Non-Mounted Police

Focus group Framework

These focus groups will involve between 5-10 officers of any rank who, within their current role, regularly work with mounted police. The focus group participants should ideally know one another, and potentially be drawn from the same units or area of operations within a single police force. The focus group will be recorded using a digital recorder, and all comments will remain confidential in the final report.

# Opening

*Thank you for agreeing to participate. Over the next 90 minutes or so, we will ask the group a number of questions regarding your work as police officers, and some specific questions about mounted police work as well. We are seeking to understand how various tactics, including the use of mounted police, are seen within police forces. This focus group is part of a larger study into mounted policing in the UK.*

*All of your comments will be audio-recorded in a confidential manner, and any reports made from this research will be fully anonymous. As such, we encourage you to speak freely and honestly and ask questions wherever things are unclear.*

*At the end of the session you will be given our contact information should you wish to follow up on the results of this research, and you are welcome to withdraw your participation at any time up to the publication of the research results. Before we begin, are there any questions?*

# Contextual

## Key question: What is their experience in the force?

First, we would like to know a little about the members of this focus group.

* ROUND: Can each participant please outline their current rank, role, and years of experience?

# Police Work

## Key Question: What is successful police work?

We’re now going to ask a few questions about your jobs as police officers. Some of these questions may seem very general, so please feel free to interpret these as you see fit.

* First, in your current role, what does good police work look like?
  + How do you measure success?
  + What might be considered ‘bad’ policing or grounds for improvement?
* Is success measured differently by different kinds of police?
  + In different units/branches?
  + In different forces?

# Mounted Police

## Key question: What experience do officers have working with mounted?

Now we have some questions about mounted police, and we are under the impression that everyone here has some experience working alongside mounted branch.

### Contact with mounted

* Has anyone here ever worked as a mounted officer?
* How often do you work with mounted branch in your current role?
  + Daily, weekly, monthly, less than once a month?
  + (If any say rarely in current role) What about in previous positions you’ve held?

## Key Question: What are mounted police for?

### Impressions of Mounted Work

* In what situations will you normally work with mounted?
  + Do they support local operations such as crime reduction?
  + Are they ever deployed in unexpected or odd situations?
  + Examples?
* What do you think they spend most of their time doing?
  + Is this time well spent?

### Value

* What, in your opinion, is the most important thing that mounted branch brings to policing?
  + Are there things that mounted can do better than other police?
* In what situations are mounted most effective?
  + What makes them effective? (Probes: officer safety; ability to maintain order; effect arrests etc.)
  + Are there situations where they are indispensable?
  + Where are they less effective than other options?
  + Are there any uses of mounted that seem inappropriate?
* When mounted police are present, does that change the way you do your job?
  + Always for the better? (Probe: enables/makes more confident to take action).
  + How does presence of mounted make you feel? (Probes: more confident; better supported; like something is going to happen).
  + In crowd situations?
  + In neighbourhood patrols?
  + (Any other identified deployments)

# Wrapping Up

Thanks again for your participation. Before we wrap up, we would appreciate some feedback on the focus group.

* First, are there any questions you think we should have asked that we did not ask?
* Finally, is there anything anyone would like to contribute that they have not yet had a chance to say?

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