

Interview Schedule for Research Project - Policing and Vulnerability: *How is the concept of vulnerability understood and used by chief police officers and those responsible for their direction and oversight? What are the implications of the application of the concept of vulnerability to policing for police legitimacy?*

Introductions, re-state purpose of interview, check that interviewee has read and understood the participant information sheet, ensure participant consent form has been understood and signed and test recorder is working. Provide participant with a copy of the informed consent form. If Skype or other remote form of interview confirm that the participant has consented and received a copy of the information sheet and informed consent form.

What does vulnerability mean in a policing context?

1. Please can you tell me what you think ‘vulnerability’ and ‘being vulnerable’ mean in a policing context?
2. *(If not answered at 1.)* Please can you give me specific examples of who, or which groups, should be treated as vulnerable by the police?
3. What has driven the growth of protecting the most vulnerable as a policing priority? *(Probe if needed: Is it austerity and rationing? Wider discourses? Regulators? Politicians? Plugging holes left by past police failures? Changes in demand/new or complex crime? Public’ demand? ... Or what?)*
4. Has the Covid 19 pandemic influenced the understanding of what vulnerability means in a policing context?

How is the concept of vulnerability put into practise, in terms of policy, operational policing, guidance, direction and oversight?

1. How do you *(for police participants)* / or should the police *(for participants from oversight bodies)* justify these vulnerable individuals or groups receiving a higher priority for use of police resources and power, than other individuals or groups who may have a convincing case to suggest that they should be a priority for police? *(be prepared to challenge and, if needed, provide examples of others whom police should probably prioritise, e.g. burglary and road traffic collision victims)*
2. Please can you tell me how your organisation has changed how it operates, including culture, policies, practise and structures, to protect the most vulnerable in society? *(for police participants)* / to ensure the police effectively protect the most vulnerable? *(for oversight participants)*
3. Has the Covid 19 pandemic changed how your organisation operates in terms of its response to vulnerability?
4. How do you *(police participants)* / how do the police *(oversight participants)* involve those who are identified as vulnerable in decisions about how they should be treated by

police? *(Probe if necessary: Please provide specific examples? Do they consider themselves vulnerable? Is this just changing labels, viz: 'problem families' become 'vulnerable families', 'victims' become 'vulnerable people', new wine in old bottles?)*

What are the implications of the application of the concept of vulnerability to policing for police legitimacy?

1. Has the adoption of a vulnerability agenda in policing improved the effectiveness of policing? *(Probe: And if so how? Please provide concrete examples. How do you know this? Does it lead to power being used against the vulnerable in ways they may not welcome?)*
2. Does the concept of vulnerability influence police relationships with other public sector bodies? *(if needed probe about displacement from other sectors potentially leading to increased demand on police, impact of budget reductions, any areas of contention or consequences? To what extent is this a rationing process?)*
3. Are there tensions between the priority given to protecting the most vulnerable and other policing priorities? *(Probe: look for inconsistencies, clearly vulnerable groups/categories missed, other voiced demands on policing being ignored, examples where those perceived powerful need police protection, are you talking about vulnerable people or problem people?)*
4. *(If not already answered at 3.)* What has the impact of the vulnerability approach to policing been on local policing, and engagement and problem solving? *(Probe: Is it skewing decisions about the use of police resources and power? What about the protection of property?)*
5. What are the consequences of the priority being given to protecting the vulnerable for police legitimacy and for the right of police to use power?

Thanks, and conclusion

1. Are there any questions that I should have asked that I have failed to ask? And is there anything else you would like to add?