

Q. Understand the necessity of maintaining a professional standard in line with the code of ethics and the standards of professional behaviour, including ethical decision making, in policing scenarios:

In this essay I will be talking about how important it is to maintain professional standards and the necessity of it like the code of ethics as well as maintaining the standards of professional behaviour including ethical decision making all in given policing scenarios.

“Policing by consent relies on the trust and confidence that the public has in the police service and the wider law enforcement community.” (College of Policing, 2022) this goes to show that the policing service want a response from their serving community involving a lot of trust and confidence with them as officers carrying out their duties as they are meant to be without losing their professional standards. By maintaining their professional standards they rely a lot on their trust and confidence amongst themselves as officers because having a lack of this can lead to failure in misconduct, if certain allegations are made by the public which come down to trust of how the police are serving their community then it will come back down on the force about how issues are dealt with whether it is dealt with responsibly and openly however, if its dealt with properly it will be done through the code of ethics. Like the code of ethics, these are used in everyday policing because for example in the police force every officer must be reminded how to conduct themselves around the public and deal with ongoing issues in the community involving the public. (Home Office, 2014) states “More than two-thirds of respondents (68%) said they wouldn’t want to be in the position of a police officer or staff member when making those decisions and 40% of those surveyed felt the challenges facing the police when making decisions were harder than they previously thought” these given statistics show that more than half of the public responses stated that they wouldn’t want to be in the position of a police officer or even carrying out his/her duty when making decisions that are quite ethical which officers carry out on a daily basis however, a quarter of the percentage stated that they felt that the police are facing challenges a lot harder than what they originally thought they would be. In the police they have a code of conduct where it shows how efficient and effective, they are if they follow their procedures. “The Code of Professional Standards sets out 10 principles that reflect the expectations that the police service and the public have of how police officers should behave” (Professional, 2019) the reasons why these codes of professional standards are set out are to maintain the way officers conduct themselves around other officers, units and the public. Having professional standards in place can give officers that duty to follow protocol however, if this is not followed correctly then there will be investigation into acts of misconduct. As mentioned above about maintaining standards of behaviour not always will you have to, “they are not intended to describe every situation but rather to set a framework which everyone can easily understand” (Home Office, 2020) this goes to show that the

professional standards are there for everyone to know about, but they do not have to be used for every situation as long as there is an understanding of them.

The code of ethics sets out certain standards for police officers that they must follow because the public are expecting ambitious standards and certain responsibilities from these offices. Being in the police force expects high expectations from yourself showing understanding of the code of ethics because if you were to progress to constable for example you will have certain roles that you need to be able to be in charge of and this is fairly important as you will have to “promote, support and reinforce ethical behaviour at all times” (College of Policing, 2014) as being the head of your force there is a large responsibility on you to carry out this duty to show to the public that you can create openness in the police force that show great equality and fairness in the workplace. In the police service there will be many opportunities where you have to make ethical decisions for example the reason why police officers will make ethical decisions by themselves is because either “a situation in which the officer did not know what the right course of action was” OR “a situation in which the course of action the officer considered right was difficult to do” (Lexipol, 2022) this explains the jist of why ethical decisions are made in policing scenarios when it comes down to difficult issues that they have to face. After researching and knowing why ethical decisions are made, (Limited, 2010) states “Making ethical decisions within the police is an absolute necessity in order to gain the confidence of the public that police officers serve” the ethical decisions made during policing situations where they have to process through with their decisions would it fit the legal requirements of the standards of policing. Every decision made by the officers will all depends on what is involved and who they are dealing with which is why having the reassurance and the confidence provided by the public the police officers can then maintain their policing standard where decisions are made fairly. When making decisions such as ethical decisions in the police they use the NDM which is known as The National Decision Model where police officers refer to when taking matters into their own hands. “The model has at its centre the Code of Ethics as the touchstone for all decision making. Using the model encourages officers and staff to act in accordance with the Code and use their discretion where appropriate” (College of Policing, 2022a) the NDM has helped plenty of police officers when officers are mentally challenged or find decisions complex OR they get told things but end up getting mislead.