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E-SECURITY IN NIGERIAN FOURTH REPUBLIC: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT (SCID), ELEWERAN, ABEOKUTA

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Abstract:

Administration of security in Nigeria has seen increased interest in the use of electronic technology following the return to democratic rule in 1999. Fourth Republic of Nigeria has created a political environment in which state institutions such as the police force are expected to modernize their methods of operation. This paper evaluates e-security in the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Eleweran, Abeokuta by looking at the use of electronic security gadgets, the advantages these gadgets have brought to criminal investigation, and the problems that affect them. Descriptive survey research methodology was used. The study population consisted of 290 SCID officers who were sampled to come up with a sample size of 168 using the Taro Yamane method while simple random sampling was used for sampling. Structured questionnaires were distributed and 153 responses were collected and analyzed through descriptive and inferential statistics including ANOVA and regression analysis. It was revealed that the use of biometric detection system, lie detectors, GPS, CCTV and walkie-talkies is practiced in SCID, Eleweran with biometric having the highest acceptance level of 95%. Advantages have been realized through the use of e-security gadgets. However, some of the challenges that were recognized include issues such as corruption, poor funding, lack of digital skills, poor infrastructure, and data privacy. These recommendations will include funding for the use of technology, training of officers, partnerships to improve infrastructure, and data security policies. The research is based on the Technology Acceptance Model.

Keywords: e-security, SCID Eleweran, digital policing, Fourth Republic, criminal justice.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Indeed, the Nigerian Fourth Republic, which came into force on 29 May 1999 after Nigeria made its shift from military regime, was a very significant time in terms of Nigeria's governance history. It was a period when a constitution-based democratic state built upon the principles of rule of law, fundamental human rights protection, and accountability was established. In this situation, the Nigerian Police Force was supposed to be reformed from an instrument of military administration into a professional law-enforcement body that is responsive to citizens' needs.

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However, almost twenty years later, Nigeria still suffers from high levels of insecurity. It is ranked as one of the most terrorised countries in the world, second only to Afghanistan and Iraq in some international terrorist rankings (Okunna, 2021). Insurgencies, banditry, kidnapping for ransom, armed robbery, and ritual killings have become common aspects of the security situation in different geopolitical zones.

However, Ogun State, where SCID Elewera is situated, is also experiencing this development pattern. It is currently experiencing increasing numbers of incidents of armed robbery, cultism, ritual killings, cyber crime, and abduction. In this context, the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Elewera, Abeokuta is faced with the task of handling investigation of complicated and serious crimes in Ogun State. SCID acts as a specialized wing of the NPF with the mandate to deal with crimes that surpass the capabilities of investigation by the divisional police stations.

With the advent of the 21st century, there has been a revolution in the area of ICT that has brought about a fundamental change in nature of crimes. The criminals nowadays use the digital platform, encrypted communication as well as finance networks to commit crimes with less risk of detection. As a result, the world's police agencies have opted to use e-security equipment to counter the problem. This kind of equipment includes closed-circuit television (CCTV), biometric authentication tools, global positioning system (GPS), digital forensics equipment, lie detectors, and two way radio communication devices among others (Busagala & Ringo, 2013; Taylor, 2015).

Nevertheless, in Nigeria, the use of e-security by law enforcers has not been uniform because of various structural limitations. The literature on the issue shows that many police force members are not ICT literate, the infrastructure for digital policing has not been adequately developed, and there is very little investment in technology (Okeshola & Usman, 2017; Ndubueze & Ismail, 2021). Most of the existing empirical studies on e-policing in Nigeria have focused on the FCID Alagbon in Lagos State and some police commands in the northern and eastern parts of the country. Consequently, the current study seeks to fill this gap and focuses on SCID Elewera.

Statement of the Problem

Even though there has been a democratic mandate in the Fourth Republic and a constitutional mandate for the Nigerian Police Force to provide law and order in Nigeria, the security situation in Ogun State and in Nigeria as a whole has not been commensurate with the level of democratic governance that has existed over time. As the lead investigative institution in Ogun State, the SCID, Elewera, is supposed to leverage all the sophisticated technologies available to investigate and prosecute criminals. However, whether the integration of e-security tools into SCID, Elewera, operations has taken place effectively and whether this integration has contributed to successful criminal justice processes has never been documented.

There is no empirical literature on the use of e-security by the SCID, Elewera, and this means that there exists a knowledge vacuum which will have real implications. With no information on which tools are used, the advantages associated with these tools, and the challenges of using these tools, decisions will not be evidence-based. In addition to these problems, issues surrounding digital illiteracy on the part of police officers, corruption which channels money away from technological purchase, lack of reliable electricity and internet service, as well as uncertainty regarding data privacy and cybersecurity, all indicate that there are many difficulties in the way of e-security adoption in Nigerian policing. The present research directly confronts these issues through its findings from SCID, Elewera.

Objectives of the Study



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The general objective of this study is to assess e-security at the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Eleweran, Abeokuta, within the Nigerian Fourth Republic. The specific objectives are to:

- i. Assess the use of e-security technologies by personnel at SCID, Eleweran, Abeokuta.
- ii. Examine the benefits of e-security technologies in criminal investigation at SCID, Eleweran, Abeokuta.
- iii. Identify the challenges militating against the effective use of e-security technologies at SCID, Eleweran, Abeokuta.

Research Hypotheses

H₀₁: There is no significant use of e-security technologies by personnel at SCID, Eleweran, Abeokuta.

H₀₂: There are no significant benefits of e-security technologies in criminal investigation at SCID, Eleweran, Abeokuta.

H₀₃: There are no significant challenges militating against the effective use of e-security technologies at SCID, Eleweran, Abeokuta.

2.0 CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

Electronic Security (E-security)

The concept of e-security within law enforcement can be defined as the use of electronic technologies to ensure protection of lives, investigation of crime, management of criminal intelligence and prosecuting crime. This is a specific area of the general term of e-policing which focuses specifically on protective measures and investigative measures and not administrative processes. The term e-policing was defined by LeBeuf (2006) as the electronic process of collecting and sharing information from the citizens through complaints and information.

This is a partial description of the term e-security as Busagala and Ringo (2013) provided an extensive definition of e-police to cover the entire ICT tools ranging from radio and telephone systems, the internet, intelligent machines and databases used in the process of policing. E-security for this research paper is thus all ICT tools that are used in helping the police to investigate crime, locate criminal, investigate and prosecute crimes.

Digital Policing

Digital policing is the incorporation of information technology systems into all aspects of police operations from patrols to investigations, case management, intelligence operations, and community relations. The idea of digital policing was clearly presented by Taylor (2015) who defined it from four angles: proactive digital policing based on data analytics; digital engagement and interaction management with the public through different channels; mobile workforce management by means of handheld devices; and digital investigation through electronic case management and forensic software.

Taylor's (2015) concept of digital policing does not imply the use of digital technologies just as a tool for law enforcement, but rather an organizational transformation whereby the entire operational culture of law enforcement is reconfigured by technology. For the purposes of SCID, Eleweran, digital policing would involve officers with mobile technologies, live databases of criminals, body-worn cameras, and forensic software.

Criminal Justice

The criminal justice system can be defined as the combination of government agencies, courts, detention centers and policies that deal with the criminal behavior of an individual within



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society. The criminal justice system consists of three major elements, namely the police, the courts and the correctional system. The police form the entrance to the criminal justice system in the sense that they begin the process by conducting investigations, arrests and filing of cases in court (Alemika, 2014). The courts decide whether or not the individuals should receive penalties for their wrongdoings, and the correctional institutions are meant to reform and re-integrate the offenders back into society.

In Nigeria, all three arms of the criminal justice system have been criticized due to their inefficiencies, corruption and inability to offer fair judgment of cases (Olonisakin, Ogunleye & Adebayo, 2018; Jaja & Lasisi, 2021). The use of e-security instruments such as SCID, Elewera has the capacity to solve some of these inefficiencies.

The Nigerian Fourth Republic and Security Governance

The Nigerian Fourth Republic refers to the period of continuous civilian democratic rule that commenced after the death of Nigeria's military leader, General Sani Abacha, who was succeeded in office by Olusegun Obasanjo.

The Fourth Republic is noted for governance based on constitutionalism, elections, separation of powers, and respect for civil liberties. Nonetheless, governance failures such as insecurity, corruption, lack of institutionalization, and poor service delivery have been constant throughout the Fourth Republic. In relation to security governance, successive governments of the Fourth Republic have launched several reforms, such as police reforms, community policing strategies, and law enforcement technological advancement. Poor security delivery despite democracy is a key contradiction of the current governance system (Gabriel, 2024; Joshua et al., 2021).

Perceived Usefulness of Technology in Policing

The term 'perceived usefulness of technology', as defined by Davis (1989), is the extent to which an individual or organization feels that using a specific technology would increase the efficiency in performance. As far as police work is concerned, this theory can be used to explain why some police officers readily accept e-security technologies while others resist such innovations. When police officers perceive certain technologies as being useful, saving their time and directly relevant to the job that they do, they tend to adopt the technology. However, when digital tools appear too complex, not very relevant to their jobs or not reliable because of technical issues, their use will be very minimal.

According to Nwosu and Mathias (2023), there was a general neutral view of e-policing tools among the police personnel in the Southeast region. This shows that the barrier posed by the perception of usefulness is indeed valid and can only be countered through training. How much the SCID, Elewera, and personnel perceive e-security tools as useful is thus one of the variables in this study.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)

The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) framework is used as the theoretical basis for this study which was introduced by Fred Davis in 1989 and further improved by Davis et al (1989). TAM is based on the Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) framework put forward by Fishbein & Ajzen in 1975 but is specific in its focus on factors affecting individual-level acceptance of IT systems. The TAM framework proposes two basic factors that are crucial for technology adoption which are Perceived Usefulness (PU) and Perceived Ease of Use (PEOU). Perceived usefulness can be understood as the anticipated usefulness of technology in improving job performance while



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PEOU is related to user's assessment of the ease with which he/she can use the system. These two factors together define a user's attitude towards technology which in turn influences the user's behavioral intention to use the technology and finally actual usage of the system (Davis, 1989).

TAM has been thoroughly tested across several areas such as finance, education, health care, agriculture and public administration. As far as the policing area is concerned, this theory is especially applicable since the adoption of e-security applications by police officers does not depend exclusively on the institution. It involves an individual's experience, perception and institutional socialization when dealing with technology. An untrained officer, whose biometric system has frequently failed due to the loss of electric power or who perceives that the system limits his personal discretion during the investigation process will refuse to adopt it even though there is institutional pressure towards it.

Relevance of the Theory to the Study

TAM is pertinent to the present study in a number of ways. Firstly, the study's first research objective, which involves the examination of the utilization of e-security technologies in SCID, Elewera, is essentially one of technology adoption. If the various technologies such as biometrics devices, lie detectors, GPS, CCTV cameras, and walkie-talkies have been adopted, as well as to what extent, then it shows how much the officers in SCID have accepted these technologies into their operations. TAM offers an understanding of what influences technology acceptance.

Secondly, the second research objective of this study involves the examination of the advantages of using e-security tools, which is an aspect of perceived usefulness in TAM. If the officers indicate that the use of digital tools has enabled them to record cases quicker, detect crime accurately, and communicate effectively, then they are basically stating that they perceive the tools to be useful. The high number of SCID officers who confirmed the above benefits is an indication that perceived usefulness is high.

In addition, the challenges faced in meeting the third objective of the research such as lack of skills in operating computers, poor infrastructure, and lack of finance correspond with the ease of use component of TAM. Technologies which are hard to use, are prone to power failures, or have limited connectivity will not be seen as supportive but rather cumbersome. This makes it less likely that the police officers will put in efforts in utilizing them. Overall, TAM not only helps in diagnosing the current practices of e-security utilization at SCID, Elewera, but also gives guidelines on how to increase adoption rates.

Empirical Review

The study entitled "Digital Policing in Nigeria: A Study of Jigawa State Police Command" was done by Ukasha and Ahmad (2024). The aim of this research was to analyze the use of digital technology in police operations as well as its advantages such as surveillance, real-time intelligence, and community policing. Using the situational crime prevention theory, this research adopted a survey with 215 respondents selected from a population of 230 using 15 in-depth interviews. It is clear that the use of digital technology was low in Jigawa state because of inadequate equipment and weak ICT skills among police officers. It is proposed that police should acquire modern policing technologies, train their staff, and strengthen cooperation with agencies concerned.

"Contemporary Community Policing and National Security in Nigeria" is the title of the research done by Gabriel (2024). The purpose of the research was to explore challenges associated



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with community policing in relation to national security. With the use of analytical-empirical design whereby data was collected from published literature and observations, as well as through liberal structural conflict theory, it was determined that community policing was suitable to address security problems in Nigeria; however, it does not fit in the country's political environment. In conclusion, community policing has proved unsuccessful in providing security in Nigeria, and the study recommended an extensive change of the entire structure of community policing.

Nwosu and Mathias (2023) carried out a study on "Perceived Usefulness of E-policing Technology in Property Crimes Detection and Control among Police Personnel in Selected Southeast Police Command, Nigeria." This study aimed at investigating the views held by the officers regarding usefulness of e-police technology in property crime detection and control. Descriptive cross-sectional survey method was employed with a total target population of 13,800 and proportional stratified random sampling of 605. Analysis of the data involved the use of descriptive analysis and chi-square tests. It was noted that there was neutrality concerning the usefulness of e-policing in property crimes detection. The study recommended IT-based recruitment.

Eme and Okeke (2022) conducted a study titled "E-Police and Criminal Justice System in Africa: Agenda for Reform." The study evaluated customer satisfaction with e-policing using the quantitative research design, whereby service quality, system quality, and information quality were used as predictors of satisfaction, while perceived usefulness was the mediator. Online data was gathered from Nigerian citizens who had been previously engaged in police electronic services, and was analyzed through PLS-SEM. Findings revealed that all quality dimensions were positive and significant, and that perceived usefulness mediated the effect of service quality on user satisfaction partly. The study suggested consistent improvement in e-policing service quality to facilitate satisfaction and adoption.

Nwala (2022) conducted a study titled "The Concept of Policing and the Role of the Police Force in Criminal Law Enforcement: A Study of Nigeria." The purpose of the study was to evaluate the role of the police in criminal law enforcement, as well as trace the history of policing in Nigeria. A legal research design based on doctrinal research that used both primary and secondary sources revealed that there was declining trust in the Nigerian police because of issues such as bribery, extortion, and extra-judicial killings. The study therefore recommended increasing the minimum academic qualification for recruits in the NPF to OND, conducting psychological and drug tests for recruits, and providing good police welfare as motivation.

Joshua, Adeleke, and Babatunde (2021) carried out a study titled "Information Communication Technology and Security: The Need for E-policing in Modern Security Architecture in Nigeria." The researchers claimed that e-policing was an essential aspect of modern security architecture. The objective of the study was to show the need for e-policing in order to reverse the insecurities in Nigeria. Analytical research design was used with secondary sources of data. The findings of the study showed that e-policing is an essential requirement of modern policing and that the security challenges faced by Nigeria necessitate its adoption.

Kingsley & Bentina (2021) conducted "Organisational Technology-Culture and Electronic Policing Compliance in Selected Police Commands, Southeast Nigeria: Implications for Property Crimes Detection and Investigation." The objective of the study was to explore the nature of organisational technology culture and its impact on e-policing compliance in Abia and Anambra State Police Commands. This involved a descriptive cross-sectional survey of 605 participants



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selected from 14,367 using multi-stage sampling techniques. Descriptive statistics and linear regression were used to analyze data. Results revealed that there is a weak organisational technology culture in both the police commands, and organisational culture significantly impacts e-policing compliance. It was suggested in the study that basic computer skills should be a precondition for NPF employment, and intensive e-policing training should be given to existing officers.

Jaja & Lasisi (2021) conducted “The Criminal Justice System as Enablement for Social Order in Nigeria.” In the study, it was explored how the criminal justice system creates social order, considering that poor criminal justice system delivery is widespread and has broader implications on societal stability. Based on the use of content analysis and interpretation of qualitative data under the Marxist Political Economy approach, it was discovered that the criminal justice system in Nigeria is highly corrupt, which makes justice elitist and results in social disorder. It was advised that the government should improve the criminal justice system and create an enabling environment for the provision of justice.

Identification of Gap in Literature/Knowledge

From the review of existing literatures, it is evident that most of the empirical studies on e-policing and e-security in Nigeria are conducted within particular geographic and institutional contexts. Ukasha and Ahmad (2024) focused on Jigawa State of north-western region of Nigeria; Nwosu and Mathias (2023) and Kingsley and Bentina (2021) focused on southeast police commands of Nigeria; Eme and Okeke (2022) conducted national online survey with no particular institutional context, while other studies such as those by Joshua et al. (2021), Nwala (2022), and Gabriel (2024) were general studies on the policy level without considering any particular state criminal investigation department.

Importantly, there are no empirical studies carried out to investigate the case of e-security at State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) Elewera, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Southwest geopolitical zone. This makes this study unique geographically because practitioners and researchers will be lacking the necessary knowledge regarding the digital security of one of the biggest criminal investigative departments of Nigeria. Apart from the geographic uniqueness, the present studies have also approached the issue from e-policing rather than e-security under democratic governance of the Fourth Republic. In this case, therefore, the present research addresses the geographic and conceptual gaps through the examination of SCID, Elewera and democratic governance of Nigeria’s Fourth Republic.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The research design used in this study was the descriptive survey. Descriptive research design was selected since the study focused on measuring existing phenomena, relationship and trends at SCID, Elewera without manipulation of variables and establishing causality through experimentation. Descriptive survey research is suitable for gathering quantitative information from many respondents in a population such that calculations of frequencies, percentages and statistical relationships can be done. This research design fits the aims of this study in terms of evaluation of use, advantages and difficulties of using e-security which are descriptive in nature.

Research Population



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The population for the study consisted of all officers currently working in the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Eleweran, Abeokuta, Ogun State. According to data collected from the Administrative Department of SCID, Eleweran, the total number of the population at the time of the study was 290 officers. They include officers from varying ranks and operational capacities within the department. They were selected since the officers of SCID are the key users and beneficiaries of the e-security instruments during criminal investigations. A breakdown of the population based on rank categories is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Population Distribution at SCID, Eleweran, Abeokuta

Rank Category	Number of Officers	Percentage (%)
Senior Officers (ASP and above)	58	20.0
Inspectors and Detectives	87	30.0
Constables and Below	145	50.0
Total	290	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The sample size for this study was determined using the Taro Yamane (1967) formula for finite populations:

$$n = N / (1 + N(e)^2)$$

Where n = required sample size; N = total population (290); e = margin of error (0.05 at 95% confidence level). Applying the formula: $n = 290 / (1 + 290(0.05)^2) = 290 / (1 + 290 \times 0.0025) = 290 / (1 + 0.725) = 290 / 1.725 \approx 168$.

The sample size of 168 was used. Simple random sampling method was used in selecting the respondents in which each officer in the population had equal probability of selection. This method was used to reduce selection bias and increase representativeness of the sample.

Method/Instrument for Data Collection

Data collection was done through a structured questionnaire. This comprised closed ended questions pertaining to the three research objectives presented as statements using a five point Likert scale; Strongly Agree, Agree, Un-decided, Strongly disagree and Disagree respectively. 168 questionnaires were distributed to the selected sample respondents with 153 being collected back for analysis giving a response rate of 91.1%.

Validity and Reliability of Instrument

Content validity of the instrument was ensured through the adaptation and incorporation of questionnaire items that were used in the existing instruments that have been validated in previous related studies such as Ukasha & Ahmad (2024), Nwosu & Mathias (2023), Joshua et al. (2021), and Olonisakin, Ogunleye & Adebayo (2018). Additionally, the questionnaire underwent expert validation through the views of the research supervisor and two experts in the areas of Public Administration and Security Studies on its suitability for the research objectives. Their feedback was incorporated before administering the questionnaire.

The reliability of the instrument was assessed through the application of the Cronbach's Alpha test which is a measure of internal consistency of scale items. The Cronbach's Alpha score was 0.78, which is above the accepted level of 0.70.

Method of Data Analysis



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The data was analyzed and entered into SPSS version 26. Descriptive statistics, which involve frequency, percentage, and cumulative percentage, was applied to describe the biographical details of the respondents and their answers to the Likert scale questions. Results are provided in tables to make them more presentable. Inferential statistics was utilized for the test of hypotheses. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) test was used for the overall model test while regression analysis for the specific predictive relations of the independent variables with the dependent variable. A level of significance of $p < 0.05$ was set as the criterion for decision-making.

4.0 RESULTS

Objective 1: Use of E-security Technologies by SCID Personnel

Table 2: Biometric Detection Technologies are Significantly Present in Personnel's Operations in Crime Investigation

Response	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Strongly Agree	89	58.17	58.17
Agree	56	36.60	94.77
Undecided	1	0.65	95.42
Strongly Disagree	4	2.61	98.04
Disagree	3	1.96	100.00
Total	153	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2026

According to Table 2, 89 respondents (58.17%) strongly agree, while 56 (36.60%) agree that biometric detection technologies play a considerable role in crime investigations of SCID, Elewaran. The percentage of respondents who agreed is 94.77%. Just 4.57% disagree or strongly disagree. Thus, biometric detection technologies are currently used in crime investigations at SCID, Elewaran.

Table 3: Lie Detector Systems are Adequately Available for Criminal Investigation and Interrogation

Response	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Strongly Agree	89	58.17	58.17
Agree	51	33.33	91.50
Undecided	2	1.31	92.81
Strongly Disagree	8	5.23	98.04
Disagree	3	1.96	100.00
Total	153	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Regarding Table 3, 91.50% of the participants strongly agreed and agreed on the availability of lie detectors for crime investigation and interrogation at SCID, Elewaran. The percentage of disagreement was only 7.19%. This clearly indicates that lie detectors are available and in use for investigation.

Table 4: GPS Technologies are Deployed in Crime Detection and Criminal Location



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Response	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Strongly Agree	91	59.47	59.47
Agree	45	29.41	88.89
Undecided	2	1.32	90.20
Strongly Disagree	11	7.19	97.39
Disagree	4	2.61	100.00
Total	153	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2026

As seen from Table 4, 88.89% of the respondents confirmed that GPS technologies are used in crime detection and criminal location operations. It is evident from the above percentage that GPS tracking is a recognized and operational tool of e-security at SCID, Eleweran.

Table 5: CCTV is Used in Crime Detection, Investigation and Conviction Operations

Response	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Strongly Agree	72	47.06	47.06
Agree	56	36.60	83.66
Undecided	2	1.31	84.97
Strongly Disagree	19	12.42	97.39
Disagree	4	2.61	100.00
Total	153	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2026

As illustrated in Table 5, 83.66% of those surveyed supported the fact that CCTV is used for crime detection and investigation. About 15% of the surveyees were against this tool with the highest level of disagreement to all e-security instruments studied. It shows that CCTV implementation is not as consistent as other tools.

Table 6: Walkie-Talkies are Adequately Available for Communication between Personnel

Response	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Strongly Agree	59	38.56	38.56
Agree	48	31.37	69.93
Undecided	5	3.27	73.20
Strongly Disagree	27	17.65	90.85
Disagree	14	9.15	100.00
Total	153	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 6 reveals that only 69.93% of the respondents agreed that the walkie-talkies are enough to communicate, which is the lowest among all the tools used in achieving the goal. It means there is a bigger equipment communication gap than other e-security tools.

Objective 2: Benefits of E-security Technologies at SCID, Eleweran

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Table 7: Digital Technologies have Helped in Faster Case Documentation and Tracking

Response	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Strongly Agree	81	52.94	52.94
Agree	56	36.60	89.54
Undecided	2	1.31	90.85
Strongly Disagree	11	7.19	98.04
Disagree	3	1.96	100.00
Total	153	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2026

As shown in Table 7, 89.54% of participants believed that digital technology has led to improvement in terms of fast documentation and tracking of cases. It represents the highest rate among all items for this objective, indicating the importance of e-security tools for documentation in SCID.

Table 8: E-security has Enhanced Accuracy in Crime Detection and Investigation

Response	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Strongly Agree	81	52.94	52.94
Agree	56	36.60	89.54
Undecided	2	1.31	90.85
Strongly Disagree	9	5.88	96.73
Disagree	5	3.27	100.00
Total	153	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2026

From Table 8, it is clear that 89.54% of the participants agreed that e-security has increased accuracy in crime detection and investigation, while only 9.15% disagreed. The large percentage of agreement illustrates the forensic importance of the digital means in evidence-based investigations.



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Table 9: E-security has Contributed to Crime Reduction at SCID, Elewera

Response	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Strongly Agree	77	50.33	50.33
Agree	56	36.60	86.93
Undecided	1	0.65	87.58
Strongly Disagree	10	6.54	94.12
Disagree	9	5.88	100.00
Total	153	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2026

It can be observed from Table 9 that 86.93% of the people surveyed felt that the security aspect of electronic surveillance had helped in reducing crimes, whereas only 12.42% disagreed. The majority approval is an endorsement of the theory of deterrence and detection.

Table 10: Technology has Improved Information Sharing between Police and Other Criminal Justice Agencies

Response	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Strongly Agree	86	56.21	56.21
Agree	45	29.41	85.62
Undecided	4	2.61	88.24
Strongly Disagree	12	7.84	96.08
Disagree	6	3.92	100.00
Total	153	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2026

As is shown in Table 10, 85.62% of the respondents agreed that technology has made it easier for information to be shared between SCID and other criminal justice agencies. The implication from this result is the significance of technology in creating a cohesive criminal justice delivery network.

Table 11: The Use of E-security Enhances Transparency and Accountability in Police Work

Response	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Strongly Agree	66	43.14	43.14
Agree	46	30.07	73.20
Undecided	4	2.61	75.82
Strongly Disagree	26	16.99	92.81
Disagree	11	7.19	100.00
Total	153	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2026



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From Table 11, it is evident that 73.20% of the respondents agree that e-security improves transparency and accountability of the police force in carrying out its duties. This is the lowest rate of endorsement for the benefits in this objective since despite the fact that there is agreement that transparency is achieved, it is less than the gains of operational efficiency.

Objective 3: Challenges Militating against E-security Use at SCID, Eleweran

Table 12: Corruption and Resistance to Change Affect the Adoption of E-security

Response	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Strongly Agree	70	45.75	45.75
Agree	60	39.22	84.97
Undecided	2	1.31	86.27
Strongly Disagree	9	5.88	92.16
Disagree	12	7.84	100.00
Total	153	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 12 indicates that 84.97% of participants agreed that corruption and opposition to change are major barriers to the adoption of e-security. This is the highest rate of challenges faced, which demonstrates that ethics and organizational culture are the biggest hindrances to the advancement of digital policing at SCID, Eleweran.

Table 13: Inadequate Funding Hinders the Acquisition of E-security Technologies

Response	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Strongly Agree	68	44.44	44.44
Agree	58	37.91	82.35
Undecided	3	1.96	84.31
Strongly Disagree	20	13.07	97.39
Disagree	4	2.61	100.00
Total	153	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2026

In Table 13, 82.35% of the respondents agreed that insufficient funds constitute an important constraint. Only 15.68% disagreed. Insufficient funding restricts the amount of technological purchases and maintenance; thus, it is a structural impediment to the implementation of e-security.



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Table 14: Cyber Data Security and Privacy Concerns Limit the Full Use of Digital Systems

Response	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Strongly Agree	69	45.10	45.10
Agree	53	34.64	79.74
Undecided	2	1.31	81.05
Strongly Disagree	21	13.73	94.77
Disagree	8	5.23	100.00
Total	153	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2026

As shown in Table 14, 79.74% of participants agreed that security issues related to data protection and cyber security inhibit the utilization of e-security. This observation suggests that there is no established data management structure within the SCID and NPF which causes confusion concerning the management of data.

Table 15: Some Officers Lack the Digital Skills Needed to Effectively Use E-security Tools

Response	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Strongly Agree	62	40.52	40.52
Agree	59	38.56	79.08
Undecided	4	2.61	81.70
Strongly Disagree	21	13.73	95.42
Disagree	7	4.58	100.00
Total	153	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2026

As can be seen from Table 15, 79.08% of the participants felt that digital skill gaps in the officers were an obstacle. This is supported by the education profile of the employees obtained from the demographic information where a number of the officers have attained only O'Level or ND education.

Table 16: Poor Infrastructure (Internet Connectivity and Power Supply) Hampers E-security Operations

Response	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Strongly Agree	56	36.60	36.60
Agree	49	32.03	68.63
Undecided	5	3.27	71.90
Strongly Disagree	27	17.65	89.54
Disagree	16	10.46	100.00
Total	153	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2026



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As seen in Table 16, 68.63 percent of the participants were in agreement that poor infrastructure, such as unreliable power and internet connection, hinders the effectiveness of e-security activities. Although this is the lowest endorsement level of the challenges noted, it still is a major issue in Nigeria, considering the infrastructure problems of public establishments.

Test of Hypotheses

Table 17: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of Estimate
1	0.446	0.198	0.188	0.769

Predictors: (Constant), Benefits of E-security Technologies, Use of E-security Technologies

According to the table presented above, the R value in the Model Summary is 0.446. The R value is used to measure the correlation between the independent variables and the dependent variable. This suggests that there is a moderately significant positive linear correlation between the independent variables and the dependent variable. The R Square value is 0.198, which means that the model explains approximately 19.8 percent of the variance in the dependent variable.

Table 18: ANOVA Results

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	22.399	2	11.199	18.946	0.000
Residual	90.441	151	0.591		
Total	112.840	153			

Dependent Variable: Use of E-security Technologies

Predictors: (Constant), Challenges militating against E-security, Benefits of E-security Technologies

Null Hypothesis 1 (H01): There is no significant adoption of e-security technology by staff in SCID, Elewera, Abeokuta. The F-statistic from ANOVA test comes out to be $F = 18.946$, $p = 0.000$. Since p-value is less than 0.05, hence we reject null hypothesis H01. Alternate hypothesis is true.

Table 19: Regression Coefficients

Model	Unstd. Coeff. B	Std. Error	Standardised Coeff. Beta	t	Sig.
(Constant)	1.932	0.377		5.122	0.000
Benefits of E-security Technologies	0.173	0.061	0.208	2.861	0.005
Challenges militating against E-security	0.367	0.071	0.376	5.180	0.000

Dependent Variable: Use of E-security Technologies



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The second hypothesis (H02) is stated as follows: there are no significant advantages of e-security technologies in criminal investigation at SCID, Eleweran, Abeokuta. From the coefficient table above, the advantages of e-security technologies result into a significance value of $p = 0.005$. Since $p < 0.05$, the null hypothesis H02 is rejected and the alternate hypothesis is accepted: there are significant advantages of e-security technologies in criminal investigation at SCID, Eleweran, Abeokuta.

The third hypothesis (H03) is stated as follows: there are no significant challenges facing the effective use of e-security technologies at SCID, Eleweran, Abeokuta. The challenges variable results into a significance value of $p = 0.000$. Since $p < 0.05$, the null hypothesis H03 is rejected. The alternate hypothesis is accepted: there are significant challenges facing the effective use of e-security technologies at SCID, Eleweran, Abeokuta.

Discussion of Findings

The first goal of this research study investigated the adoption rate of e-security technologies at SCID, Eleweran. The results showed that the acceptance rate for biometric detection technologies was the highest at 94.77%, which clearly indicates that biometric detection tools such as fingerprinting, facial recognition, etc., have been increasingly adopted for investigations in the department. Lie detector systems scored 91.50% of acceptance, GPS technology scored 88.89%, CCTV scored 83.66% and walkie-talkies scored 69.93%. The order of acceptance of these tools in terms of usage acceptance corroborates the trend noted by Ukasha and Ahmad (2024) in Jigawa State, in which biometrics and other conventional forensic tools had been more adopted compared to novel or infrastructure-dependent tools.

The relatively low score for walkie-talkies agrees with the existing findings showing the lack of communication equipment among other deficiencies in Nigerian police commands. The second goal of this research study evaluated the advantages of using e-security tools. Faster documentation and increased accuracy of crime detection both had the highest score of agreement at 89.54%. Crime reduction scored 86.93%, and better interagency information sharing scored 85.62%. Transparency and accountability received the least endorsement at 73.20% as their adoption would require increased monitoring which could make some officers uncomfortable about the implications of digital technologies. Altogether, these results support the hypothesis made by the Technology Acceptance Model that if people consider certain technology useful, the adoption will be more effective (Davis, 1989). The role of the perceived usefulness as a significant predictor of e-policing satisfaction as found out by Eme & Okeke (2022) provides additional support for this argument.

The third goal revealed factors preventing the effective implementation of e-security measures. Corruption and change resistance were the main obstacle reported at 84.97%, while lack of funding was ranked second at 82.35%. Privacy issues were named the third problem at 79.74%, lack of digital literacy skills – fourth at 79.08%, and infrastructure problems – fifth at 68.63%. These results show that obstacles faced by e-security initiatives are mostly institutional and behavioral, not technical and financial. It is important to highlight that this discovery corresponds to the view held by Kingsley & Bentina (2021), who discovered that poor organisational technology culture was a significant limitation on the compliance with e-police in Southeast Nigeria, and Gabriel (2024), who notes that present day problems of policing in Nigeria are linked to governance problems.



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Interpretation of Findings

Overall, the results from SCID, Elewera show a fairly optimistic but complex story regarding e-security in the Fourth Republic of Nigeria. While on the one hand, the department has achieved a reasonable level of digitization of the work process, the majority of the department's employees are aware of the advantages that such instruments provide. Moreover, the statistical test proves the importance of using e-security, its effectiveness and the existence of problems related to e-security use, and that they are statistically significant. However, on the other hand, the results also prove that e-security in SCID, Elewera is not yet completed and that the department can still do more.

By means of Technology Acceptance Model, it is evident that high perceived usefulness of e-security systems in SCID, Elewera, is a good basis for further development of acceptance of these systems. But the problems that have been noted, especially poor infrastructure and lack of skills, hinder perceived ease of use of such technologies as it is seen in TAM, which plays an equally important role in maintaining technology acceptance. Thus, the solution of these problems is not just about gaining resources; it is a key step needed to be taken before transforming the positive perception of e-security advantages of the department into practical implementation.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

The present study investigated the state of e-security at the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Elewera, Abeokuta during Nigeria's Fourth Republic era. The research discovered that e-security techniques such as biometric devices, lie detector, GPS, CCTV, and radio communication devices have been utilized in the SCID, Elewera and that these e-security devices have yielded various benefits for documentation of cases, crime detection precision, crime prevention, information exchange, and departmental transparency. These achievements corroborate with the prediction of the Technology Acceptance Model where high level of perceived usefulness is linked with technology utilization.

On the other hand, there are a number of serious problems that inhibit the efficient performance of e-security at SCID, Elewera. Corruptions and institutional resistances, insufficient funding, inadequacy of ICT skills, data protection issues, and poor infrastructures pose serious hindrance towards realizing e-security potential. All the null hypotheses formulated by the researcher are rejected as it was found that the use, benefits and challenges of e-security in the department are all statistically significant factors.

The Nigerian Fourth Republic, having existed for well over two decades, has been the democratic platform that has been needed for police reforms and technological innovations. According to SCID, Elewera, there have been positive developments, but the speed of such reforms is still inadequate compared to the magnitude of the challenges that exist in terms of security in Ogun state and Nigeria in general. In order to achieve e-security within the Fourth Republic, the commitment of politicians is needed along with innovation and investment.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

- i. There is need for more budgetary provision for e-security devices at SCID Elewera by Ogun State government and Inspector General of Police as there is need for a special fund to cater for the procurement, maintenance and replacement of technology devices. This is because digital policing technology requires financial commitment.



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- ii. Mandatory and periodic training in digital forensics, biometrics, GPS, CCTV, and ICT should be made mandatory for all SCID staff. The curriculum should be structured to suit the different ranks in order to make it relevant to each officer.
- iii. A data security and privacy policy should be formulated by NPF for SCID on issues relating to the handling of digital evidence and personal data. This is intended to help officers with their worries about data management and minimize reluctance in e-security usage.
- iv. Collaborations between the public and private sectors should be encouraged in order to bridge gaps in infrastructure at SCID, Elewera. Partnerships with telecom companies, tech firms, and civil society organizations should be made to ensure adequate internet connectivity, alternative power sources, and technical assistance.
- v. An anti-corruption mechanism that is aimed specifically at digital resources should be put in place in SCID to guide on the procurement of e-security tools and sanction misuse.
- vi. It would be advisable that future recruitment for SCID and the NPF at large should incorporate a digital literacy test as one of the requirements to ensure that any newly recruited officer is equipped with fundamental ICT skills necessary for using e-security systems from day one.

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