

Student perceptions of welfare support accessibility in the PCDA (PEQF) program

This study intends to explore the perceptions of available mental health support and access by student police officers, specifically those on the PCDA program.

Key details

Lead institution	Canterbury Christ Church University
Principal researcher(s)	Wayne Watling wayne.watling@canterbury.ac.uk
Police region	South East
Level of research	Masters
Project start date	October 2025
Date due for completion	August 2026

Research context

In policing, there has been significant interest in better understanding of mental health support for police officers. This is especially prevalent with new recruits who face the pressures of police operational training together with academia. This study intends to explore the perceptions of available mental health support and access by student police officers, specifically those on the police constable degree apprenticeship (PCDA), currently studying with the university from Surrey and Sussex Police.

Research methodology

Anonymised surveys by Canterbury Christ Church University policing students.