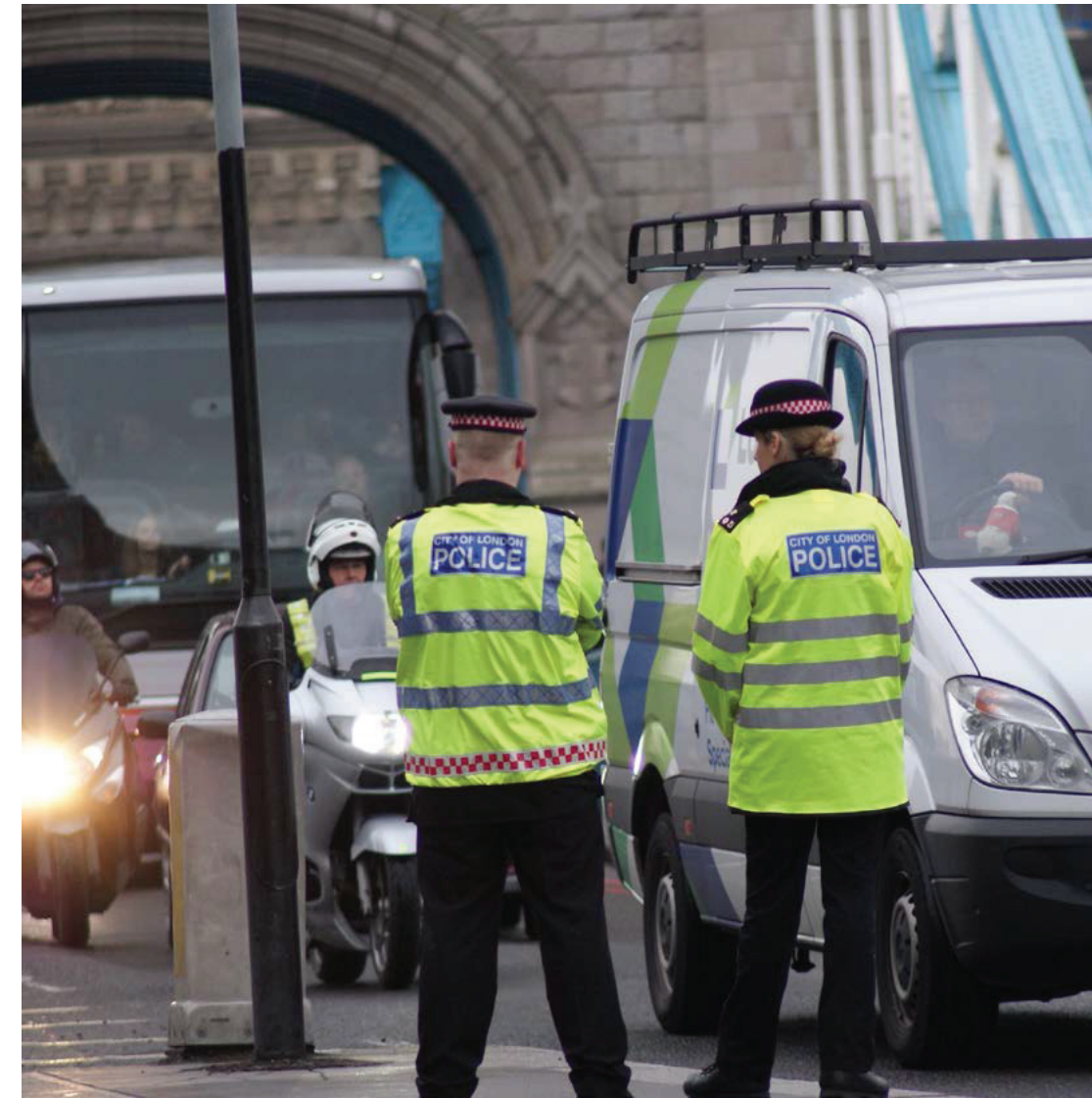


# Structured Interviews of Human Intelligence (HUMINT) Police Officers

Jordan Nunan, Rebecca Milne, Ian Stanier, Andrea Shawyer, & Dave Walsh

## Abstract

This research explores the perceptions and experiences of police officers who gather intelligence from human sources. This research will be of interest to agencies who operate a range of covert sources.



## Methodology

### Ethical Approval

- University of Portsmouth.
- CREST.
- Police Organisations.

### Sampling

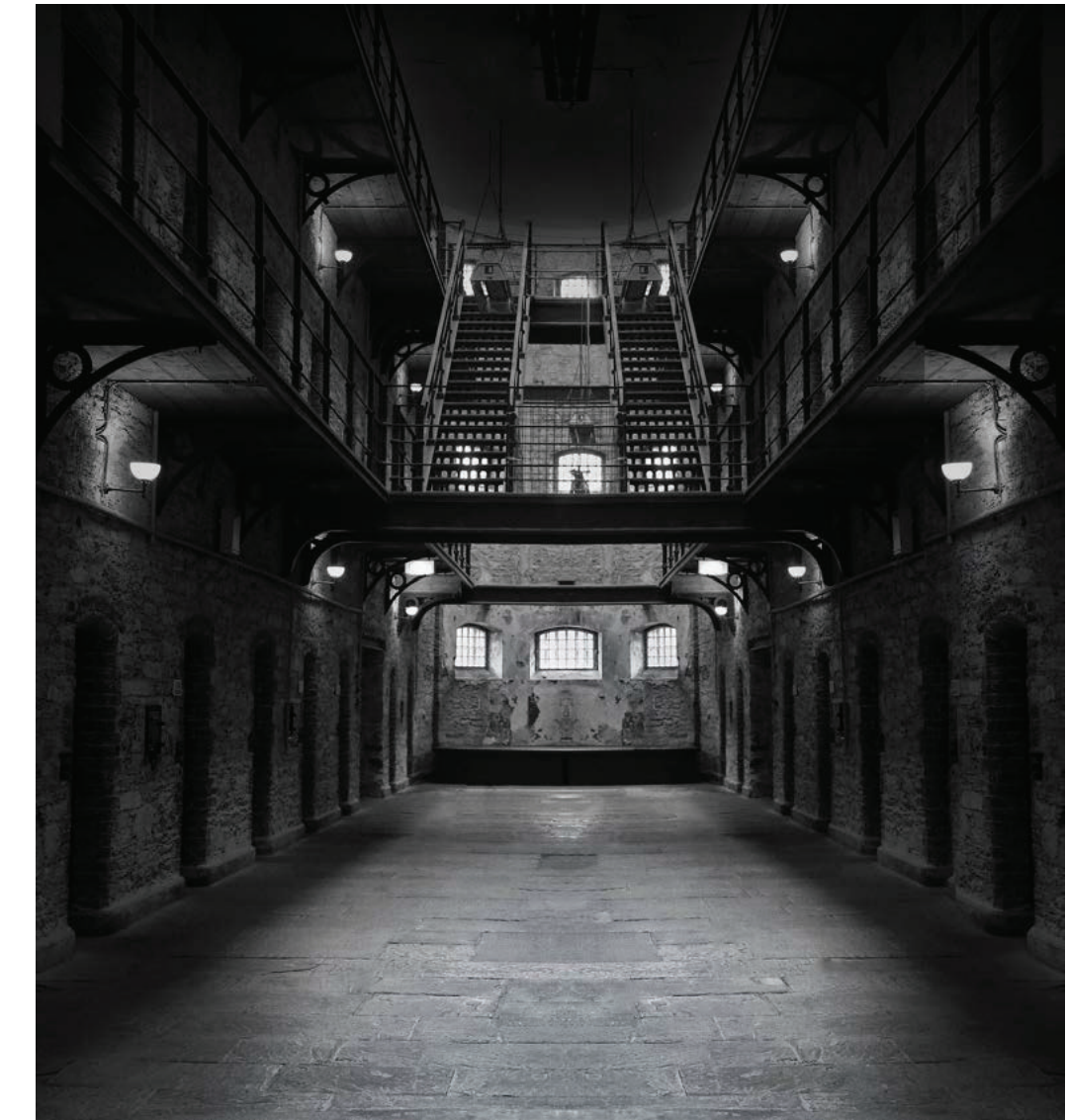
- Purposive sampling.
- Access to colleagues with relevant expertise.
- Snowball sampling.

### Method

- Structured interviews were conducted via:
  - Audio recorded face-to-face.
  - Audio recorded via phone.
  - Written responses via email.

### Preliminary Participants (N=10)

- HUMINT police officers.
- Mean years of age = 44.8.
- Mean years of experience = 8.6.
- 2 Authorising Officers, 2 Source Controllers, and 6 Source Handlers.



## Background

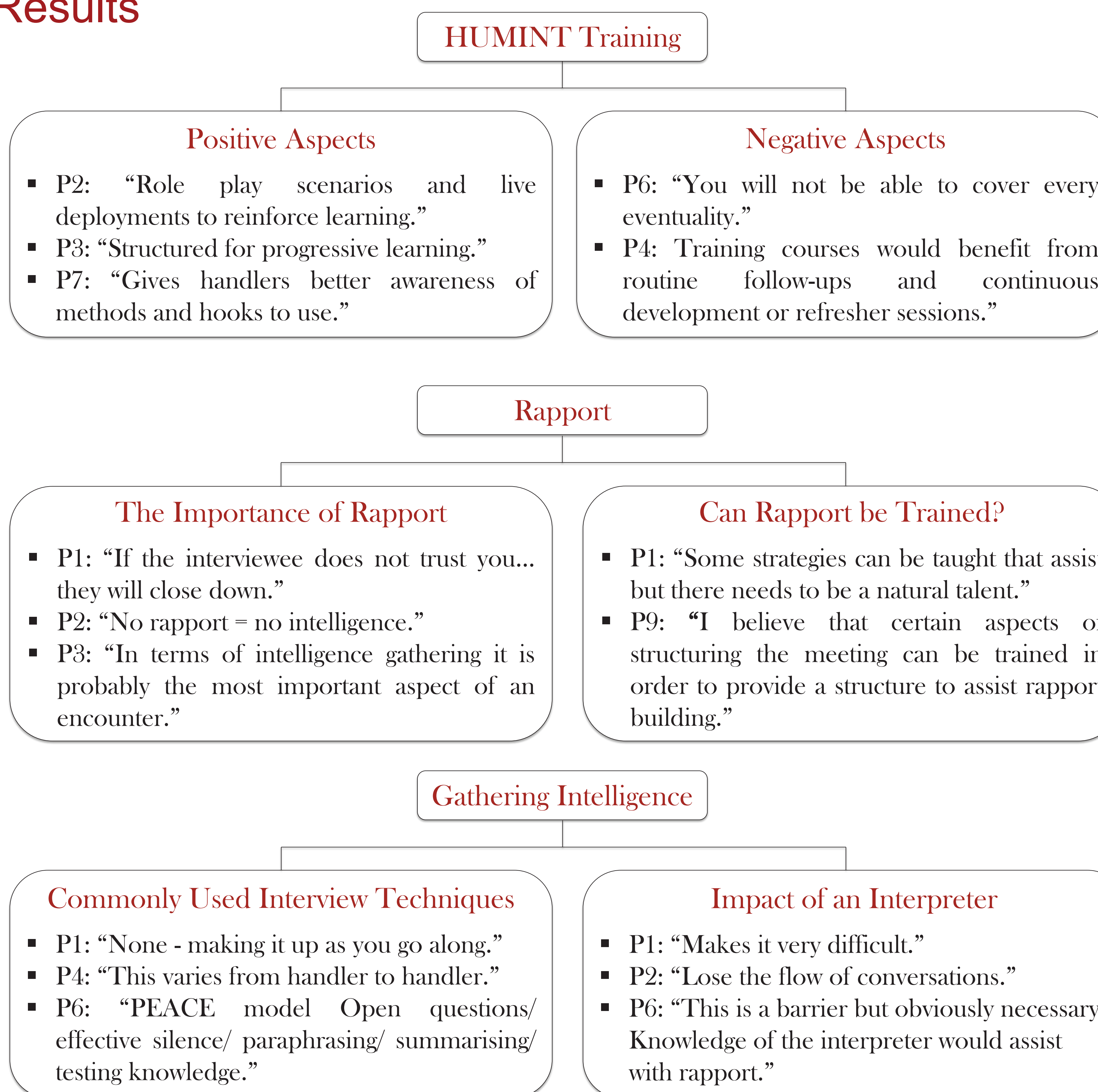
In recent years there has been a renewed focus on intelligence led policing, which is a proactive measure to counter criminal activity. Agencies can use a variety of methods to collect intelligence in order to police England and Wales. Human Intelligence (HUMINT), one of the methods, comprises of legitimate covert practices, such as the use of Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS). This research is situated within HUMINT and pays particular attention to the use of CHIS. CHIS report to their handlers about past and future events, which can potentially disrupt serious crime and create new investigative leads. However, research is yet to explore the perceptions and experiences of police officers who gather HUMINT within England and Wales.

## Research rationale

- This research provides an insight into the current successes and challenges in gathering intelligence, covering key topics such as training, rapport, intelligence gathering approaches, memory, and communication.
- As research funded by the High Value-Detainee Interrogation Group (HIG) demonstrates, there are gains to be made from utilising evidence-based practices in this area.



## Results

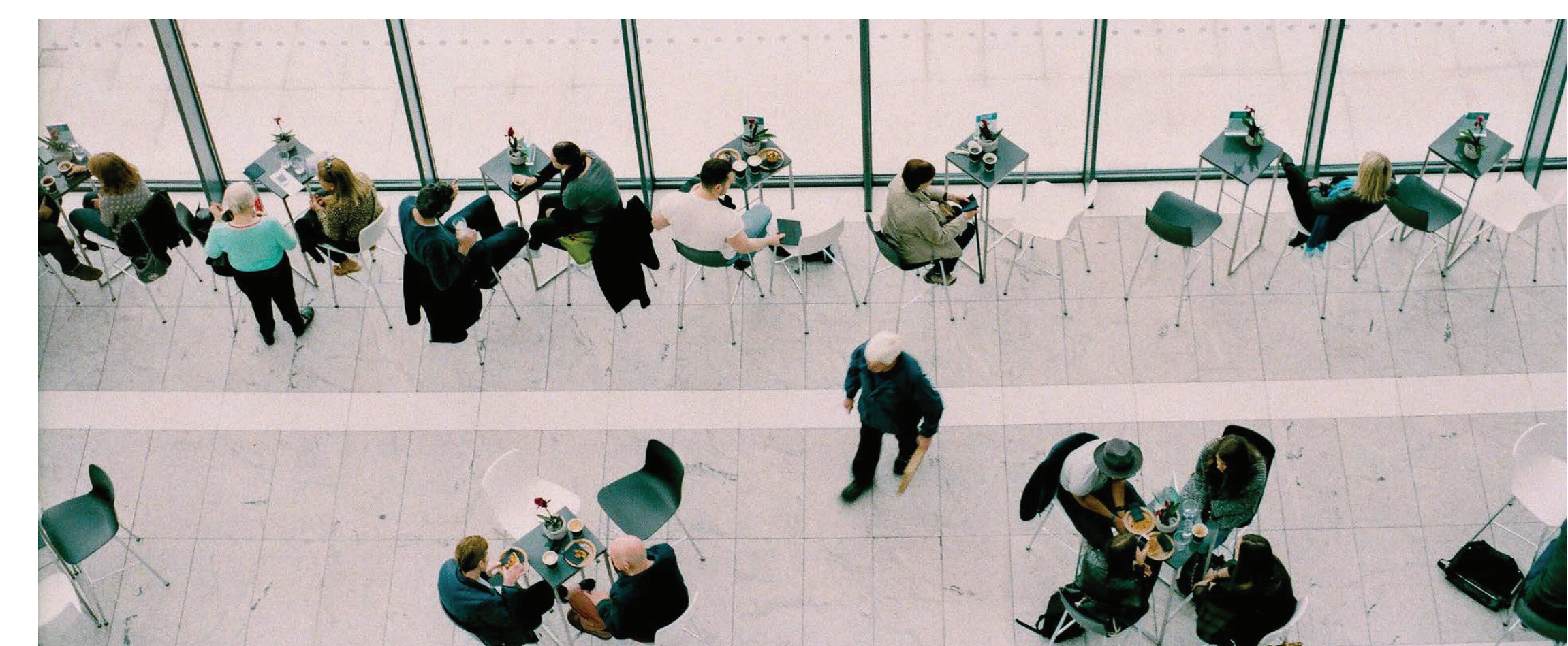


## Research Challenges

- Access to a sensitive data set - established an effective working relationship with a policing practitioner.
- Sensitive data - clarified sections thought to be classified/operationally sensitive and sections removed upon participant's request.

### Next Steps

- Conduct a further 20-30 structured interviews with police HUMINT officers in order to undertake an empirical exploration of their perceptions and experiences of gathering intelligence from human sources.
- This research will form the core basis from which the empirical research will stem, which aims to develop evidence-based intelligence gathering tools.
- Publish research findings to impact upon HUMINT policy and practice.



## Point of Contact

CREST Doctoral researcher Jordan Nunan is supervised by Professor Rebecca Milne, Dr Andrea Shawyer (University of Portsmouth) and Dr Dave Walsh (University of Derby). Email: jordan.nunan@port.ac.uk Twitter: @Jordan\_Nunan