

Management of registered sex offenders under the current Active Risk Management (ARMS) framework: Time for review?

A focus group study with officers who risk assess adult male registered sex offenders (MOSOVO)

Key details

Lead institution	University of Central Lancashire
Principal researcher(s)	Dr Leona Mydlowski (University of Central Lancashire) and Dr Rhys Turner-Moore (Leeds Beckett University) Lmydlowski@uclan.ac.uk
Police region	North West
Collaboration and partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leeds Beckett University • Lancashire Constabulary • Metropolitan Police Service
Level of research	Professional/work based
Project start date	June 2023
Date due for completion	September 2025

Research context

This research examines the views of police officers who are statutorily responsible under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 for risk assessing and managing registered sex offenders.

These specialist officers are known as Management of Sexual and Violent Offenders (MOSOVO). This study explores a sample of MOSOVOs' views from three different forces in regards to training,

the home visit and risk assessment process to enable MOSOVO to carry out their role. This work also focuses on whether MOSOVO can promote desistance in their role and recommendations for improvement to future practice.

Research methodology

This is a focus group study with three forces in different geographical areas to understand their views of how MOSOVO are trained to carry out their role and their views regarding the home visit, risk assessment and risk management process. Nine focus groups were carried out in total with between 6–8 MOSOVO in each focus group (n=62).

Three focus groups were carried out at each force for each risk level – low, medium and high risk, with an equal balance between gender. The focus groups were then transcribed verbatim and analysed using Braune & Clarke's thematic analysis (2019), where five themes were developed.