

An Exploration of Operational Discretion at Fire Service Incidents

Student Kasey Grainger from The School of Law and Policing, University of Central Lancashire invites all operational fire service personnel from across the United Kingdom, who hold an incident command skill, to take part in this study, to explore the potential impacts that may be realised by the removal of operational discretion from the perspective of fire service incident commanders. Kasey is a Station Manager and Incident Command Instructor with Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service, and wishes to explore this topic as a result of her role and interest in improving the fire sector.

The aims of this project are:

- to generate an understanding of the reasons why operational discretion is being removed from the fire sector.
- to explore the potential barriers and challenges relating to the removal of operational discretion.
- to explore the potential benefits gained by the removal of operational discretion.

Anyone who is an employee of a fire and rescue service within the United Kingdom, and holds an incident command skill within their operational role is eligible to participate, which will involve completing a **semi structured interview which will take no longer than 90 minutes**, depending upon the amount of information you wish to share.

Participation is voluntary, and you can choose to withdraw from the study until the point at which you submit your answers. You can choose to exit the survey at any point and your data will not be saved or included in the study.

The findings of this study will be used to share with relevant individuals and groups internally within the university, and with any fire and rescue service who would be interested in using the findings, to improve policies and practices e.g. Operational Planning, Learning and Development and Operational Assurance teams. They will also contribute towards the production of published research papers or conference presentations.

All data is collected anonymously, and no participants will be identifiable.

We outline below how your data will be used. If you have any further questions, please contact the Principal Investigator Kasey Grainger, KLGrainger@uclan.ac.uk

* Required

Your data

How will my data be collected?

Data will be collected in the form of a semi structured interview. Whilst this does ask for your role and fire service information , no identifying information such as specific job roles, departments, or other identifying features will be included in the final report.

How will my data be stored?

Data collected will be stored securely on the researcher's Office 365 account, and password protected.

How long will my data be stored for?

The data will be stored for a maximum of 7 years. The researcher may wish to repeat or extend a similar study in the future, and returning to the data would be useful to inform this.

What measures are in place to protect the security and confidentiality of my data?

Data collected via the interviews (hosted on Microsoft Teams) will be stored securely on the researcher's Office 365 account, and password protected.

Will my data be anonymised?

No participants will be identifiable within the responses that can be viewed by researchers.

How will my data be used?

Data submitted by participants will be analysed by the researcher. The findings will then be used:

- The findings of this study will be used to share with relevant individuals and groups internally within the university, and with any fire and rescue service who would be interested in using the findings, to improve policies and practices e.g. Operational Planning, Learning and Development and Operational Assurance teams.*
- To contribute towards the production of published research papers or conference presentations.*

Who will have access to my data?

The researcher will have access to the anonymised data.

No raw data will be shared with any other individuals, or organisations, internal or external to the university.

Will my data be archived for use in other research projects in the future?

The data will be stored for a maximum of 7 years.

How will my data be destroyed?

Data will be destroyed through deletion of files (including deletion in the recycle bin) within Office 365.

1. I have read and understood the information above. *

☐ Agreed

Consent to Participate

1. I confirm that I have read and understood the information above. I have had the opportunity to consider the information and ask questions.
2. I understand that my participation is voluntary, and I am free to withdraw from the study until the point at which I have submitted my answers.
3. I understand that once I submit my responses, I will not be able to request access to them or withdraw my participation.
4. I understand that the information I provide will be held securely in line with the University's data protection requirements.
5. I agree to take part in the research.

If you experience any emotional or mental discomfort or distress as a result of participating in the research, the following resources may be of use to you:

The Firefighters Charity - www.firefighterscharity.org.uk

Psychological Support Hub - www.uclan.ac.uk/schools/psychology-humanities/support-hub

2. I have read and understood the above information *

☐ I consent to participate in this study

3. Full name

4. Phone number

5. Email

6. Fire Service

7. Job title

Who can I contact if I have any further queries?

In the first instance, please contact researcher Kasey Grainger, School of Law and Policing, University of Central Lancashire.
KLGrainger@uclan.ac.uk or 07776296446.

If you have any concerns about this research you can also contact the University Officer for Ethics
(OfficerforEthics@uclan.ac.uk).

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