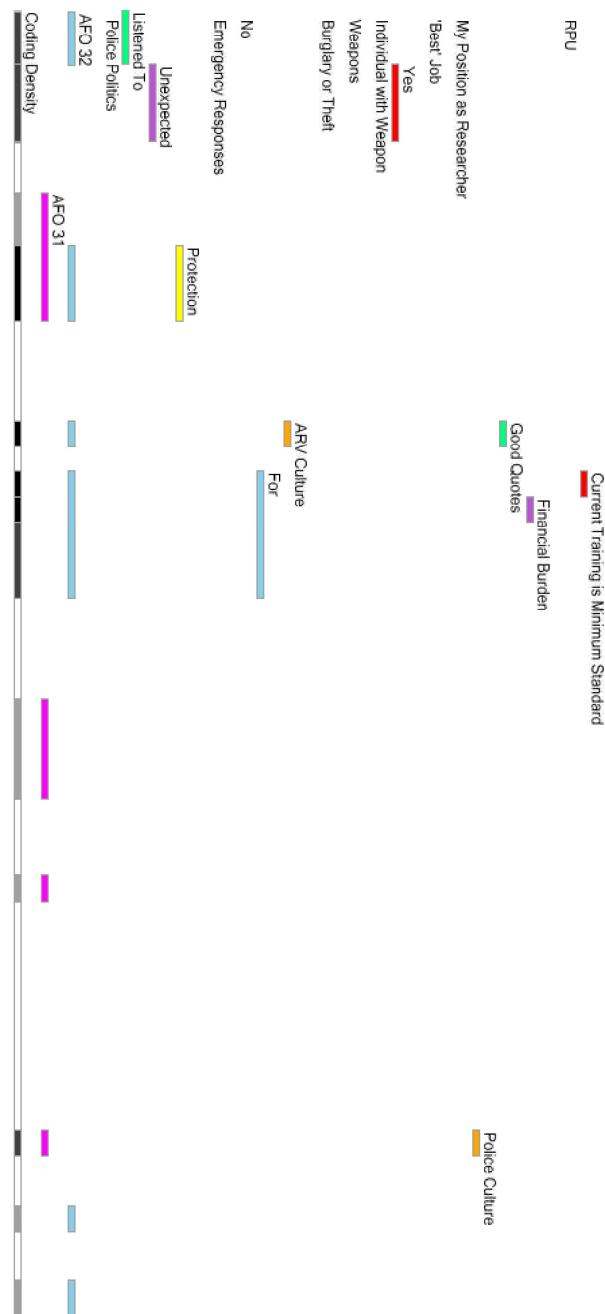


April 2018 0700-1700 shift.  
Marked BMW X5 with AFO31 and AFO32 in

07:30	<p>AFO31: Best job on the force. You have to put the work in, you have to meet the standards, but otherwise, you're there.</p> <p>AFO31's done 6 years on the ARV.</p>
07:33	<p>ANPR work – AFOs actually doing traffic stuff!</p> <p>Vehicles with no tax, unless they have no insurance there are no powers regarding seizing the vehicle and taking it off the road. It would then be up to the DVLA to deal with it. When looking for vehicles they look for a 'target package' as it's not always the registered keeper that's driving. has a high percentage of vehicles used in the supply of illegal drugs as well.</p> <p>The ANPR will go off galore, it's about choosing your battles.</p> <p>No insurance is the major indicator.</p> <p>It it's got no nothing (tax, insurance or registered keeper) then it's worth a tug.</p> <p></p> <p>Pull a vehicle, she wants to know why we checked her number plate and not everybody else's. AFO32 gives her a quick run-down of how the ANPR works...</p> <p>She does not notice the officers are armed and being as everything is in order she is free to continue.</p> <p></p>
07:44	<p>AFO31: One day is very different from the next, that's what I like about the job.</p> <p>Discussing the Base and in what circumstances they might go up there once it opens if they won't crew out of there:</p> <p>AFO32: "Only training days".</p> <p>AFO31: "And gun jobs, you know, what we're here for."</p> <p>AFO31: Proactive security at is liked by the police, every day is busy at which means security/policing is a nightmare. It's quite an iconic location so they try to cover it a couple of times a day, give a visible deterrent as you never know whose watching.</p> <p>AFO32: Especially given the current tactics, it's quite a wide open space, you could easily mow a few people down.</p> <p>There's a TFC on whose the same age as AFO31, has got only 40 shifts left before he retires.</p> <p>AFO32: Must be a great feeling. You don't have to come to work and you still get paid..</p> <p>Re: Locker padlocks and kit left in there (ARV9's mobile was left in one of the late crews lockers).</p> <p>AFO32: Did you change your locker number from the standard? Don't you trust us?</p> <p>AFO31: I don't trust anybody, mate!</p> <p>Hostage job in yesterday, think it was more of a TASER support to Level 2 teams than a firearms job.</p>



		AFO32: [AFO31 gets out the car for a coffee] Oh no, AFO31's gone public and has been accosted by somebody about something trivial. Probably a parking obstruction!
08:09		The guy AFO31 was 'accosted' by was ex-military, wanted to know what he was carrying – [REDACTED]
08:32		Call in [REDACTED] about an elderly lady leaving her home with a 6" knife concealed in her Zimmer frame... AFO31 recounts a tale when he went to assist with an elderly lady being combative who ended up embedding a knitting needle in someone's face.
08:33		All TTOs are getting the MOLLE vests, question going round about baton holders. AFO32: I bet they get the new vests! AFO31: We do very well for kit.  It's part of the job – "A main part of the job". Lots of knives around today – one of the other ARVs is with someone with a knife as well.  AFO32: "Training that has moulded everyone into a similar character".  AFO32: If they can make the standard, why not? But these are decisions for the higher ups. Costs – not only the initial costs but the costs of requalification. Even if they're not trained in tactics – where do they stop? If the subject goes into a house? If so, then what's it for, a man with a machete in the street? Just becoming part of a tiered approach?  Man outside [REDACTED] police station with his hands down his trousers masturbating...charming.  [REDACTED]. Remember driving past and seeing a young girl at the top of one of the lampposts. AFO31: They like to teach 'em young, here's how you climb a pole, here's how you open a kitchen window.  Bus drivers being robbed, not so common any more.  [REDACTED]
09:30		No insurance on an Audi, comes up from [REDACTED] for no tax/insurance. Often has a non-associated driver. We pull it over. Fishing for something else, but we have to deal with it now, call an RPU to come down and charge the individual. Otherwise it could have been dealt with by the DVLA. Vehicle is owned on a trader policy so has a trade policy insurance. Driver has a job interview at 10:00, AFO32 asks AFO31 whether he should give her the benefit of the doubt or report it to the Motor Insurance Bureau. AFO31 replies "You've got to MIB it mate". If it's on traders insurance it may only be able to be used for the purpose of business. AFO31: [After hearing the reasons/excuses] "So it's a load of old shit." Honour-Based Violence marker from [REDACTED] Police, needs to then inform the decision-making regarding seizing the vehicle. AFO32: It's a tough situation, what can I do? It's quite rare to come across HBV but it's not invisible, a lot won't admit it to your face. But she didn't want the information to go to her family and friends. AFO32: Do you know what she said when we finished? 'Thank-you so much'.



		[Resolution was for the RPU to drive her and her vehicle home so she can apply for insurance later, issue her a ticket and help her arrange transport to her job interview.]
10:18		<p>AFO32: She tried a bit of a sob story, but it doesn't change the facts.</p> <p>AFO32: She didn't notice we were armed. A lot of blokes do, I think that's [???]. If you're in a confrontation with someone, they'll weigh you up – can I win this fight? They'll normally back down or won't bother if they do notice. But then there was no need to mention it, that was just routine policing.</p>
10:22		. Armoury with Force Armourer
11:20		<p>Back on the road.</p> <p>Cops are good planners of crime, you gotta think like a criminal.</p>
11:40		<p>Someone found a stolen bike and kg of crack? Collapse and armed police (?)</p> <p>AFO32: Proactive policing – less officers therefore lots of people out there to be nicked. If you want to put the time in and get them, you can.</p> <p>AFO31: Weapons, shields and armour all improved after the Paris attacks.</p> <p>There is a lot of stuff that doesn't need to come to the police – cork guns, spud guns, rubber guns, plastic water pistols, BB guns in their boxes saying their BB guns – it'd be far easier to smash them into pieces with a hammer than turn them into the police. One chap had 70-80 weapons, stacked, stored and labelled, he'd ploughed his money into antique firearms when the financial crash had occurred. We also get a lot of 'grandad has this in his cabinet' and it's a pukka .38 (normally loaded!) with 100 rounds of ammo.</p>
13:04		<p>Priority Call to a handbag theft, on the lookout for a particular van known to carry a man and woman who have multiple previous for thefts. Waiting up and area search but it is becoming apparent someone has made a logical leap somewhere and we don't think the van is connected in this instance at all.</p>
13:50		<p>Are we able to assist with containment for an arrest? Related to a previous warrant about County Lines drug trafficking. Intelligence that cocaine and cannabis are being bagged on the premises. No warrant today, if the individual is present he will just be nicked concerning the supply of controlled substances. Has a warning for previously possessing a stun gun.</p>
14:04		<p>Journey interrupted by a Priority Call to a patient with a knife hearing voices telling them to commit murder, confirm PPE available locally, no TTOs, confirm ARV attending as TASER support. CANCEL a few minutes later as ARV6 picks up and is closer.</p> <p>AFO31 tells of a call he had in the past where there was a man planking over a knife he'd</p>



	blue-tacked to the floor in his attic bedroom (in summer). He was there for three hours, Negotiators took ages to get there and then didn't take over as they thought the AFOs were doing fine. They were stood there with shields and TASER trying to talk him down, hot and heavy, had to keep rotating. He made an ultimatum that he'd count down from a 100 and if they didn't get his wife (or whoever it was) he'd drop on the knife. When he got to 12 the AFOs ran in and booted him off the knife. When they tried to cuff him his arms were stuck out stiff from where he'd been planking.
14:40	Moving to the address for drugs arrest.
14:51	Not there, means the RNP chaps have wasted all that intel as his housemates will surely tell him... Also, poor containment, essentially left me on the rear...
15:36	Broken down car. Causing havoc in the afternoon traffic, try and close the road and divert traffic round the green but it doesn't work particularly well. With no additional cones or signs people just ignore the one sign used and the blue lights. That said, the AFOs are not particularly pro-active in ensuring the traffic is controlled, instead waiting for RNP to turn up and then passing it on.
16:17	Until cops get murdered, it won't change. Tiered response to [ambulance?]. No rural.  I could be paid more but then I wouldn't get the excitement.  Me: Would you join the police? AFO31: Yes! It opens doors for you. AFO32: It's a really good job but £19 000 is starting low.  AFO31: What really bothers me, is after tax I take home £26 000, as an experienced top-rate PC. That's the same wage as a trainee teacher, their take home is the same as it is tax free. I've done every course other than Instructor, Sniper or OFC – I'm a Green Green Driver, Advanced First Aid etc., I know I'm not a CT-SFO but I'm at the limit. I take home less than some Met PCSOs.  AFO32: For variety – yes, money – no.  AFO31: If they did it like the military, where it was re-evaluated every 3 years I think people would do their 6 years or so and then leave, gain the skills and go.  AFO32: From our position, a very privileged position, it's very quiet. But there's far worse you could be doing! AFO31: Yeah – we could be driving an Astra!
16:30	Finish

Current Training is Minimum Standard	
RPU	
Financial Burden	
Good Quotes	
Police Culture	
'Best' Job	My Position as Researcher
Yes	
Individual with Weapon	
Weapons	
Burglary or Theft	
ARV Culture	
For	
No	
Emergency Responses	
Protection	
Unexpected	
Listened To	
AFO 31	Police Politics
Coding Density	AFO 32



## Appendix 5 – Codebook

NAME	DESCRIPTION	FILES	REFS	ILLUSTRATIVE QUOTE
[Social] Media	For all nodes relating to perceptions of the view of police in traditional media or on social media platforms.	2	2	<b>AFO8:</b> Support for the police in general peaks and troughs, there are good jobs and bad jobs. You can generally tell public opinion by the upvotes and downvotes on comments on Daily Mail articles.
Accuracy of Information	When AFOs discuss that the media does not necessarily report the truth. This can be either positive or negative in context.	12	21	<b>AFO26:</b> There are huge inaccuracies in newspaper reports.... <b>AFO15:</b> Yeah, people don't care.
Contemporary Television Media	When AFOs discuss television shows relating to their line of work and how they affect both police and public perceptions; this can be positive or negative.	10	12	<b>AFO1:</b> I think the public are interested by the police because of all the programs that are on it, you know the documentaries, the Road Wars.
Negative	For any nodes that are overwhelmingly negative or critical of media or social media.	0	0	N/A
Government As Complicit in Criticism	When AFOs discuss criticism in the media being linked with or affected by criticism from 'the Government', identified also by related persons or departments ('Theresa May'; 'The Home Office' etc.)	4	5	<b>AFO17:</b> I was going to bring it up when you mentioned it, an issue with the media in particular and also the Home Office do portray us very badly, I think that does have a negative impact and I think it's a great shame 'cos it actually undermines our own causes, particularly Home Office, particularly Theresa May has massively undermined us by saying the things she says in public, which affect the public's confidence in us, um, so that's bad.
'Mainstream Press'	When AFOs identify that the construct of media is monolithic and discuss how they perceive it has a negative attitude towards police.	7	9	<b>AFO8:</b> They only report the bad shit, don't they? Very rarely does the good shit, and the good shit happens day in day out and doesn't get recorded, doesn't get reported.

People Passively Accept Media as Truth	When AFOs discuss that the media can sensationalise information and the public are ill-informed by media, therefore accepting anything they say as true.	12	13	<b>AFO18:</b> Yeah, big time, because, it's such a massive thing, it doesn't, obviously there's various sources from BBC or Daily Mail who tend to be very anti-police et cetera but as a general rule the consensus of the media is that people are sheep and people follow what they're told as a general rule, without necessarily consciously but they will form their general opinions off what they are told, and so, whatever the media come out with tends to have a massive effect, I think on, on public opinion, whatever the issue is.
Police Don't Support Selves	When the AFOs discuss that the police organisation or elements of senior management can themselves damage the reputation of the police in relation to negative media attention.	10	14	<b>AFO33:</b> The police can be their own worst enemy. There are some fucking idiots we employ. Unless you do it, you don't appreciate what we do. Few jobs, none, actually, outside of the emergency services, who will see a dead body.
Social Media and Instant Reaction	The discussion of the idea that being able to instantly react ('Like'; 'Share'; 'Retweet') information on Social Media without critical engagement is damaging to the public opinion of police.	5	5	<b>AFO15:</b> Yeah, this whole thing with Social Media, on Facebook, on Twitter, you know, on the news, there appears to be this kind of negative view of, policing, which spreads, it spread like wildfire.
The Media Myths	Negative stories that multiple AFOs discuss that seem to have 'Mythical' status, they are an aspect of collective concern for AFOs.	9	13	<b>AFO13:</b> Erm, on the flip-side, if we dare to buy a sandwich in Tesco's, you know, and somebody takes a picture and puts it on social media, some people think that's outrageous, that we need to buy a sandwich for lunch, um, so, I, some people like it, some people don't like it, is probably what I'm trying to say.
Positive	For any nodes that identify positive or more positive aspects to media attention on police or armed police.	1	1	<b>AFO7:</b> I spoken with, we've spoken with some media, media, and you know, a lot of media is purely cameras, people with cameras, freelancing, which will come out, they'll take photos and nine times out of ten if you speak to them, and just ask them they will

				pixelate faces, erm, if you speak to them, nicely, they understand....
More Positive than Unarmed	When AFOs identify or discuss that armed police are portrayed in the media in a better light than their unarmed colleagues.	8	12	<b>AFO8:</b> Very different kettle of fish. So yeah, I think, generally, we get a more favourable side of the whacking stick than normal cops
Terrorism as a Positive	When AFOs discuss incidents of terrorism actually being positive for their image and public support, particularly with regards to media attention.	13	20	<b>AFO4:</b> The only time we're portrayed well, to me, is when one of us dies, so, or is attacked, or is a response to a terrorist incident, so Westminster, really good response from the media and stuff like that, yeah we turned on-scene in a few minutes and dealt with it.
Previous Police Shootings	For when AFOs discuss previous police shootings in reference to the media coverage of those incidents, in either a POSITIVE or NEGATIVE light,	12	15	<b>AFO8:</b> I think it comes down to the type of incident as well, I think if there's any doubt that gets into the public domain over the justification over the shooting, again, like you say with the Lee Rigby one, it was, the officers could do no wrong. Mark Duggan...
AFOs' Histories	For any time when an officer discusses their career path, career history and experiences.	2	2	<b>AFO7:</b> Alright, yeah, sure, so when I started it was 2005, and sort of before that, we weren't a dedicated unit, we went to a dedicated unit in 2008, prior to that, ARV was seen mainly as a containment sort of role, there'd be a spontaneous incident ARVs would be deployed, usually, the firearms was a secondary role as opposed to the primary role.
Appropriate and Adequate Tools	Whilst generally relating to answers to the specific question regarding 'Appropriate and Adequate Tools', this code also picks up any comments made or experiences had relating to kit and equipment whilst on observation.	0	0	N/A
Clothing	For data relating to 'normal' items of clothing, not including body armour, helmets etc.	5	5	<b>AFO34:</b> Equipment-wise, yes. But, clothing-wise, no. Erm, the equipment that we have, as in the firearms,

				the shields, you know the less-lethal options et cetera I think it's, I think it's good, but the clothing that we wear isn't comfortable, you know, it's, I don't think it's very good at all, which I think is going through, going through the department at the moment finding different clothing for us.
Generally Yes	When AFOs answer that they feel they 'generally' have good equipment, or that they feel 'generally' well-equipped. This code arose as it was the most common answer given to the specific question.	13	17	<b>AFO19:</b> Yeah, I think so, I think leaps and bounds have been made in the 11 years I've been an AFO, and you were an AFO before me, so compared to what it was, 10, sort of 15 years ago, we are massively, in fact, even in a shorter time-frame, we are better equipped now since the Bataclan, I think since the Bataclan there's been an escalation in the quality of the kit we've got and the level of training that we are getting so yeah, I think we are as well trained as we have ever been and better resourced than we've ever been.
Management	For any data or comments AFOs have relating to their management either by senior officers or by the FCR.	9	12	<b>AFO27:</b> I think there could be some criticism in relation to some Force Control Room Inspectors not having any trust in either the officers or training that is delivered, because, they don't want to deploy to certain incidents that are, and should be, clear cut firearms deployment incidents, if that makes sense?
Miscellaneous Equipment	For data on any physical equipment that does not fit into the other categories.	3	3	<b>AFO38:</b> ... For example, we've recently had new Night Vision devices handed to us and these Night Vision devices have currently been put on the shelf by a lot of militaries because they're older technology now, they're coming up to nearly 20 years old, um, obviously they're fine for what we do but you kind of see it as, why are we always one step behind?

Protection	For any data related to items providing Ballistic Protection to officers e.g. body armour, helmets, shields etc.	8	11	<b>AFO31:</b> Weapons, shields and armour all improved after the Paris attacks.
Training	For any data or comments relating to training made in reply to the question surrounding adequate tools or from the point of view that the Training AFOs undertake is an essential tool for them to operate, and thus needs comment. This is distinct from more specific comments surrounding training as seen in the later node.	20	25	<b>AFO7:</b> We could always do with, more training, the more you train, the better you get but we are proficient, and there's only so many hours, I think it's a good balance, and certainly meets the minimum requirements, for what is required from the College of Policing but for anything extra is a bonus, in relation to training.
Vehicles	For any data relating to the vehicles (ARVs) that the AFOs drive.	10	11	<b>AFO31:</b> ... And the vehicles we drive are obviously, made for our role now, and not, an estate vehicle that's been bastardised if you like to do, to carry the weight that we carry.
Weapons	For any data relating to weapon systems be they conventional firearms of less-lethal weapons.	15	21	<b>AFO9:</b> Erm, yeah, I couldn't agree more, we've got everything, the kit that we need, I've only ever known the [current] Carbine, so I'm quite happy with it, because I've not got muscle memory from a previous weapon, so I'm happy where things go and I can quite quickly do certain things to the gun, so I don't know any different, whereas if I'd used a different system beforehand, I might have to then think, right, what am I actually doing, so it might take that little bit longer, but I've heard that the other gun was a lot easier to use for various different reasons but I don't know those reasons so therefore I'm quite happy with the gun that I've got, it's accurate.
Body Worn Video	For all nodes relating to Body-Worn Video.	1	1	<b>AFO30:</b> And also on the context that he is talking about, sometimes if you're looking at information, getting information from people sometimes it's not conducive to put on your body-worn because they're

				<p>less likely to talk to you, they want to be anonymous, so I think that's what he really means by the context, um, if you're talking to people and getting information and intel, then usually I'd leave it off, because they're more likely to tell you more.</p> <p><b>Me:</b> Yeah, because it can build a barrier?</p> <p><b>AFO30:</b> Yeah.</p>
Accountability	How AFOs perceive BWV in relation to the accountability of an officer with a camera.	9	10	<p><b>AFO11:</b> I quite agree, the only implications are positive ones, it takes a bit of getting used to, getting your head round it, so you know you're always on camera and accountable but equally, it's saved complaints, it puts people off doing stuff before they do anything because they realise they're being filmed, and I can see the benefits if it needs to go post-incident at a shooting so, no, I think it's a good thing.</p>
Complaints	The effects of BWV on complaints.	9	11	<p><b>AFO26:</b> ...Um...I like the idea of being able to review what happened, I like the idea of certainly, as a general level it can negate a lot of complaints and that sort of thing because most of the time we're not doing wrong, um, and if you get falsely accused of something, having body worn to back it up is a nice thing</p>
Concerns of Non-Capture	Concerns surrounding the fact that cameras are not be able to capture everything on video to the same degree that human eye-sight might be able to. Therefore there could be discrepancies arising between eye-witness testimony and BWV footage.	10	10	<p><b>AFO38:</b> But overall, I see it for the majority, I see body-worn has been a good, I think, for some jobs, especially body-worn in firearms incidents, I think sometimes, not saying that it'll always be good because they can't really, they can't capture everything, I've had incidents myself with body-worn um where, it's not caught anything of the incident, like visually, it might capture it audibly, obviously, just say, for example, where it's positioned on our</p>

				equipment or through lights and sire-, like street lights or the lights on the car, to be honest, if it's in a poorly lit street and we've got our blues on, you, all you see is the shine and blare from lights, you don't actually see a suspect or sometimes you don't even see the vehicle it's so dark but we had one where we had a man out of the vehicle and he was brought out the vehicle at gun point, um, and at no point from my body-worn did you even see that subject being removed from that vehicle, so I don't think they can always be relied on, they should never be relied on fully for any incident, um, but there are, they're a small element of putting together an investigation or potentially evidence gathering, um, so they do have their downsides but generally I think they're good.
Evidence	The role of BWV in capturing evidence.	12	17	<b>AFO12:</b> ...It's been nothing but good really, erm, I've only ever used it for evidential purposes and it's been pretty good, I've never had any negative implications with it at all,
Mounting	Discussion of how the BWV cameras can be mounted and what problems that may bring.	5	5	<b>AFO19:</b> So stuck on your lid like a fucking... it is, mate, there are a million and one better solutions out there commercially, I mean even something as simple as a GoPro, erm, but yeah, if they'd bought us something fit for purpose as opposed to making us use what everyone else has got then I'd be less, then I'd be even more positive about it, I think so.
No Change to Role	Any direct answers relating to the fact that AFOs perceive the introduction of BWV to not have changed their role.	7	8	<b>AFO1:</b> I don't think it has changed the role, it's, I don't think it's changed the way we do the role it's just an extra bit of kit that you need to think about
Previous Investigations	Any data relating to previous investigations and the role of BWV within those.	4	4	<b>AFO34's</b> assault, he entered a guilty plea and got a fairly light sentence, if they'd seen the BWV it would

				have gone straight to Crown Court and he would have faced a much more serious sentence.
Remembering	Where officers are concerned that they will not remember to turn the camera on before entering a situation.	8	9	<b>AFO3:</b> ...Obviously, you've got to think about putting it on, er, and that for me is the main thing because we've gone for years and years without wearing it so for me when that job comes in, it's not the first thing I think about.
Scrutiny	Any data relating to the idea that BWV footage can be reviewed after the relevant incident, in slow time, repeatedly by individuals that are not police officers and inferences can then be drawn from that footage. This node is distinct from 'Accountability' as the concern isn't that officers will be held to account it's that their footage will be needlessly and repeatedly scrutinised with the purpose of catching the officers out/making it look like thave done wrong.	11	15	<b>AFO15:</b> The problem is, is when it's slightly ambiguous, erm, you know, even someone with a knife rushing towards you, um, someone can view that footage and say 'Well you had time to withdraw, you had time to get your TASER out', all these types of thing, where they can kind of make their own mind up on it, um, but all you can do is tell them how you honestly felt at the time. That's all you can do.
Changing Nature of AFO Role	For any data relating to the idea that the role of the AFO has changed or is changing.	6	7	<b>AFO22:</b> We are, um, we have been described and I have been called by senior management, we are 'The Unacceptable Face of Policing', we are a necessary evil, um, we have until relatively recently, hidden in the background, we've not advertised what we do, we've not promoted the fact that we're about, there has been a cultural shift, with, following um, certainly Westminster Bridge.
Community	For any nodes linking the AFOs to the notion of Community	0	0	N/A
Community Policing	Aspects of Community Policing that ARV officers do try to get involved in or aid occuring.	16	18	<b>AFO27:</b> OK, so our job is still to police communities, the only difference between us and local officers is the fact that, we can get to, deployed to, to deal with



				more serious incidences that involve weapons and guns.
Improving Relations	A general responsibility as police to be building and improving relations, whether within a firearms context or not.	15	27	<b>AFO4:</b> If you can change one person's mind, like a day or every week or whatever then that's quite good, of the police service.
Lack of Opportunity to Interact	That the fact the AFOs have to be always ready to respond means they are tied to their vehicles and therefore much less likely to be able to get out and interact with members of the public.	7	11	<b>AFO4:</b> It's about getting the opportunity to build that relationship because well it isn't a case of we can just get out on foot and go and chat to the community 'cos it would be quite, I don't know, I don't think they'd be expecting that, I couldn't just walk into that Caribbean Cuisine place there and introduce myself and be like 'Hello', 'cos, the next, tomorrow I'll be in [city] or something, and then I'll be in [town].
Not Knowing [or Staying in] an Area	That being as AFOs are a force resource they are constantly moved about, meaning officers will not get to know an area as well as they did when on other departments.	13	13	<b>AFO13:</b> We never work the same area day-in and day-out, so as far as individually building a rapport, it's impossible, as a department, could we do more? Possibly.
Culture	For nodes relating to the exhibiting of cultural behaviour of police.	0	0	N/A
ARV Culture	For data that hints towards uniquely ARV-oriented aspects of cultural meanings and norms.	19	37	<b>AFO34:</b> Yeah, but, as I say, as an Armed Response officer, I do, I suppose, you know, I don't thi-, I haven't got into that situation where I think, shit, it's really going to go moody here, you know, it's probably because my little AFO33 is looking after us [pats AFO33 on the thigh]. [Laughter] <b>AFO34:</b> Erm, no, because I think on the Arv, you're trained to look after each other, you're trained to look after a team, you know, and I'm not saying that's the case for on Shift, because that's the same there as

				well, but you're single-crewed nearly all the time on shift, and that's where I think the problem comes, on an Armed Response you're always double-crewed.
Police Culture	For evidence of more general Police Culture (cf. Reiner).	9	12	<b>AFO31:</b> [After hearing the reasons/excuses] "So it's a load of old shit."
Relationship to Other Forces	For any data relating to how the police interact or view other police services in the UK.	17	26	<b>AFO17:</b> So I think Policing by Consent is really important, yeah you get [neighbouring force] criminals come down here and expect, when they get stopped by us, expect us to throw them around, be violent with them, not listen to them, be aggressive with them,
Relationship to Other Countries' Police	For any data that relates to AFOs opinions on how policing is carried out in other countries around the world.	12	21	<b>AFO27:</b> ...So I would say, in general, the police are semi-respected because we're not heavy-handed, we don't go round beating people up, we're not, a European police force where you see those, these things happen.
Relationship to Other Emergency Services	For any data relating to how the AFOs interact with or think of the other emergency services.	5	6	<b>I noted:</b> We discuss the differences in emergency services how it feels like Police & Ambulance versus Fire Brigade. Particularly in terms of how they manage their public image. It's easy to see why the police can be not liked but whoever does the Fire Services' PR is a genius, they always have overwhelming public support even though they do fuck all! I think the fireman's strike put some animosity between the police and military against the fire service, where the need for soldiers to firefight escorted by police made the police military annoyed as they were having to do the same for already far less of a wage and it made both realise how little they do.

Relationship with Other Departments or Officers	For any nodes where specific other departments or sets of officers within the police services are mentioned.	0	0	N/A
DSU	Dog Support Unit	2	2	<b>AFO11:</b> This is his second go on the ARVs, he did 7 years on ARVs, then 15 months on dogs (what he thought was his dream job) then back onto ARVs. He's the only dog handler that has ever asked to leave.
FCR and Firearms Tasking	Including FCR and therefore FIM, plus any TFC, TacAd and OFCs.	8	12	<b>AFO27:</b> I think there could be some criticism in relation to some Force Control Room Inspectors not having any trust in either the officers or training that is delivered, because, they don't want to deploy to certain incidents that are, and should be, clear cut firearms deployment incidents, if that makes sense?
NPAS	National Police Air Service	1	1	<b>I noted:</b> The officers think that NPAS is cheaper than forces having their own because it doesn't get used as much!
Other Firearms	Instructors, Protection Officers, CTSFO etc.	7	13	<b>AFO19:</b> If the public need help, they call the police. If the police need help, they call ARV. If ARV need help, they call CTSFO, although we'd never admit to needing help! We'd try and solve it spontaneously.
PCSO	Police Community Support Officers	3	3	<b>AFO33:</b> PCSOs are the biggest waste of police money ever. <b>Me:</b> Do you not find them useful? <b>AFO33:</b> On the whole not really. For that can do I thank they are worth the money. <b>AFO34:</b> If they're tasked to move people on. Then they just get abuse, "What powers do you have?"

RNP & NPT	Response and Patrol; Neighbourhood Policing Team.	16	21	<p><b>AFO27:</b> That's ARV for you: they complain we don't do any work then they don't let us do any. They want the glory.</p> <p><b>AFO28:</b> We offered to help, that's all you can do.</p>
RPU	Roads Policing Unit [Traffic].	9	16	<p><b>AFO35:</b> I couldn't be a Traffic Officer, you'd be a massive hypocrite, telling people to not speed when you do it. Unless they're dangerous or stupid then they deserve a ticket. The average member of the public just needs a bollocking.</p>
SLT	Senior Leadership Team	6	7	<p><b>I noted:</b> [The officers think Firearms is] good to have on your CV, it is high risk and high profile. So for those who are promotion-inclined it is seen as a good thing to do, but it means they are not invested in it. You end up with people re-inventing the wheel, forcing policy through. There's no longevity at senior level. The best thing we could have is stability.</p>
Specials	Special Constables	1	1	<p><b>I noted:</b> We start talking about Specials as one of the chaps in the RPU was a Traffic Special. AFO18 talks about one he used to know who was an utter cock-womble, a massive arsehole.</p>
Emergency Call Descriptions	To record the type of calls that necessitated an emergency response (i.e. with the use of blue lights and sirens). Within this category, the calls have been categorised by the specific information relayed to the ARV unit I was with as to why they should attend. e.g. A traffic officer had a vehicle stopped but requested more officers to help them as there were several	0	0	N/A

	occupants in it that he was unable to control. Therefore this was recorded as 'Assistance to Other Officers' as opposed to a 'Vehicle Stop'.			
Area Search	Where the presence of the ARV was required as an additional to search for persons or vehicles, whether in the ARV or on foot.	4	6	<b>I noted:</b> 15:50 – Priority Call to a missing 3 year old in Abingdon.
Assistance to Other Officers	When the ARV was tasked to a call at the request of officers on-scene requiring additional officers for assistance.	7	8	<b>I noted:</b> 20:01 – Priority Call to a Sergeant needing assistance after stopping a vehicle.
Burglary or Theft	When the ARV was tasked to a call relating to a Burglary or Theft of property.	6	6	<b>I noted:</b> 11:41 – Priority Call to an address with a suspected burglary in progress, the address has a marker occupant having a Baseball Bat. It's a direct response from a 999 call from a distressed female who is locked in her bathroom stating that she can hear somebody in the address.
Concern for Welfare	When the ARV was specifically tasked with a Concern for Welfare due to their capacity to use MOE equipment.	2	2	<b>I noted:</b> 10:31 – Priority Call to a concern for welfare, a 90 year old man that hasn't been seen in a few days.
Domestic Violence	When the ARV was responding to a believed Domestic Violence situation.	3	3	<b>I noted:</b> 11:32 – Respond to a Priority call, Domestic Violence in progress mother and daughter fighting.
Firearms Authority	When the ARV was specifically requested due to the granting of an Arming Authority in relation to an incident.	6	6	<b>I noted:</b> 23:15 – At this point [FIM] requests that our ARV starts making our way towards in case of assistance. As we reach the ARV it's upgraded to a full FIREARMS INCIDENT with arming authority, the belief that these individuals are "otherwise so dangerous" that it is appropriate to protect the police and public by deploying armed officers.

				I am dumped in the car park as they kit up and speed off.
Individual with Weapon	When the ARV was tasked with priority to a call due to the believed presence of an individual with a weapon. However, these calls did not make the threshold of a Firearms Authority and therefore had other resources tasked as well (usually TTOs).	9	9	<b>I noted:</b> 14:04 – Journey interrupted by a Priority Call to a patient with a knife hearing voices telling them to commit murder, confirm PPE available locally, no TTOs, confirm ARV attending as TASER support.
Medical Assistance	When the ARV was tasked to a call to support the ambulance service due to the advanced medical training and equipment that the AFOs have access to.	2	2	<b>I noted:</b> 12:48 – Priority response to a Cardiac Arrest.
Other	Any other calls the ARV attended that do not fit the other categories.	3	3	<b>I noted:</b> 19:47 – Two males seen pushing rubble onto the railway line.
Road Traffic Collision	Where the ARV was tasked with assisting at a Road Traffic Collision.	3	3	<b>I noted:</b> 01:03 – Car vs Pedestrian RTC in [city], Priority Call. Car has failed to stop.
Threat of Violence	Where the ARV was requested due to the potential but increased threat of violence offered by persons at the scene.	2	3	<b>I noted:</b> 23:57 – Priority call to a fight in progress.
Vehicle Pursuit or Stop	Where the ARV either pulls over a vehicle they witness or are tasked with joining a vehicle pursuit or stopping a particular vehicle.	9	10	<b>I noted:</b> 10:56 – Vehicle suspected to have an extremely violent wanted male in it travelling down the [motorway]. We move to the [town] services to lie in wait. 11:02 – Stopped the vehicle in the services with assistance of an unmarked RPU.
Emergency Responses	When Blue Lights are used to respond to a call.	21	56	N/A
Federation	For any nodes relating to questions asked surrounding the Police Federation's attitudes.	0	0	N/A

Entitled to Comment	For when AFOs questioned the Federation's right to comment on such issues or attempt to push such a policy.	1	2	<b>AFO8:</b> Erm, so in terms of the Federation, I don't really see how they've got a say in the matter, to be fair, the current thing at the moment, they can't force us to carry guns, if at any time I decide, nah, I'm not doing it, they can't make me. I could go back now and say 'I can't be bothered to carry any more', and [indistinct] my ticket.
Issues with Statistics	For when AFOs took issue with the use of surveys and the statistics released from them when informing police and public debate.	4	4	<b>AFO7:</b> Really, I think surveys are, depending on how you word a survey depends on the results you can get.
Unaware	For when AFOs admitted they had no idea what stance the Federation had on the issue and how it affected them.	6	7	<b>Me:</b> OK, what do you think of the Police Federation's attitude to routine arming? <b>AFO1:</b> I have to be honest, I'm not too au fait with that if, um.... <b>AFO2:</b> What? Are they pro it?
Feeling Safe	For nodes relating to the questions assessing if the AFOs felt safe on duty.	1	1	<b>Me:</b> Um, and finally then, do you feel safe? <b>AFO35:</b> Yeah. <b>AFO36:</b> Is that it? Do we feel safe? [Laughter]
Always Being Double-Crewed or Backed Up	For when AFOs discuss the fact they are always double-crewed contributes to feeling safe on duty.	8	9	<b>AFO27:</b> ... we're never crewed on our own, so you've always got that back-up, that support, um, and you're not necessarily going to be put in those positions where you're going to be exposed to, the violence that, patrol officers are going to be exposed to.
Equipment or Firearm	When AFOs discuss the role of the equipment they carry (including firearms) as to whether it helps them feel safe.	5	9	<b>AFO27:</b> Do I feel safer in general? I don't feel unsafe as a police officer, in general, um, now that I carry a gun I'm probably a little bit more protected, it's probably the best way to put it.
Training or Skills	For when AFOs discuss the role of their training or skills in helping them feel safe.	8	11	<b>AFO34:</b> Yeah, I mean, at the end of the day, you're a policeman, whether I've got firearms on me, whether

				I've got any, baton or CS, you're biggest weapon is your communication, you know, so, I don't think it matters if you've got any firearms or any weapons or anything, at the end of the day, if you can talk somebody down then it's brilliant, so, it depends on how you come across.
Firearms Experience	For descriptive nodes relating to whether AFOs had handled a firearm prior to joining the police.	0	0	N/A
Familial or Personal	For when AFOs identified a personal or familial experience with firearms, either through their own interests or as the result of their family's occupation.	8	9	<b>AFO21:</b> Erm, only through my parents because they were sort of farmers, so, you know the shotgun type thing and I owned a pellet gun but I wasn't really, you know, much of a gun expert, just knew which end not to be stood at!
Military	For when AFOs identified a military experience with firearms, be that as simple as attending a Cadet Force when a child or having full military experience, it implies they recieved weapons instructions in a controlled setting prior to joining the police.	12	14	<b>AFO31:</b> Er, for myself, er, I'm former military, um, trained in weapons with the military, and have carried weapons routinely in the military in the RAF Police, um, so for me, it was, it was a, kind of, natural next step after joining the police.
None	For when the AFOs identified they had no experience of shooting or handling firearms prior to joining the police.	9	10	<b>AFO1:</b> No, I'd never picked up a weapon in my life, I'd never even been clay pigeon shooting at the time when I joined so...
Unknown	For when AFOs provided an answer to the question but on review, the answer does not contain a definite answer of whether they personally have any direct experience with firearms.	3	3	<b>AFO27:</b> Yeah, I would say, I would say no, um, I think everybody's sort of handled, some gun of some form when they were younger or in, on holiday in different countries and things like that, but no actual firearms experience, per se.
Firearms Incidents	For data surrounding Firearms Incidents	0	0	N/A
'Experienced'	For data relating to Firearms Incidents that occurred whilst I was on shift involving the officers I was	7	12	<b>I noted:</b> 09:56 Just reached [suburb] police station to do paperwork when a FIREARMS INCIDENT occurs. Male



	observing, meaning they formed part of my 'Experience'.			<p>has pointed a shotgun at a female (?) and damaged some property (cars?). Complainant has jumped in a car to flee and subject has got in his own vehicle and followed her.</p> <p>AFO4 and AFO3 rush down to the ARV to arm up and head out. I remain at [suburb] police station. Luckily other officers at the station have their radios on and I catch some of the ongoing call until they switch to a private talk-group.</p>
Listened To	For data relating to Firearms Incidents that occurred elsewhere during the shifts I observed and therefore were listened in on via the Firearms Channel and other officers radios.	6	10	<p><b>I noted:</b></p> <p>14:10 Call from a Construction site in [town] regarding them being shot at with an air rifle. 3 x ARVs are tasked already, so it's unlikely to involve us.</p> <p>TFC/FIM: "I am unable to preclude that it is anything other than air rifle as we have limited information. The call has no experience with firearms and therefore I believe the arming criteria is met. The risk to victim, caller, public in vicinity, armed and unarmed police is LOW. The purpose is to locate the individual, the firearm and further intelligence. Armed enquiry at that location after discussion with the caller.</p>
Good Quotes	For quotes identified as having value or neatly encapsulating an issue or issues.	18	28	<p><b>AFO11:</b> I understand that we're probably one of the few departments where we're not paid for what we do do, we're paid for what we can do.</p>
Legitimacy	A monolithic code for data deemed to connect to 'Legitimacy', it needs breaking down.	20	52	<p><b>AFO13:</b> You know, I'm big into perception, you know, I think, perception, the public perception of us is, is vital because they'll make their opinion on our ability to be police officers on what they think is important like uniform standards - if you turn up looking like a</p>

				pile of crap, are they going to have faith in your ability to do your job? The two don't correlate, obviously, but you know, and I just think, as a society, in this country, I don't think the public would want it, I think it would affect how people are around us, to a degree, erm...
Mental Health	For nodes relating to Mental Health	0	0	N/A
Mental Health Callouts	For data relating to the effect call-outs relating to Mental Health have on the AFOs duties.	6	6	I noted the officers discussed: The amount of calls to EMD individuals with knives is huge.
Police Mental Health	The importance of police mental health.	1	1	<b>AFO22:</b> The welfare side is... we deal with things members of the public hope never to see; weekly, daily, hourly. It needs coping mechanisms. There's more burnout, PTSD, stress and depression. It's a vicious cycle, the more people are off, the more the stress piles on, the more stress there is, the more people are off etc.
My Position as Researcher	For any of my reflexive notes or any data gathered that highlighted my position as a researcher 'amongst' the AFOs.	12	19	<b>I noted:</b> Irritatingly, had we known at the top of the stairs that it was to be an arming authority then I could have stayed with the [FIM] to see how the incident was managed, instead I was left in the car park, had to beg my way back into the building and get left in the canteen...
Need More AFOs	For nodes relating to the question asking whether the AFO's felt their service needed more AFOs.	0	0	N/A
No	For answers that were an outright no.	10	12	<b>AFO4:</b> Errm, at the moment, for me, no, because, I don't know, I've come on to the department at a time where it's probably at its quietest in years, I imagine, so since I've been on there I've had like hardly any

				jobs, we've been to like loads, we've had deployments and stuff and obviously the terrorism level, it was raised to Critical at one point so it was like a busy time for us, but with regards to actual gun jobs, they're few and far between, so as long as you've got the coverage in the different areas you're fine.
Uplift Good	For responses where the answer was NO and the recent Armed Uplift is cited as the reason for that.	5	5	<b>AFO7:</b> Nah, I think, with the uplift we've had recently, we've got a good mixture for the area we cover, it's... I think the uplift has been sufficient to be honest.
Yes	For answers that were an outright yes.	7	11	<b>AFO20:</b> In the current climate - yes, erm, because we need to be able to respond to things like that happened in Paris and that have happened in London, I think we got away quite lightly with things so far, if something like Paris happens over here we'll be stuffed, so there needs to be a way... to, what we would call contain a situation, what the press would call 'Lockdown' a situation.
Yes and No	For answers that were a combination, where the officer would personally like to see and increase even though they didn't count it as 'Necessary'.	2	2	<b>AFO34:</b> To be honest, I think, it would be nice to have the team to expand just a little bit more, but I don't think there's a call for it, if, if, if we were run off our feet then of course I reckon we should have more police officers, um, but, I, it's not come to that, and I don't think, I don't think there's a need for it, I think probably an extra, another 10 or so, but, even then that's just as a contingency, so I, I don't, as an ARV, I don't, I think we've got enough, I don't think there's a need for it at the moment.
On Your Own	When officers discuss the feeling that if they were to shoot someone (or 'do their job') they would receive little support from senior leadership within the police.	2	3	<b>AFO22:</b> As an AFO, everyone else takes a big step backwards when you pull the trigger, and you're on your own. Gives everyone else an opportunity to throw as much mud as they like.

Operation Foot	For nodes relating wholly to Operation: Foot	0	0	N/A
Impact	Any data that indicates Operation: Foot has or was having a measurable impact on the public.	3	5	<b>AFO26:</b> If you're attempting public reassurance there is no point in doing it until people are used to it. You need to do it for a couple of weeks when it gets critical as opposed to doing it for 6 months at a time. When most of our perpetrators are looking for martyrdom anyway, it doesn't really matter if they get shot by the Old Bill. Borough Market they caused major damage in 8 minutes with kitchen knives, and 8 mins is damn quicker than we could respond, that's the advantage of the Met. The public can get blasé, we should outline our purpose and keep it to a couple of weeks. It's better to keep it in our back pocket for acute reassurance.
Negative Reactions	Any negative reactions from the public AFOs experienced during Operation: Foot.	8	11	<b>AFO34:</b> Op Foot – I thought the reception would be fantastic. But we got a lot saying 'What are you on the streets for?' It's frustrating, I thought we'd get more praise than we did.
Positive Reactions	Any positive reactions from the public AFOs experienced during Operation: Foot.	16	19	<b>AFO22:</b> I really enjoyed Op Foot. You got 3 reactions 1. Odd looks, but say nothing. 2. Why are you here? 3. Thank-you – which was luckily the most common. Lots of photos being taken with peoples' kids.
Organisation	Developing node surrounding how AFOs/ARVs are organised.	19	28	<b>I noted:</b> AFO8 mentioned that this was the busiest they have been for weeks, with 2 local jobs boxed off in one day. Talk about the ridiculousness of the current Community Resolution target (each officer in the force has to get one a month) but they're not really suitable for ARV work, they're for shoplifting and the

				like, so while response guys might get many it's unlikely AFOs will.
Reluctance to 'Give a Level'	For any time the AFOs discuss that they are not always given a firearms authority, even in what they perceive to be justified circumstances.	14	20	<b>AFO14:</b> I, think that if they gave Authorities for, more things or stuff that we probably, when everyone's sat in the cars going 'Why aren't they giving a Level for that?' then, yes, we probably do need more armed police but based on the work at the moment, I don't think we do.
Resources	For any data relating to resources or resource issues within the police.	15	17	<b>AFO4:</b> Yeah, costs pennies. The rounds you use cost like pence, they don't cost us anything as a force really, it's mad that we can't go to [city], for instance, there's a 25m range on there, go on there, like AFO3 said, even just 50 rounds, once a week, get your eye in and then you've got that skill then
Police Politics	For data concerning budget cuts, reorganisation, relationship of the police to government etc.	15	27	<b>I noted:</b> [AFOs 19 & 20 discuss:] How are you going to attract people when you're offering them McDonalds wages and have to strive to be fit (9.4 fitness etc.) on £21K. We're trying to attract graduates, you need a mixture, you've got lots of ex-forces on ARV, you need the balance Investigation/Management. Compulsory Diplomas, is that going to attract the right person? It's a blue collar occupation, trying to make it look an attractive proposition to the middle classes.
Police-Public Interaction	A complex node that tracks data relating to instances in which the AFOs interacted directly with the public.	5	6	<b>AFO9:</b> I must be really approachable, I give a bit of eye contact and I smile which makes me a shit magnet, I get the weirdos.

Discussed	For data gathered when the AFOs discussed their past experiences of interacting with the public - this often manifested in more general terms.	0	0	N/A
Notice	Do the AFOs perceive that members of the public notice the officers were carrying firearms?	0	0	N/A
No		18	22	<p><b>Me:</b> When carrying a firearm, do you feel the public have the same willingness to approach you for assistance?</p> <p><b>AFO35:</b> [Chuckles] Yeah, you'd be surprised, most people don't see the firearm, because it's black, and it's strapped to your leg, so they don't really see it, some people will and they'll ask if it's a TASER or they'll ask questions about it, they'll find it interesting, um, you, we get it when we pop in and get a coffee or something from the petrol station, people come up and ask and have a chat with you, um, but like I say, most people don't even realise it's there.</p>
Yes		22	38	<p><b>AFO18:</b> Yes, out and about, I do, it gets noticed, a lot of the time, well, I say it gets noticed, it gets commented on nearly every time someone notices, um, but in terms of do people come for assistance?</p>
Typology	A self-generated typology for the circumstances in which AFOs interact with members of the public and how that might affect both their demeanour and whether they notice the officers are carrying firearms.	0	0	N/A
Antagonist	For instances where the member of the public was in direct opposition to the police - they had been sought by the police and were subject to questioning, investigation, or arrest.	4	4	<p><b>AFO17:</b> When I first came to ARV, I noticed a difference when you do turn up to a violent incident. Other than those who are drunk and don't notice or those who are hard men who want to fight so don't care, so those who are I suppose 'rationally violent'</p>

				will change. And it's not just the gun, there's two of us in big gear, who turn up in a big car, we are generally more athletic. People become less aggressive, less cocky, RNP like it when we show. Professional crooks also know enough about policing to know not to fuck with us.
Assistance, Emergency	For instances where the member of the public had approached the police for assistance (e.g. directions) or summoned the police because of an emergency affecting them (e.g. burglary) and therefore were expecting a police officer to be present but not that they would necessarily be armed.	5	6	<b>AFO22:</b> Um, for assistance, yes, um, we spoke earlier about, they don't see, us, as individuals, they see us, we are, we turn up in a white car with yellow and blue squares down the side with 'Police' written on the side, people who need assistance don't care who gets out, they don't care whether you're, what your ethnic origin is, they don't care what your gender is, they don't care how tall you are, they don't care, anything else, but you are a police officer to give them help. The people who then start complaining, um, you do get occasionally, you know, 'It's unnecessary! Why've you brought a gun?' and all the rest of it, either because you can speak to them and say 'I'm a police officer, I'm here to help', and that's it, the majority of times, they don't even know, um...
Expected	For instances where members of the public could reasonably expect to see armed police (e.g. an Airport).	3	3	<b>AFO13:</b> Er, I dunno, I think the vast majority of the public, kind of understand that we need firearms officers, but don't really want to see them, it don't... they expect to see them, it's not a shock at an airport, is it? You go through Heathrow Airport, members of the public everybody's sort of accepting of the fact you're going to have armed police there, aren't you? I wonder whether they actually look at them as police officers or just armed security, for the airport.

Unexpected	For instances where members of the public would not reasonable expect to see armed police (e.g. at a supermarket).	23	37	<p><b>AFO9:</b> Well earlier on someone approached me and said 'How did you pay for your shopping?', and she was stood on my right hand side, she would have seen me for quite some time, she'd been watching me for quite some time to know that I'd paid for my shopping with my watch, and then she's approached me a minute later and asked me how I did it, she didn't say boo, she looked quite happy, when I went into Morrison's, I had a bloke come up to me see and 'You know you're getting old when they say cops are getting younger' or whatever the phrase is, so, no-one's batted an eyelid.</p> <p><b>AFO8:</b> Depends on if they even notice the gun in the first place.</p> <p><b>AFO9:</b> Yeah, true, I'm wearing all black, so it might have blended in.</p>
Operation Foot	For instances where members of the public would not reasonable expect to see armed police during the Operation: Foot patrols (e.g. at a concert).	11	11	<p><b>AFO13:</b> Yeah, it attracts some people more, erm, some people actually come over to speak to you, if you were to walk foot patrol through [city] before Christmas, if you were just walking around, as a, like a Neighbourhood Officer, you probably won't get spoken to, you'll get a few Hellos, whereas when we were doing Op: Foot patrols, people were stopping us and actually engaging in conversation, you know, kids wanted, people wanted photographs with you, kids wanted photographs with you, you know, I know it's because it's different, it's not normal, but, you know to a degree I, you know, a lot of people are very, you know, very sort of pro other people, there were a few people that said actually that's quite shocking, the fact that, not necessarily the fact we're carrying a</p>



				firearm, but actually the situation has got so bad that we have to, or that it's been deemed we have to.
Experienced	For instances I directly witnessed where the AFOs came into contact with the public.	0	0	N/A
Notice	Did I feel that members of the public noticed the officers were carrying firearms?	0	0	N/A
No		13	21	<b>I noted:</b> 09:36 [Town] police station – contact with a female member of the public, asking for direction, at no point did she know the officers had firearms.
Yes		13	22	<b>I noted:</b> It takes about 15 minutes for the members of the public to realise AFO28 and AFO27 are armed. They start making comments about them being black Muslim terrorists that need to be shot that's why there's armed police here.
Typology	A self-generated typology for the circumstances in which AFOs interact with members of the public and how that might affect both their demeanour and whether they notice the officers are carrying firearms.	0	0	N/A
Antagonist	For instances where the member of the public was in direct opposition to the police - they had been sought by the police and were subject to questioning, investigation, or arrest.	9	12	<b>I noted:</b> Subject clocked the officers were armed straight away. "Oh my God! You're armed" "I didn't think it needed that/was that bad" The officers explain that it was because we were the nearest unit but he doesn't buy it.
Assistance, Emergency	For instances where the member of the public had approached the police for assistance (e.g. directions) or summoned the police because of an emergency	5	7	<b>I noted:</b> In terms of the public, they didn't notice that the 4 officers that ran into their house were armed.

	affecting them (e.g. burglary) and therefore were expecting a police officer to be present but not that they would necessarily be armed.			According to AFO7 they just see a face in a uniform, they're too wrapped up in their own bubble to notice or care; they are just looking for help when they need it.
Expected	For instances where members of the public could reasonably expect to see armed police (e.g. an Airport).	2	2	<b>I noted:</b> 10:40 Head to [airport] so I can observe from a distance what the public make of armed officers. What is immediately obvious is once the officers have retrieved the carbines from the car and walked into the Airport, a number of individuals stare straight at them, the Airport staff recognise the officers and they have a bit of a chat.
Unexpected	For instances where members of the public would not reasonable expect to see armed police (e.g. at a supermarket).	15	22	<b>I noted:</b> 17:20 We do a postcode search for the sexual offender. As we're knocking on people's doors, people seem very happy to chat, nobody notices or comments on the fact the officers are armed.
Police-Public Relationship	For nodes relating to AFOs opinions of the current relationship between the police and the public	0	0	N/A
Area Dependent	For data where AFOs identified that the level of public support the police receive is dependent on the area of the country/force area they are in.	7	8	<b>AFO30:</b> It depends where you go, er, I'm sure if we got out here, and started talking to people you're going to get a very limited response, but, you go up somewhere like [village] or, away from the city, or in the [forest], you know, you're going to have a perfectly fine conversation with people, it just, literally depends on the clientele in which area you're policing.
Majority Public Support	For data where the AFOs believe that the majority of the public (the 'silent majority', 'the 90/95%) support	18	25	<b>AFO6:</b> I think the silent majority support the police, and I think there is a vocal minority that don't, in my erm, generally I think we're, generally the only people

	the police, or that there is a 'vocal' minority who don't.			that we contact as victims or as, what I would call general members of the public, I think we are well thought of, I think we have challenges in certain area.
Multiple Levels	Where AFOs identify, instead of a 'silent majority', that there are potentially multiple levels of support for the police dependent on a number of factors.	11	14	<b>AFO9:</b> So you've got the 90% that sit in the middle that couldn't care less, they just want to know you'll turn up when they call you, 5% that will give you grief, and the other 5 are just curious, but the vast majority of people, just don't see us, they just go about their lives, and like we were parked up at the side of the road the other day, and we actually commented, at near enough at the same time about how it was alarming how some people see you and go 'Ooh, the cops' and they actually have a good old look, and think 'What are they doing over there?', these are normal people in nice cars that look very well to-do, and they go 'Cor, there's cops over there', and you get some people that look at you and think, 'Oh bloody hell, the cops are over there', but then it's actually alarming the amount, the most part of it, the people that just outright don't see you, and you think, are they not seeing us because they don't really care, or are they not seeing us because they're just driving past and minding their own business?
Previous Contact	Where AFOs identify that an individual's relationship with the police is likely to be correlated with whether they have had previous contact with the police.	16	24	<b>AFO27:</b> Yeah, not a great deal, I don't think they're appreciated a great deal, I think, obviously, the people that we deal with, that, we like to call our 'clients', don't appreciate us in any shape or form.
Public Pandering	Where AFOs identify that for certain sects of society the police 'pander' to public opinion and perform actions that they believe may undermine the police.	5	7	<b>AFO37:</b> Law-abiding tax-payers get the worst service as they are deemed not to have any vulnerabilities.

				<p><b>AFO38:</b> A normal member of the public calls up to report a burglary, if there's no one available they'll normally accept it.</p> <p><b>AFO37:</b> But our 'service users' will then be screaming down the phone at us about them being called a slag online and we will pander to them and their sense of urgency.</p>
Protecting the Public	When AFOs discuss the role of police and/or ARV as being a protective one.	7	10	<p><b>AFO27:</b> We prove that being in the police isn't just about locking people up, it's about helping and protecting people.</p>
Public Perception of ARV	For when officers discuss the public's perceptions of ARV officers.	1	1	<p><b>AFO19:</b> The Great British public is changing, we're an anachronism.</p>
AFOs as More Senior	Including the notion that AFOs are more senior, more experienced than unarmed officers.	3	3	<p><b>AFO26:</b> I think there is a possibly, and I might be imagining this, but I think there might be a public perception that if you're armed police, you must know what you're doing, and I think that must be a bit of a sweeping statement, and I, it's not that I believe that I am any more capable at basic policing than a lot of unarmed police officers, but to the public, they probably, in the same way that they automatically assume that a Detective is senior, they're not, it's just a different specialisation, so I think they perhaps, will approach you because they 'Well, he must know what he's about, they've given him a gun', and I dunno, that may be a bit of a jump on my part, but that's...</p>
Repeat Offenders	For any data relating to the indication by AFOs of issues relating to repeat offenders.	2	2	<p><b>AFO2:</b> You're chasing that person for the sake of chasing the person, or the same people that cry wolf 'I'm gonna harm myself'.</p> <p><b>Me:</b> Yes, yeah...</p>

				<b>AFO2:</b> Repeat offenders, you see the same faces in policing all the time in an area, if you know what I mean.
Role	Developing node surrounding what AFO's perceive their role to be.	14	23	<b>AFO1:</b> Yeah, I think ultimately our, yes 85%, if not more of what we do is normal day-to-day policing but we still need to be in a position to be able to respond should we need to, really, so where possible we try not to get tucked up with an incident which may involve us staying with someone for a long period of time because if that person can't be left and an incident comes in for which we need to leave to that's when it'll be left open slightly.
[Hypothetical] Response Times	For data relating to AFOs discussion of the necessity of being always able to respond inc ase a firearms incident develops. It also includes discussion of how changes may impede or improve response times to hypothetical incidents.	11	11	<b>AFO13:</b> Um, so it would be nice to have more ARVs, but the level of every day work, within [police service] doesn't appear to warrant it, but it's not a tangible thing, is it? That sort of terrorist attack that is expected but they don't know where and when or whatever, you know, they can't, you know, I think if you're talking about, the number of resources we have per firearms deployment, I think we've got it fine, um, but on the flipside, if you've got one car in [city] and the next closest is in [city], and you do have some form of MTA attack or something like that then, I could probably argue that we don't have enough resources because the nearest ARV to be back us up is 25 minutes, half an hour on blue lights, so that's a difficult question, but I think we've to enough at the moment, to be honest.
Routinely Arm	For nodes relating to the debate surrounding Routine Arming	0	0	N/A

Against	Comments or answers that indicate or say that they do not support the routine arming of all police officers.	11	13	<b>AFO6:</b> I'm just no because I think it introduces as many problems as it solves.
Change the Nature of British Policing	When the reason why is that they feel it would change the way policing is done in Britain.	10	12	<b>AFO22:</b> No, I think, we need more ready access so, for example, the Paris attacks they put 60 or 80 thousand troops on the streets of France who are all armed, erm, we couldn't do something similar, so I think there is, whilst arming everybody would change the face of British policing beyond all recognition I personally don't think that would be a positive.
Current Training is Minimum Standard	When they feel that the current training given to AFOs is the minimum required for equipping police with firearms. Therefore reducing the training to save costs is not possible but because of cost and difficulty training every officer to the same extent is prohibitive.	12	21	<b>AFO14:</b> The level of training that's required and the continuous training to keep your skills up is <b>not</b> sustainable to routinely arm every police officer in the country, it's not practical and the training would drop off and it'd be dangerous, and the police officers they're recruiting now, um, they're taking a lot more and are trying to promote more graduates and stuff to do it, and pushing the more intellectual side of things, which is great for the detective side of things and all that, but they start as uniformed officers, and, it takes, it's different skills, it's different mind-sets, it's different types of people and someone who might be absolutely cracking at doing an in-depth investigation, may not be as good or as comfortable, just being a 'on the street' police officer, and if you're giving them a gun, for one, they not even want it, and two, it just, it's not going to be compatible with their mind-set and their abilities so yeah, for me, it's just not being able to continue the training to make everybody safe all the time and different types of people, some

				people won't want it and some people should never have it. So that's...
Financial Burden	The simple financial burden of training and equipping all officers with firearms (including the physical infrastructure) means that they do not support or think the routine arming of all police is possible.	8	8	<b>AFO3:</b> And I don't think there'd be a problem with that, definitely, financially I think there would be a problem for the strain on, yeah, funding, we could increase in numbers, I don't think there'd be an issue as long as the right people were coming through the system and passing the course and they maintained the same standard, I don't think, like the job we do, I think, putting all the ARVs out they would probably be quite bored, in this area, particularly, but they would be no harm in doing it, they could do it like other forces do and have traffic and the ARVs combined....
Lots Won't Want To	When AFOs identify that a significant portion of their colleagues may not want to carry a firearm, which would mean routinely arming all existing police officers would not be possible.	10	19	<b>AFO30:</b> And a lot of people wouldn't want, those people know, and wouldn't want a firearm either, um, again whether it's just pressure or decision making or whatever it is, they haven't joined the job to carry a firearm and if, um, spoken to a lot of them and they said if it ever becomes compulsory, they'd leave. Correct? <b>AFO29:</b> Yeah, because they come from different walks of life and stuff, some people join police to get into neighbourhood policing and help out people with slow-time stuff, um, get involved in quite depth with these families, and like AFO30 said, a lot of them don't want that responsibility as well, having gun to, and making those split second decisions.
Not Actually Needed	When AFOs don't support the routine arming of all police officers because they don't believe it is necessary.	8	10	<b>AFO8:</b> I don't think there's actually a need for it, and even in the event of a terrorist incident, erm, you know, while a sidearm may be handy and would give you a few more options, I don't think it would be

				achievable to go and take on a terrorist armed with an assault weapon, I mean, if you're talking just vehicle attacks, erm, weapon, bladed-weapon type stuff to occur, which, yeah OK, it may work but I don't think it's the be all and end all,
Not Everyone is Capable or Trusted	When AFOs discuss that not all current police officers are capable of passing any form of firearms training or even trusted to be put forward for it, let alone whether they are willing or not.	21	32	<b>AFO8:</b> Erm, I think there are some people that aren't suitable to be firearms officers, I'm guessing if we went down that road, certainly, maybe just like [indistinct] have a personal issue sidearm, for instance, erm, I'm guessing the standards required would probably be reduced somewhat, there are some people in the police that I wouldn't trust with a can of CS let alone with a firearm, erm.
Organisation May Lose Other Skills	That if the police were to become routinely armed, this may put off certain individuals from joining, or may prompt existing members to leave, which will rob the police of its diverse skill-set.	3	4	<b>AFO4:</b> You wouldn't get like a house, and say, there's like, 10 builders in there, different builders have different specialties, don't they? One person's doing electrics, one person's doing like the plumbing, some people can do all of it but in the police, I think it's the same, one person's good at firearms, one person's good at, something else, so there's someone else that's really good in interviews, like I'm not that good in interviews, so I couldn't do that, so there's space for everyone in the police service and I don't think it should be a case that everyone is routinely armed. <b>Me:</b> And you think that routinely arming may screen out people with these specialist skills... <b>AFO4:</b> Yeah.
Perceptions	That arming all officers will change how the public perceive the police in a negative fashion.	3	3	Routine arming would be a public coup.



For	Comments or answers that indicate or say that they do support the routine arming of all police officers, usually with specific conditions attached,	4	5	<b>AFO19:</b> Contrary to what AFO20 says, in an ideal world, yes <b>but</b> , to echo what he says, is if we did, erm, qualitatively, a significant portion of the force would have to be laid off or found other jobs, because, like he says, we don't select for those qualities at the moment, if you want the entire force to be selec- to be carrying firearms, you need to be selecting people from the outset with those qualities, so like AFO20 said, it's, it's got to be some sort of date by which they say 'Right, from now, anybody coming in the expectation is that you will', but as we stand at the moment, I think we should be but it's not technically achievable.
General Comment	For any general comments relating to Routine Arming that do not relate to an evidenced opinion for or against.	2	2	<b>AFO37:</b> Routine arming will only make headway when an officer is killed and it can be proved a firearm would have saved their life – so far Dale Cregan’s murder of PCs Bones and Hughes, Moat’s wounding of PC Rathband and the Westminster attack on PC Palmer all would not have had a changed outcome if they had a firearm.
TASER	For nodes relating to the discussion of TASER.	0	0	N/A
Perceptions of TASER	Any discussion relating to how TASER is perceived, by either police or public.	2	4	<b>AFO22:</b> It would make you think twice. There’s a lot of public misconception around TASER. When people think of agents of the state using electricity, it’s always assumed to be torture. TASER – yes – it hurts, but its primary effect leaves no lasting injury. What’s the alternative? Expose you to a chemical effect (CS) or hit you with an iron bar (baton)?

				<p>It's on a par with CS, but the press stoke the fear of TASER far more. There's a perception that TASER is far more serious.</p> <p>We are entitled to self-deploy firearms if we feel there is a threat that warrants it.</p> <p>If I draw and point a TASER at someone it's the 18-page TASER form and the 5-page Use of Force form. If I draw and point the Glock at someone, it's just the 5-page Use of Force form.</p> <p>TASER is not the magic bullet it is made out to be.</p>
Routine Issue of Needed	Statements that support the routine issue of TASER to all police officers.	5	5	<p><b>AFO12:</b> TASER, yes I agree we should all have TASER as a minimum, because that's an effective use of PPE, but also it's, the police, there's a variety of people that join the police, I'm not sure everyone would be appropriate to be carrying a firearm, day-to-day.</p>
Unsuitability of versus Weapons	For discussion of the suitability of TASER against various threats, about how it is unsuitable as a primary response versus blade articles or blunt trauma weapons.	7	9	<p><b>AFO5:</b> ...so increasing TASER officers is good, I think the trouble comes when we've seen it recently, where they're starting to send TASER equipped officers to incidents where I'd consider that we'd need an armed presence, and it's almost like, TASER authority is given just to cover themselves even though it's not really appropriate, so almost where a job meets the arming criteria, because there's only a knife mentioned straight away they'll just issue you TASER authority.</p>
Training Adequately Support Tasks	Primarily for answers relating to the question asking if AFOs feel their training adequately supports the tasks they perform on duty.	0	0	N/A
Firearms	To hold general data on firearms training and contain nodes for more specific details.	2	3	<p><b>AFO6:</b> And, I think our firearms training, what training we get is very, very good, I think the trainers are very good, I'd just like more of it and more flexibility with it, that'd be my main thing.</p>

				<p><b>AFO7:</b> The training has got better, well, the role has changed significantly in the last 10 years, er, the training has increased, well no, sorry, the training hasn't increased, the training has got better, there's more that has had to be fitted in to the training, minimum training days that we are required to do, historically we may have had more than we get now, but then that's down to resourcing, costings, that's a totally different subject.</p>
Course is Difficult	When AFOs discuss the length of the course or the likelihood that people will fail, drop-out etc.	7	7	<p><b>AFO1:</b> Yeah. Yeah, absolutely, yeah, like AFO2 says, we get a lot of training, we're training once a month now, uh, it's an intensive 10-week firearms course, it's not an easy course to pass, lots of people don't, so I feel comfortable, again, within reason going to sort of any job really, touch wood, you need to be careful what you pray for but.</p>
Overtrained	Wehn AFOs talk about being over-prepared for certain instances, or receive training for incidents they do not attend.	3	4	<p><b>AFO22:</b> *Sigh*, no, but that's probably the wrong way round, that sounds like I'm criticising training. We train for tasks we never get used for, um, at, a, proportion of our training is involved with, is being presented with edged weapons, a male in the street with a knife, a male in the street with a hammer or an axe...</p> <p><b>AFO23:</b> Machete or sword.</p> <p><b>AFO22:</b> We don't get deployed to those, we're not being used for those jobs, and we go in a local capacity to a job where if we follow our training, we will be pointing guns at people, erm, so, it's almost the other way round, we are training well above and beyond what we are being asked to do, um, so, yeah, does that make...?</p>

Non-Firearms	To hold general data on non-firearms training and contain nodes for more specific details.	2	3	<b>AFO6:</b> I think, I think our general police training is not great, they do a lot of e-learning which is not a good way of learning, I think it's a lazy way of getting people to learn.
Deskilling or Falling Behind Response	When officers identify they are being 'de-skilled' in certain areas or feel as if RNP officers are better equipped for different situations.	7	9	<b>AFO18:</b> I suppose yeah in terms of the other stuff, the, I think my biggest, it's a little bit difficult for me at the moment coming into a new, looking back on where I worked before, it, yeah, you just become out of touch with regular policing, and then from the conversation we were having earlier about, you then get expected or a need to do more in regular policing than sometimes you do become de-skilled in certain areas, but, we have the adequate resources to do it and technically I have been trained in it I just haven't used a lot of those skills in a long time, like if I had to interview someone now it's been three years since I've interviewed someone, it's not something I think we should practice regularly because we don't need to do it and it's just a waste of time for us but, and I could still do one, but erm, I'd be out of touch.
Experience Over Training	That for 'day-to-day' policing, being as AFOs tend to be experienced officers, their experience is more valuable or of equal importance to formal training.	7	7	<b>AFO12:</b> Er yeah, yeah, I mean, our day to day stuff as you've seen on several ride-alongs, erm, they're not at firearms jobs throughout our whole tour of duty, so obviously our initial training and our policing knowledge and experience teaches us how to police day to day so we've got that, yeah, day to day.
What is Policing	Material relating to the 'What is Policing?' question.	1	1	<b>AFO1:</b> For me, yeah, dealing with threat risk and harm, really. Clearly if someone is being assaulted, or someone's being broken into, that's bread and butter stuff, isn't it?

Why become AFO	For nodes relating to the question assessing the officers' motivations for becoming an AFO.	0	0	N/A
Always Interested	When officers state they have 'always been interested' in the firearms unit, or have had an aspiration to join it.	10	11	<b>AFO30:</b> Erm, it was what I wanted to do from joining the job really, just wanted to get, experience normal policing and then, eventually join firearms, it's just an aspiration from the beginning really.
'Best' Job	When AFOs discuss that it is perceived to be the 'best' job in the force, expressed in a number of ways - the freedom or trust put in the officers, the ability to tackle 'real'/hardened criminals, attend the 'best' jobs etc.	18	26	<b>AFO23:</b> What did make me choose? It was something I always wanted to do, actually. Erm, it is, in my view, probably one of the best jobs in the force, you get a lot of freedom which I've learnt, to go everywhere, and you get to do a lot of the best stuff, deal with the worst people, probably one of the main things.
Challenge	That becoming an AFO was challenging or seen to be the most challenging role available to police officers.	8	13	<b>AFO12:</b> N'okay... Erm, several reason really, it's considered one of the more elite departments and roles within the police, erm, so you always strive to do the best you can in your career and it's an ambitious thing to do so I've always wanted to do it from that respect.
Connection to Guns or Military	Suggestions that it was a 'natural progression' for those with previous military or firearms experience to join the police with the intent of becoming an AFO.	6	7	<b>AFO8:</b> For me it was a natural progression before I joined, the police, I was a soldier, so from the age of, so I did a little bit with cadets and stuff but I'd fired sort of rifles and stuff and owned an air rifle at some point, um, so I joined the army then so I was more than happy with carrying firearms, obviously a slightly different role and a slightly different purpose and then, had enough of the army, so I joined the police, and then it was just a natural progression really, after my probation then I did four years doing 'normal' policing shall we say and it was just, like, something I was interested in and well, while not a gun nut as such, in terms of in my private life, erm, I've always

				been around guns, I sort of understand how they work, I wouldn't say I'm an expert marksman by any stretch of the imagination but I certainly am proficient enough to pass the stuff I've got to do this, it was just like a natural progression really
Equipment, Training or Skills	That there was an appeal in the equipment, training or development of skills that are offered to AFOs above what is offered to other police officers.	11	13	<b>AFO15:</b> Oh, yeah! I think, from my point of view, I like going out catching criminals, that's what I do, that's why I joined the police. Erm, people who target vulnerable people, and in my view, people who carry firearms, who carry weapons, who pose that type of threat to the community, um, I want to be catching those sorts of people, and um, being given the tools to do that, and to protect myself and the public, um, I think is only a good thing, obviously with the changing of the threat, the terrorist incidents that we've seen as well, I just want to be in that position to be able to potentially do something about it, if it happens in the area that I work, and by carrying a firearm, I can do that. So yeah, that's it.
NOT guns	That it is very particular from some officer that it was NOT the firearms/guns/weapons themselves that appealed to them; an attempt to distance themselves from the potential negative connotations of liking firearms, being 'trigger-happy' etc.	6	9	<b>AFO34:</b> Nothing, at all. No, guns don't, guns have never really interested me, even now it just, I do it at work and that's it. I've never had any real interest in firearms, no, never say never but even in the Army Cadets never really handled any firearms in there either.
Remain Front-Line or Uniformed	When AFOs identify that they wished to stay front-line or in uniform, suggesting that non-uniform or leadership oriented roles are not 'real policing'.	8	10	<b>AFO1:</b> Very similar, errm, it's something you sort of work towards, if you like, whilst being on area, being reactive, and if you want to stay in uniform, you are very frontline, if not more frontline than most, when a firearms deployment comes in because it's obviously only us that can deal with it.

Underrepresented	That the firearms unit/ARVs are lacking diversity and therefore that came as a personal challenge to some wishing to become AFOs.	1	1	<b>AFO21:</b> Oooh, erm, I suppose the challenge of the role, it's quite underrepresented by females so, I suppose that attracted me, in a weird sort of roundabout way, erm.
Willingness to Approach with Firearm	For answers or data relating to the question as to whether AFOs feel the public are still willing to approach them even though they are carrying a firearm (be that a sidearm or long-arm).	0	0	N/A
A Talking Point	Where AFOs identified that members of the public recognise the firearms and use it as a point of conversation to chat with armed police, who they would normally have no exposure to.	10	11	<b>AFO13:</b> Yeah, it attracts some people more, erm, some people actually come over to speak to you, if you were to walk foot patrol through [city] before Christmas,
Context Dependent	Where AFOs identify the context is important before the public decide whether to approach and interact.	8	9	<b>AFO1:</b> I mean, I think you would need to put that into context because generally when we're carrying a firearm, we're obviously at a firearms incident, a deployment, we're not there to sort of talk to the public. <b>Me:</b> Yeah. <b>AFO1:</b> Um, and we're obviously there to do a job, when the threat level changed and we were doing our patrols around the sort of higher threat areas, then yes, then we were welcoming selfie, photos, etc. because that's good PR, and it's good to integrate with members of the public....
Less Willing	That holding a firearm makes the public less willing to approach an AFO if they require assistance or information.	1	1	<b>AFO24:</b> Erm, again, having come from the unarmed police to the armed police, I'd say, for assistance - no, because they don't want to bother you, they, I feel, that they feel that we're here for a special reason, so I never really now get asked about crimes, about parking or about general issues that people would come up and ask us for.

No Different	When AFOs identify no difference between the interactions they have now as an AFO compare to when they were unarmed. This includes discussion of the difficulties of 'not knowing the negatives' - i.e. it's hard to measure who isn't approaching them.	9	10	<b>AFO23:</b> [Indistinct] I don't think it makes a difference. <b>AFO22:</b> No.
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## Appendix 6 – ERGO Documentation

This section contains in the following order:

- ERGO Submission Form
- ERGO Risk Assessment Form
- Participant Information Sheet – Observation
- Consent Form – Observation
- Participant Information Sheet – Interview
- Consent Form – Interview

Each of these documents retains its own footer and page numbering.

It is necessary to highlight here that when these documents were written and submitted, there was still an expectation that the thesis would have an international focus and that further fieldwork and interviews would take place abroad. As detailed in the Methodology (Chapter Two), this did not come to pass, and the fieldwork carried out only took place in England. The forms have not been changed from their original state, so they reflect what my participants read and signed. Finally, the ERGO Submission Form makes mention of focus groups which were discounted at an early stage due to the logistical difficulties in arranging them.



## SSEGM ETHICS SUB-COMMITTEE APPLICATION FORM

**Please note:**

- **You must not begin data collection for your study until ethical approval has been obtained.**
- ***It is your responsibility to follow the University of Southampton's Ethics Policy and any relevant academic or professional guidelines in the conduct of your study. This includes providing appropriate information sheets and consent forms, and ensuring confidentiality in the storage and use of data.***
- ***It is also your responsibility to provide full and accurate information in completing this form.***

1. **Name(s):** Oliver Clark-Darby

2. **Current Position:** PhD Student

3. **Contact Details:**

**Division/School** School of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology

**Email** [ocd1g11@soton.ac.uk](mailto:ocd1g11@soton.ac.uk)

**Phone** 07766 591712

4. **Is your study being conducted as part of an education qualification?**

Yes ☒

No ☐

5. **If Yes, please give the name of your supervisor**

Professor Jenny Fleming and Professor Peter Squires [University of Brighton]

6. **Title of your project:**

'An International Comparison of Armed Policing'

7. **Briefly describe the rationale, study aims and the relevant research questions of your study**

The issue being investigated is whether firearms affect the police's relationship with the public in the context of police legitimacy; specifically about how officers with firearms interact with the public and how they feel this may alter or influence their behaviour. This is being explored in the context of four jurisdictions with different methods of providing firearms support to police: England & Wales use a majority of unarmed officers supported by a small number of specialists; the New Zealand Police and Norwegian Police Service train all officers in the use of firearms but do not routinely arm them whilst the Netherlands have a routinely armed service.

It has been theorised that police officers with firearms may affect interactions between the police and the public, that this could potentially deteriorate perceptions of police legitimacy. Whilst numerous sources have debated this topic (Bayley, 1977; Sarre, 1996; Waddington and Wright, 2007; Buttle, 2010; Hendy, 2012), thus far there has been no robust, practical research-based inquiry into this matter.

According to the policing by consent model, the public should provide willing co-operation to the police. This should be because the public believe in the legitimate authority of the police, rather than fearing the threat of force that the police are allowed to enact on behalf of the state. For countries that rely on the policing by consent model, such as England and Wales and New Zealand, this has led to the routine deployment of unarmed officers. However, there has always been a need to equip some officers with firearms, typically to counter the threat of criminals using weapons. How and why police in these countries use firearms then becomes a matter of scrutiny and debate. The recent resurgence of threats involving mass-casualty international terrorism has then elevated this level of discussion. If the role of the police with regards to counter-terrorism is to be discussed fully, the role of armed police within the policing paradigm also needs to be explored fully.

In short, policy-makers need to know if armed police do have a detrimental effect on police legitimacy and what can be done to mitigate it. This can only be done by observing countries that have a history of legitimate policing with different models of providing firearms support to police.

This research seeks to test if the theory is correct in assuming that armed police may affect the relationship between the police and the public. This research will carry out an international comparison between three jurisdictions that have differing systems of armed policing but also maintain a focus on building and sustaining police legitimacy. It will explore from a police perspective how armed officers interact with the public and how officers feel their firearms may affect those interactions.

The central research questions consist of three components. These research questions may change over time as the study progresses, and are currently under review.

1. How do firearms policing practices impact on police perceptions of police legitimacy in England and Wales, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Norway?
2. How does firearms policing policy in England and Wales, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Norway affect police practice in these countries?
3. How can firearms policing policy and practice in the Netherlands, New Zealand and Norway inform police use of firearms in England and Wales?

## 8. Describe the design of your study

The study will consist of the same methods being employed across the three jurisdictions for a methodologically consistent study.

My primary objective is to carry out a series of observations of on-duty police officers. These officers would be firearms trained and have access to firearms whilst on duty. In England & Wales, this would be Authorised Firearms Officers, likely in an Armed Response role; in the Netherlands this would likely be *Basisteam* members; in New Zealand it would consist of appropriately trained General Duties Branch personnel and/or (where possible) members of the Armed Offenders Squad; finally in Norway they will be *Politibetjent* with appropriate training. Ideally the officers would be carrying out their routine patrol or response functions that are likely to bring them into contact with members of the public. I would be seeking to do around two weeks of on-duty observation in each country, attempting to approximate a typical officer's shift pattern.

The observations would be seeking to assess the relationship between the police and the public. They would also act as the foundation for informal conversations to discuss and understand officers' opinions on firearms, their duties and their sense of safety. In the case of the Netherlands or New Zealand, I am hoping that some of the officers observed would be active members of a specialised

firearms team such as the Armed Offenders Squad or an *Arrestatieteam* so that a comparison between the two sides of their unique policing role can be discussed.

Whilst it is difficult for me to say with certainty, as arrangements are still being made with each police service, it is likely that in each of the three nations I will observe a wide range of police duties which could include taking statements, attending emergency calls, serving warrants etc. Whilst this study has a focus on armed officers, who may be called to situations with a higher risk of violence, close observation of such duties are not strictly necessary for my research. It is hoped the richest data collection will come when the police interact with members of the public, regardless of the context for it occurring. Should these calls with an elevated risk for violence arise, there are guidelines in my Risk Assessment that explain what will take place. In the British context, it must not be forgotten that, whilst armed, Authorised Firearms Officers remain police officers, and therefore carry out a significant number of other policing tasks. Many of these tasks will be similar to tasks undertaken by the Dutch, Norwegian and New Zealand Police services, who also happen to have routine access to firearms whilst on duty.

My next priority would then be to support these on-duty observations, where possible, with a number of informal interviews to help provide context and extrapolate details from the observations undertaken. Ideally these interviews would comprise of officers that have involvement in organising either firearms operations or the firearms training process. If there was the time, I would be also aim to observe any relevant firearms training or requalification for any firearms trained personnel that may be available during the time of my visits. These observations would go on to support work I have already carried out in England & Wales regarding ARVs and further provide support and context to the on-duty observations.

Finally, where appropriate and possible, I would seek to use Focus Groups as a method of Member-checking and to aid with the co-production of my research. These would likely be undertaken as the last aspect of the research with a group of officers who have already been involved in the study. These would seek to feedback initial findings and address any comments or questions I had relating to the data collected.

**9. Who are the research participants?**

Firearms-trained police officers in police services from England & Wales, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Norway.

**10. If you are going to analyse secondary data, from where are you obtaining it?**

If secondary data is to be used it will be accessed from the public domain or from the police services I have approached

**11. If you are collecting primary data, how will you identify and approach the participants to recruit them to your study?**

*Please upload a copy of the information sheet if you are using one – or if you are not using one please explain why.*

For three countries (England & Wales, the Netherlands and New Zealand) I directed my enquiries to senior officers within each police service, for New Zealand this included completing an official Request for External Research Application. I was then contacted by a Norwegian Police Superintendent from the Police University College to explore our similar areas of research and look into collaborating together.

Due to the hierarchical nature of police services, it is likely that the senior officers addressed will make decisions on behalf of their departments, from these departments officers will then be recommended this study and volunteers can then be gathered. This means, sampling will be convenient and purposeful.

Please see attached Participant Information Sheets for Observation, Interview and Focus Groups.

- 12. Will participants be taking part in your study without their knowledge and consent at the time (e.g. covert observation of people)? If yes, please explain why this is necessary.**

No, at all times the police officers will be aware they are being observed.

- 13. If you answered 'no' to question 12, how will you obtain the consent of participants?**

*Please upload a copy of the consent form if you are using one – or if you are not using one please explain why.*

1. For the on-duty observations taking place, officers will have been briefed by their senior officers prior to the commencement of the duty. Officers will be asked to fill out a Consent Form after reading a Participant Information Sheet.
2. For the training observations taking place, officers may have been briefed by their senior officers prior to the commencement of their training session that they may be observed. Past experience has shown me that during a training session involving a number of officers, obtaining written consent is intrusive and impractical. Therefore, I will seek verbal consent from any officers I directly observe in training over the course of this study.
3. For any interviews or focus group participation that takes place, participants will be fully informed via a Participant Information sheet and will need to sign a Consent Form. Furthermore, they may receive information prior to the study from their Senior Officers or Department who were seeking volunteers to participate.

See attached Participant Information Sheets and Consent Forms.

- 14. Is there any reason to believe participants may not be able to give full informed consent? If yes, what steps do you propose to take to safeguard their interests?**

No.

- 15. If participants are under the responsibility or care of others (such as parents/carers, teachers or medical staff) what plans do you have to obtain permission to approach the participants to take part in the study?**

N/A

- 16. Describe what participation in your study will involve for study participants. Please attach copies of any questionnaires and/or interview schedules and/or observation topic list to be used**

On-duty Observation:

Participation in my study for officers involved in the on-duty observation sections will consist solely of them carrying out their normal policing functions with me as an observer. For the police officers to be involved in my study, they will be expected to explain the actions they take as well as answer questions about their role during the course of the observation, if and when appropriate to do so.

In addition, the officers will be responsible for issuing safety instructions to me dependent on their understanding of the risk of a situation. As outlined in the Risk Assessment, I will follow all instructions given by the officers I accompany.

**Training observation:**

The Training observations will be very similar; they will involve me observing a training or requalification program for officers as part of their ongoing professional development. Once again, this should be routine for all officers involved and not entail any additional strains for them to participate. Where possible my attendance will be as unobtrusive as possible, for example in a classroom setting I will be positioned at the back or for practical modules I will stay alongside the Instructor so as not to disrupt the training taking place.

Once again, officers may be expected to answer questions about their training during the course of the observation, if and when appropriate to do so. In addition, instructors will be responsible for issuing safety instructions to me dependent on their understanding of the risk of a situation. As outlined in the Risk Assessment, I will follow all instructions given by the officers I accompany.

**Interviews:**

Participants will take part in an in-depth, semi-structured interview lasting around ninety minutes. There will be a prioritised list of questions that will be asked, and extra prompting questions will come up in the interviews to enhance the answers of the respondents.

**Focus Groups:**

Participants will take part in a focus group lasting a maximum of two hours. The discussion will be routed by a guide but will also have the chance to develop organically from the conversations the participants hold.

**17. How will you make it clear to participants that they may withdraw consent to participate at any point during the research without penalty?**

It will be clearly explained on the Participant Information Sheet and on the Consent Form. It will also be highlighted at either the start of the interview/Focus Group or the point at which observation commences.

**18. Detail any possible distress, discomfort, inconvenience or other adverse effects the participants may experience, including after the study, and you will deal with this.**

No adverse effects outside the normal experiences of police officers in the course of their duties or training are expected from participation in the observation parts of the study. With regards the interviews and focus groups, the police use of firearms is a sensitive issue in which people shoot and people die, albeit not very often. For this reason, it is entirely possible for a respondent to become either upset or angry with regards to the more traumatic parts of their working lives. That said, the purpose of these interviews is to assess officers opinions on matters relating to the police use of firearms and concepts such as legitimacy, they are not designed to make officers recall aspects of their service history. However, should such a situation occur during an interview or focus group, the participant will be reminded of their right to withdraw their participation at any time. Furthermore, officers in these roles should already have access to psychological support and counselling, should they be necessary if these issues arise.

**19. How will you maintain participant anonymity and confidentiality in collecting, analysing and writing up your data?**

Each officer observed or interviewed will be assigned a pseudonym comprised of letters and numbers. During the report, I shall use 'Officer' as a descriptor rather than 'Constable', 'Sergeant' etc. This is because there may be a limited number of higher ranks in specialised units, so highlighting them could breach their anonymity. Details such as their role and which police service they belong to may be used to aid comparison, but this will only be done with the service and the

individual's permission. Other demographic details will only be discussed if they do not risk identifying the individual in question.

The officers will be aware I am writing a report so should know that what they say is being recorded, potentially verbatim, for readership at a later date. The data will be anonymised at the earliest opportunity following the interview and will remain anonymous throughout the analysis and writing up of the data. All written notes and observational recordings will be kept under lock and key as well in accordance with the University ethics agreement.

**20. How will you store your data securely during and after the study?**

*The University of Southampton has a Research Data Management Policy, including for data retention. The Policy can be consulted at <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/research-data-management.html>*

All observation and interview data will be kept in accordance with the Data Protection Act and University policy. It will be stored in password protected areas on a computer to which only I will have access. All written notes will be locked up.

**21. Describe any plans you have for feeding back the findings of the study to participants.**

In the first instance, the purpose of the Focus Groups would be to provide initial research feedback to as many participants as possible. In New Zealand and, to a lesser extent, the Netherlands and Norway, where travel requirements are a key expense/consideration, these may only be the most immediate of initial findings. In England & Wales, it is hoped perhaps a series of Focus Groups could be undertaken if officers wanted to be kept up-to-date with developments in the data analysis.

Once completed, a summary of the findings will be circulated to interested participants through my contact in their department. Furthermore, the whole study will be available to the departments for their use, and any individual officer may contact me for a copy.

Elements of the study may be re-written and condensed into articles published not only in academic journals but also practitioner-based websites such as Policing Insight, Police Professional or Police Oracle that have higher readership rates by officers than academic journals.

**22. What are the main ethical issues raised by your research and how do you intend to manage these?**

The key ethical issues for this project concern the individual participants, and in particular their anonymity. Firearms operations are a secretive part of British policing, and are sensitive topics elsewhere in the world. Out of necessity, in some instances, the confidentiality of their members, tactics and operations is of utmost importance. I have discussed the steps that we will take to manage these issues above. We will treat all participants and their data with respect, and our approach is informed by an ethic of care, which stresses attention to our responsibilities.

**23. Please outline any other information you feel may be relevant to this submission.**



September 2016

## Risk Assessment Form for Assessing Ethical and Research Risks

- Please see Guidance Notes at the end of this document.
- *Students:* Please make sure you have discussed this form with your supervisor!

**Researcher's name:**

Oliver Clark-Darby

*In case of students:*

**Supervisors' names:**

Professor Jenny Fleming and Professor Peter Squires

**Degree course:**

PhD Sociology and Social Policy

### Part 1 – Research activities

What do you intend to do? *(Please provide a brief description of your study and details of your proposed methods.)*

This comparative study aims to explore whether firearms affect the police's relationship with the public in the context of Police Legitimacy. It has been theorised that police officers with firearms may affect interactions between the police and the public, and that this could potentially deteriorate perceptions of police legitimacy. This is particularly relevant in jurisdictions where police officers are routinely unarmed and attempt to uphold the principles of Policing by Consent, such as England and Wales and New Zealand. Whilst numerous sources have proposed policing theory on this matter (Bayley, 1977; Sarre, 1996; Waddington and Wright, 2007; Buttle, 2010; Hendy, 2012), thus far there has been no robust, practical inquiry into this matter.

This research seeks to test if the theory is correct in assuming that armed police may affect the relationship between the police and the public. This research will carry out an international comparison between three jurisdictions that have disparate systems of armed policing but also maintain a focus on building and sustaining police legitimacy. It will explore from a police perspective how armed officers interact with the public and how officers feel their firearms may affect those interactions.

To do this I aim to carry out a series of ethnographic methods in each of the three countries chosen. These include observation of on-duty police officers, observation of police training sessions, interview of police officers and Focus Group discussions involving police officers.

Will your research involve collection of information from other people? *(If yes, please provide a description of your proposed sample.)*

Yes, my sample will comprise firearms-trained police officers from police services in England & Wales, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Norway.

If relevant, what locations are involved? *(Please specify which country/region/place you will be working in, and details of where data collection activities will take place (e.g. public or private space).)*

For the on-duty aspects of research:

Public spaces patrolled by police in England & Wales, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Norway.

For the training aspects of the research:

Police stations and police training facilities in England & Wales, the Netherlands, New Zealand

and Norway.

For the interviews and focus group discussions:

Police stations or other police property in England & Wales, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Norway.

Will you be working alone or with others in the data collection process?

I will be working alone.

## Part 2 – Potential risks to YOU as the researcher

Please specify potential safety issues arising from your proposed research activity. *(Give consideration to aspects such as lone working, risky locations, risks associated with travel; please assess the likelihood and severity of risks.) If you have already completed a departmental H&S risk assessment, this may be attached to cover these aspects.*

1. The observation of on duty police could encompass a number of potential safety issues to me including exposure to the element, working near a public highway or hazards involving the conduct of members of the public. The likelihood of these occurring is Low and the severity of risk is Low when considering the mitigations detailed under 'precautions'.
2. The observation of training undertaken by police officers could encompass many risks including, but not limited to: slips, trips and falls; hearing damage and damage to eyes/sight. It is up to the police service in question to appoint me the sessions they feel it is suitable for an observer to be present at, which may include class-room based work, which poses significantly less risk. Regardless of the type of modules, with the minimisation of risks laid out below, the likelihood of risk is Very Low and the severity of risk is Low.
3. Being the principal researcher means that this work I will be considered to be 'Lone Working' on behalf of the university. However, due to the nature of my research, the likelihood of risk is Very Low and the severity would be Low.
4. The travel aspects of my research involve travel to/from and within More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs). Therefore there should be no risks associated with sanitation, hygiene, fresh water supply or access to healthcare. Neither country visited outside the UK is host to foreign or tropical diseases nor at this moment in time do I aim to drive abroad, therefore my unfamiliarity with local road laws would not be a hazard. The only Natural Risks that might occur in New Zealand are extremes of climate conditions (heat/cold) or the potential for Natural Disasters such as Earthquakes and Flooding. Whilst the severity of these is Medium, the likelihood of these occurring are Very Low.

What precautions will you take to minimise these risks?

1. To mitigate any risks encounter in the on-duty observation sections of this research I will ensure that I am fit and well enough to observe officers on-duty, that I comply with any PPE requirements (e.g. high-visibility clothing) and that most importantly I listen carefully to and comply strictly with any and all instructions given by the accompanying officer(s). Whilst observing I will maintain discrete distance between myself and any members of the public in case they become agitated or aggressive – if they do so, I will remove myself from the situation. I will only accompany an officer if they expressly tell me it safe to do so to observe that aspect of their work; whilst at the scene of an incident I will avoid touching anything unless permitted to so by the officer in charge. If at any point during the data collection I feel uncomfortable or unsafe, I can request to terminate that session of data collection. If necessary, all subsequent data collection sessions can be terminated as well.  
Should the officers equipped with firearms in this study be tasked to a call where they believe there is an elevated risk of violence, such as an active armed offender, then a number of options could be put to practice. For example, the police may take the decision to leave me in a secure vehicle at the scene until the situation has been

resolved; they could task a different unit to the call thus negating the need for them to attend; they could drop me off at a suitable secure location (e.g. outer cordon or local police station) to await the return of the crew or they could arrange that I am picked up by another crew in the area. It is worth emphasising that police are overseeing and supervising my fieldwork, and therefore will be doing nothing that might put me at risk of any foreseeable harm.

As an example, I have attached a full Risk Assessment from Lancashire Constabulary regarding the observation of on-duty officers by members of the public. This is attached purely as an example as their document is publically available, it does not mean Lancashire Constabulary will be the police service I work with or that the attached document is the exact Risk Assessment I would be covered by. The example Risk Assessment from Lancashire is a general Risk Assessment for those wishing to accompany police officers on duty, which can be done by any member of the public. This provides a basic overview of the types of risks to an individual accompanying an on-duty police officer in the course of their work. With regards this specific application I will be accompanying highly-trained firearms officers, in environments they deem are safe in line with the Risk Assessments and Disclaimers they outline for me as an organisation.

2. The police will be required to Risk Assess my attendance; in addition, the training will take place in controlled environments that the police can influence, therefore making these suitable for safe observation by a third part should be straightforward. I will listen to all briefings given for the training to be undertaken as well as comply with any and all instructions given to me by the Instructors immediately. I will also comply with any PPE requirements for the training being undertaken. I acknowledge that my decision to observe the exercises is completely voluntary and if at any point I feel I am at risk of harm, I shall remove myself. If I feel after any session that I was at greater risk than was suitable assessed then the Participant Observation section of this data collection will cease.
3. Whilst 'Lone Working' on behalf of the University during my research, I shall for the most part be accompanying or accompanied by police personnel. Any risks from being 'alone' during the observations should be countered in the precautions listed above. With regards other arrangements to ensure I reach my destinations I shall carry my mobile phone with me at all times as well as informing a significant party when and where I have a planned research activity (observation/interview/focus group). I shall contact them when I arrive and when I leave the venue. They will also be told my travelling arrangements. If I do not return or make contact after a set time, my significant party will be left instructions on who to contact. These details could be drawn up into a 'Safe Operating Procedure' to be followed for each data collection segment.
4. To prevent suffering against extremes of climate conditions, I aim to be well-prepared for when I travel. The key advice given by New Zealand refers to travelling into the wilderness to explore New Zealand's natural beauty, and that tourists often get caught out. At no point during my research visit do I plan to trek into the wilderness, it is likely because of the police focus of my work I will be centred in an urban environment. I will keep an eye on weather forecasts and ensure I am suitably equipped for the tasks I am aiming to carry out. When I know the specific dates and location of my travel, I can also check whether that area is prone to Natural Disasters at that time of year, if so, I can incorporate aspects of their travel advice into my planning such as ensuring my embassy and emergency contacts have copies of my travel itinerary and passport should something happen to them.

Please specify potential distress or harm to YOU arising from your proposed research activity. (*Give consideration to the possibility that you may be adversely affected by something your participants share with you. This may include information of a distressing, sensitive or illegal nature.*)

1. Whilst an active duty with police officers it is possible that I may come across sights that can cause discomfort or distress. Although the likelihood of this is Very Low.
2. Long periods of Lone Working can cause issues around Loneliness and feelings of a lack of support, although the likelihood of this is Low.

What precautions will you take to minimise these risks?

1. Whilst little can be done to prevent seeing the unexpected and the shocking when on duty with police, I reserve the right to terminate any section of data collection where I do not feel comfortable or able to carry on. Both the University and the Student's Union offer counselling services should that be something I wish to make use of. Should these support mechanisms be unavailable, police agencies have similar support methods for their officers, in a crisis it may be that I am able to make use of those as I will be accompanied at all times by experienced officers. It is also of reassurance that a significant quantity of police time is taken up with the mundane and therefore the likelihood of encountering an even such as this is very small indeed.
2. As a precaution I will keep in regular contact with my supervisors and designated contacts to keep them updated with my progress and seek their assistance should I have any concerns.

### Part 3 – Potential risks to YOUR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

Please consider potential safety risks to participants from taking part in your proposed research activity? *(Give consideration to aspects such as location of the research, risks associated with travel, strain from participation, and assess the likelihood and severity of risks.) If you have already completed a departmental H&S risk assessment, this may be attached to cover these aspects.*

My research activities should not cause any additional safety risks to participants. All police officers will only encounter safety risks conforming with those that they know are present in their daily working lives be it on-duty or in training. Their organisations will have risk assessed these activities and as front-line police officers they should be well aware of these hazards and risks.

What precautions will you take and/or suggest to your participants to minimise these risks?

N/A

Please specify potential harm or distress that might affect your participants as a result of taking part in your research. *(Give consideration to aspects such as emotional distress, anxiety, unmet expectations, unintentional disclosure of participants' identity, and assess the likelihood and severity of risks.)*

1. The interviewing of police officers may cause them to become upset, the severity of this would be Low and the likelihood Very Low.

What precautions will you take and/or suggest to your participants to minimise these risks?

1. The idea of the interview is not to make firearms officers call up previous incidents that they have attended, it is to obtain their opinion of various notions and structures within policing and policing policy. However, incidents that they have attended may be relevant to the questions asked and it is their discretion as to whether they discuss them. However, if this situation does occur during an interview, the participant will be reminded of their right to withdraw their participation at any time. In addition, all police services have an internal structure that contains appropriate counselling services should the need arise.

### Part 4 – Potential wider risks

Does your planned research pose any additional risks as a result of the sensitivity of the research and/or the nature of the population(s) or location(s) being studied? *(Give*

*considerations to aspects such as impact on the reputation of your discipline or institution; impact on relations between researchers and participants, or between population sub-groups; social, religious, ethnic, political or other sensitivities; potential misuse of findings for illegal, discriminatory or harmful purposes; potential harm to the environment; impacts on culture or cultural heritage.)*

1. It is inescapable that the public will be present in the on-duty observation sections of the research and this presents some of the hazards laid out above under 'on-duty observation' but also raises a wider question around whether they are 'participating' in this research, potentially without consent.

What precautions will you take to minimise these risks?

1. It is clear that the focus of my research remains on the police and their actions taking place in the context of their duties. So whilst the public may be observed during this study, no data will be collected directly from them, indeed the only data about the public will come from the police officers' (i.e. my participants') perspective. I will seek to have no direct interaction with the public, therefore meaning they will not be 'participants' in my research, indeed, it would be impractical to formally include them in my research process. My focus remains on the police and should not cause members of the public to alter their behaviour or have any additional risks imposed onto them. The sole relevance of the public in the study is to frame and provide context to the police's actions; no data will be gathered from the public and any details noted around incidents will come from the police's perspective of events. In addition, as a representative of the university I will also ensure that my conduct is professional and courteous throughout the periods of on-duty research should the public take notice of me.

#### Part 5 – International Travel

If your activity involves international travel you must meet the Faculty's requirements for Business Travel which are intended to:

1. Inform managers/supervisors of the travel plans of staff and students and identify whether risk assessment is required.
2. Provide contact information to staff and students whilst travelling (insurance contact details, University contact in case of emergency etc.)

Full details are provided in the [Faculty H&S Handbook](#) in the **Business Travel** section. Selecting **Business Travel** from the Contents list will take you straight to the relevant section.

Departmental H&S risk assessment attached (for Part 2/3)	<b>NO</b>	(Delete as applicable)
Business Travel and Risk Filter Form attached (Part 5)	<b>NO***</b>	(Delete as applicable)
***Please see attached note regarding Business Travel and Risk Filter Form		



## **Participant Information Sheet - Observation**

**Study Title:** An International Comparison of Armed Policing

**Researcher:** Oliver Clark-Darby

**ERGO number:** 31373

***Please read this information carefully before deciding to take part in this research. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.***

### **What is the research about?**

I am a PhD Student at the University of Southampton and I am conducting this research to provide primary data for my thesis. My thesis explores whether firearms affect the police's relationship with the public in the context of Police Legitimacy; specifically about how officers with firearms interact with the public and how they feel this may alter their behaviour. In this context 'Legitimacy' encapsulates whether the police feel they have the public's support for the manner in which they police.

I am looking at this in the context of the routinely 'unarmed' jurisdictions of England & Wales and New Zealand; I am then using the Netherlands as a routinely armed comparator so that different methods of providing firearms support to police can be investigated.

My research is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) of the United Kingdom; this research aims to provide robust, evidence-based inquiry into a topic previously only theorised about.

### **Why have I been asked to participate?**

You have been chosen because:

- You are a serving police officer.
- You are trained in the use of firearms.
  - o Or have involvement in the delivery of police firearms training or operations.
- You work for a police service in England & Wales, the Netherlands or New Zealand.

Therefore, I believe your experiences and opinions will be invaluable to my research

### **What will happen to me if I take part?**

Your involvement in this study will consist of a set of observations of you performing your normal policing duties. How many sessions are observed will be arranged in advance between the research team, the officers in question and senior police leadership; this may mean the number of observations taking place may vary from officer to officer. You will have the right to withdraw your involvement in the study at any stage prior to or during the observations. The data gathered will be anonymised and your identity will be kept confidential.

If you have agreed to be observed over multiple sessions, you will be required to read the participant observation sheet and sign a consent form for each one. Your right to withdraw relates to each single observation session, and withdrawing partway through one session would not preclude you from carrying out another session at a later date. After a number of observations have taken place there will be an opportunity for you to attend a Focus Group with other officers who have been involved in this study. This will take place once sufficient data has been gathered and initial analysis has commenced. Participation is optional, but the session will aim to feedback initial findings from the research and highlight as further avenues of inquiry.

**Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

These observations give you the opportunity to demonstrate your policing practice as well as articulate your thoughts and feelings on policing, legitimacy and the use of firearms within your police service. Other than these, there are no direct benefits to you in taking part in my study. However, I am hoping that my study will contribute positively to the academic discourse surrounding the use of armed police worldwide. If you are interested in the findings of my research, I would be happy to send a summary of my thesis when it is completed.

**Are there any risks involved?**

Participation in this study will not incur any additional risks outside of what is expected during your normal policing duties.

**Will my participation be confidential?**

All participants in this study will be anonymised and their details kept strictly confidential. The data collection does not aim to elicit personal information and the only person to know the identity of the research participants will be me, as the principal researcher. Participants will be assigned a pseudonym and will only be referred to within the text by their pseudonym. All research with the University of Southampton complies with the *Data Protection Act*. The data gathered will be kept securely at all times including when the thesis is presented for marking. Should the data be used in a further publication, the same levels of confidentiality will be assured.

**What should I do if I want to take part?**

If you agree to take part, please initial and sign the Consent Form.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

As mentioned above, you have the right to withdraw from the process at any time prior to or during the observation sessions. Due to the nature of the observations and the manner in which the data is recorded, if you withdraw part way through an observation session, the data collected up until that point will be retained and used in the study.

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

The results will be written up into my thesis and submitted to my University as contribution to my PhD. Once the thesis is completed, a summary of the key findings and, when possible, a completed version of the thesis will be sent to your police organisation. Should you wish for an individual copy of either of these, please contact me.

It is then hoped that elements of the project will be able to be converted into articles for both academic journals and practitioner based repositories (e.g. Policing Professional). The research data will be securely stored for a minimum of 10 years as per the University's policy. The data you provided may also be used in future research projects providing they are ethically approved. Any future publications will be made available through the University's repository.

**Where can I get more information?**

If you require more information please feel free to contact me (Oliver Clark-Darby) or either of my Supervisors:

Name: Oliver Clark-Darby  
Institution: University of Southampton  
E-mail: [ocd1q11@soton.ac.uk](mailto:ocd1q11@soton.ac.uk)

Name: Professor Jenny Fleming  
Institution: University of Southampton



E-mail: [j.fleming@soton.ac.uk](mailto:j.fleming@soton.ac.uk)

Name: Professor Peter Squires

Institution: University of Brighton

E-mail: [P.A.Squires@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:P.A.Squires@brighton.ac.uk)

**What happens if something goes wrong?**

In the unlikely case of concern or complaint, you must contact the Research Integrity and Governance Manager at the University of Southampton.

Telephone: 023 8059 5058

E-mail: [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)

The University has insurance in place to cover its legal liabilities in respect of this study”.

**Thank-you for taking the time to read this information sheet and considering taking part in my research project.**



## CONSENT FORM - OBSERVATION

**Study title:** An International Comparison of Armed Policing

**Researcher:** Oliver Clark-Darby

**ERGO number:** 31373

Please <b>INITIAL</b> the box if you agree to the statement	
Agreement with the following statements is REQUIRED for the participant to take part in this research.	
I have read and understood the information sheet [Version 2 dated: 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2018] and have had the opportunity to ask questions about the study.	
I agree to take part in this research project and agree for my data to be used for the purpose of this study.	
I understand my participation is voluntary and I may withdraw (at any time prior to or during the observations) for any reason without my rights being affected.	
I understand that should I withdraw partway through the observation session, the data recorded up until that point will be retained and used in the study.	
I understand my responses will be anonymised in reports of the research.	
I understand that I may be quoted directly in reports of the research but that my name will not be used.	
Agreement with the following statement is NOT REQUIRED for the participant to take part in this research.	
I consent to my anonymised data being used in future ethically approved research studies.	

*PLEASE TURN OVER TO SIGN*

Name of participant (print  
name).....

Signature of  
participant.....

Date.....

## **Participant Information Sheet - Interview**

**Study Title:** An International Comparison of Armed Policing

**Researcher:** Oliver Clark-Darby

**ERGO number:** 31373

***Please read this information carefully before deciding to take part in this research. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.***

### **What is the research about?**

I am a PhD Student at the University of Southampton and I am conducting this research to provide primary data for my thesis. My thesis explores whether firearms affect the police's relationship with the public in the context of Police Legitimacy; specifically about how officers with firearms interact with the public and how they feel this may alter their behaviour. In this context 'Legitimacy' encapsulates whether the police feel they have the public's support for the manner in which they police.

I am looking at this in the context of the routinely 'unarmed' jurisdictions of England & Wales and New Zealand; I am then using the Netherlands as a routinely armed comparator so that different methods of providing firearms support to police can be investigated.

My research is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) of the United Kingdom; this research aims to provide robust, evidence-based inquiry into a topic previously only theorised about.

### **Why have I been asked to participate?**

You have been chosen because:

- You are a serving police officer.
- You are trained in the use of firearms.
  - o Or have involvement in the delivery of police firearms training or operations.
- You work for a police service in England & Wales, the Netherlands or New Zealand.

Therefore, I believe your experiences and opinions will be invaluable to my research

### **What will happen to me if I take part?**

Your involvement in this study will consist of a single face-to-face interview that I expect to last no more than ninety minutes. You will have the right to withdraw your involvement in the study at any stage prior to or during the interview. Your responses will be anonymised and your identity kept confidential.

With your express permission this interview may be audio recorded.

After this interview, there will be an opportunity for you to attend a Focus Group with other officers who have been involved in this study. This will take place once sufficient data has been gathered and initial analysis has commenced. Participation is optional, but the session will aim to feedback initial findings from the research and highlight as further avenues of inquiry.

### **Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

The interview gives you the opportunity to articulate your thoughts and feelings on policing, legitimacy and the use of firearms within your police service. Other than this, there are no direct benefits to you in taking part in my study. However, I am hoping that my study will contribute positively to the academic discourse surrounding the use

of armed police worldwide. If you are interested in the findings of my research, I would be happy to send a summary of my thesis when it is completed.

**Are there any risks involved?**

The purpose of the interview is to explore your thoughts and feelings surrounding the police use of firearms and police legitimacy. It is not the intention of this study to recount your service career or explore previous incidents in which you have been involved. However, through conversation around these topics, it may be possible that you could recall information from your career that could provoke some discomfort for you. As it is not the purpose of the interview to call this information to mind, the risk of it occurring is very low. However, should it occur, you are reminded that if you take part, you are not obliged to answer all the questions in the interview and you may withdraw from participating at any time.

**Will my participation be confidential?**

All participants in this study will be anonymised and their details kept strictly confidential. The interview does not elicit personal information and the only person to know the identity of the research participants will be me, as the principal researcher. Participants will be assigned a pseudonym and will only be referred to within the text by their pseudonym. All research with the University of Southampton complies with the *Data Protection Act*. The data gathered will be kept securely at all times including when the thesis is presented for marking. Should the data be used in a further publication, the same levels of confidentiality will be assured.

**What should I do if I want to take part?**

If you agree to take part, please initial and sign the Consent Form.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

As mentioned above, you have the right to withdraw from the process at any time prior to or during the interview. However, if you do withdraw from the interview, the data gathered up to that moment will be retained and used in the study.

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

The results will be written up into my thesis and submitted to my University as contribution to my PhD. Once the thesis is completed, a summary of the key findings and, when possible, a completed version of the thesis will be sent to your police organisation. Should you wish for an individual copy of either of these, please contact me.

It is then hoped that elements of the project will be able to be converted into articles for both academic journals and practitioner based repositories (e.g. Policing Professional). The research data will be securely stored for a minimum of 10 years as per the University's policy. The data you provided may also be used in future research projects providing they are ethically approved. Any future publications will be made available through the University's repository.

**Where can I get more information?**

If you require more information please feel free to contact me (Oliver Clark-Darby) or either of my Supervisors:

Name: Oliver Clark-Darby  
Institution: University of Southampton  
E-mail: [ocd1g11@soton.ac.uk](mailto:ocd1g11@soton.ac.uk)

Name: Professor Jenny Fleming  
Institution: University of Southampton  
E-mail: [j.fleming@soton.ac.uk](mailto:j.fleming@soton.ac.uk)

Name: Professor Peter Squires  
Institution: University of Brighton  
E-mail: [P.A.Squires@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:P.A.Squires@brighton.ac.uk)

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E-mail: [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)

The University has insurance in place to cover its legal liabilities in respect of this study”.

**Thank-you for taking the time to read this information sheet and considering taking part in my research project.**





## CONSENT FORM - INTERVIEW

**Study title:** An International Comparison of Armed Policing

**Researcher:** Oliver Clark-Darby

**ERGO number:** 31373

Please <b>INITIAL</b> the box if you agree to the statement	
Agreement with the following statements is REQUIRED for the participant to take part in this research.	
I have read and understood the information sheet [Version 2, dated: 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2018] and have had the opportunity to ask questions about the study.	
I agree to take part in this research project and agree for my data to be used for the purpose of this study.	
I understand my participation is voluntary and I may withdraw (at any time prior to or during the interview) for any reason without my rights being affected.	
I understand that should I withdraw partway through the interview, the data recorded up until that point will be retained and used in the study.	
I understand my responses will be anonymised in reports of the research.	
I understand that I may be quoted directly in reports of the research but that my name will not be used.	
Agreement with the following statements is NOT REQUIRED for the participant to take part in this research.	
I understand and give permission for my interview to be audio recorded.	
I consent to my anonymised data being used in future ethically approved research studies.	

*PLEASE TURN OVER TO SIGN*

Name of participant (print  
name).....

Signature of  
participant.....

Date.....