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Essay one

How effective are measures in place to ensure that officers act with integrity and treat the public fairly and with respect?

In 2020, the United Kingdom reached the 800-year anniversary of policing, as we know it today, with the establishment of the country's first Chief Constable in London. Policing is probably the most well-developed public service in the UK, built on a long tradition of democratic policing and police-public relations.

The foundation of effective policing is public confidence. This is contingent upon the policing profession being morally and professionally upright in the ways that it treats the public with respect, pays attention, reacts, and enhances it. In addition to a non-statutory Code of Ethics, the College of Policing has created a statutory Code of Practice. Collectively, they will assist all law enforcement personnel in delivering moral and expert police services. The Code of Ethics offers guidelines for moral and professional behaviour as well as ethical policing concepts to aid in decision-making.

There have been numerous high-profile instances of police misbehaviour and criminal actions in recent years that have caused the public to lose trust and confidence in the

way the UK is policed with the Stephen Lawrence case being one the most high-profile case in the past 30 years. The case sparked an investigation into the police investigation, which resulted in the Macpherson report, which found the Metropolitan Police Service to be "institutionally racist" and was very critical of the investigation. A second independent evaluation of the police investigation, the Ellison study was conducted in 2012 and was highly critical of the case management process. The Met has come under fire for both its investigation into Stephen's death and its actions at the site.

Significant shortcomings in the police investigation were found by the inquiry. The Met investigation was deemed "seriously flawed, marred by a combination of professional incompetence, institutional racism, and a failure of leadership by senior officers and was deserving of severe criticism" by both the Macpherson inquiry report and the Ellison Review, which were published in July 2012 and February 1999, respectively (Meade and Nickolls, 2023).

A series of reports have criticized public bodies, particularly the police, in the way they have conducted themselves but also in their attitudes to such cases and regarding individual complaints. The Scarman, Macpherson, Braidwood, and Leveson Reports are all notable in that respect.

A more recent case which has severely damaged the public's trust in the police is the Sarah Everard case. The End Violence Against Women Coalition commissioned nationwide research showed 47% of women and 40% of men reported declining trust in the police following the publication of details about the rape and murder of Sarah Everard by serving Metropolitan Police officer Wayne Couzens (Geoghegan, 2021).

The government and law enforcement agencies are aware that this has caused the people to lose faith in the police. In the UK, "policing by consent" is the cornerstone of the police approach. The idea behind this stems from the nine principles that the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) initially provided to its police officers in 1829. The general guidelines are frequently known as the Peelian principles of police, after Sir Robert Peel, the home secretary at the time the MPS was established. The Peelian principles state that the public's consent is the basis for the police's authority, and that the police would lose their power if that consent were to disappear. "Policing by consent refers to the power of the police coming from the common consent of the public, as opposed to the power of the state," according to the Home Office. It does not imply an individual's assent. The Home Office emphasises that no one has the right to refuse to cooperate with the authorities. The Peelian principles said officers should recognise that the power of the police was dependent on public approval and respect. They said officers should only use physical force when the "exercise of persuasion, advice and warning [was] found to be insufficient to obtain public co-operation" and secure law and order. Officers should use the "minimum degree" of

physical force necessary. However, the general principles state that public consent is maintained “not by pandering to public opinion” but by applying the law fairly, impartially and by using minimal force”. According to the Peelian principles, police personnel ought to acknowledge that the public's acceptance and regard for them determines their authority. They stated that to maintain law and order, authorities should only resort to physical action if "exercise of persuasion, advice and warning [was] found to be insufficient to obtain public co-operation." The "minimum degree" of physical force that is required should be applied by officers. Nonetheless, according to the general principles, maintaining public consent requires applying the law in a fair, unbiased, and minimally forceful manner rather than "pandering to public opinion” (Tudor, 2023)

Several surveys have presented a picture of falling public confidence and satisfaction with the police over recent years. One of those surveys into public confidence in the police by Crime Survey England and Wales (2023) showed that confidence in policing has declined over recent years. The most recent data shows that in the year ending March 2023, overall confidence in local police is 68% (down from 74% when last measured for the year ending March 2020). For the first time since 2015/16, data shows that women were less confident in the police than men (67% vs 68%). Whilst it is difficult to determine definitive reasons for the decline in confidence, high profile cases of police misconduct and criminality such as Wayne Couzens and David Carrick, as well as reports on police culture and standards are likely to have played a part.

Police forces in the UK has seen recent changes after the failings from past inquiries, and public back lash from the high-profile cases involving police officers' behaviour. Policing set out a plan to get "more trust, less crime and high standards". The plan included to strengthen its work in public protection and safeguarding, to provide a compassionate and effective service to victims and other members of the public, and to be relentlessly data driven and evidence-based in delivery and to innovate how it works (Tudor, 2023).

Another effective process in place is The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) it exists to increase public confidence in the police complaints system in England and Wales. It also investigates serious complaints and allegations of misconduct against the police and handles appeals. The IOPC are independent and make decisions entirely independently of the police and government. This further enhances the public's trust in the police and shows that policing in the UK is looking at taking steps forward to build confidence.

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Essay 2

Response policing – Assess the extent of response officers' role in dealing with critical and major incidents.

During their normal duties, most police officers attend and manage routine incidents with few problems. Nevertheless, there are occasions when a response is required for incidents that are either so unusual or so serious that the ordinary skills of a first responder are not enough (Craddock & Telesco, 2022) (Simmons-Beauchamp & Sharpe, 2022). Schiliro (2019) states that Policing has undergone radical change over the past three decades. At the same time, incidents such as chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear incidents, terrorist attacks including airline hijacks, public transport bombings or active shooter situations have become more common in the UK. Police officers today are much more likely to deal with critical incidents, sudden and unpredictable events than at any time in the UK's history. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) defines a critical incident as 'an event that, as a result of its magnitude (i.e. death, injury, or fear) or severity (i.e. substantial destruction or suffering), has a significant impact on people, the community, environment, infrastructure or institutions and often including but not limited to natural disasters, pandemics, acts of terrorism, acts of war, acts of mass violence, pandemics and fatal accidents. (Nikolovska & Johnson, 2023)

Early detection and notification of a critical incident should be the first steps in its management. Early detection of small-scale critical incidents is especially crucial since, if ignored, even they may have a lasting effect on community trust. Procedures for handling problems that could compromise the effectiveness of the police response

ought to be established before they undermine public trust. The victim's needs, as well as those of their family and the community, should receive special consideration.

Critical incidents present the police with problems of the highest degree of unpredictability. As the social and technical environment becomes more complex and fast-changing, and the nature of the range of threats multiplies and modulates, understanding police response to critical incidents in the UK is essential to prevent, mitigate and if necessary, respond to these events. In particular, the future will see continuing incidents labelled unexpected. On top of these critical incidents, police are also exposed to major incident which are drawn from a greater range of types of incidents. This label is applied to incidents with a 'multi-agency' response and meet the threshold at which on-scene police officers may escalate from a critical to a major incident. A major incident is an event or situation requiring a response under one or more of the emergency services' major incident plans. This will usually include involving large numbers of people, either directly or indirectly (College of Policing, 2013)

The College of Policing (2023) states that the METHANE model is an established reporting framework that provides a common structure for responders and their control rooms to share incident information. The model takes the user through the declaration of a major incident, exact location, type of incident, hazards, access, number of casualties and emergency services required (including those already at the scene and details of personnel required). METHANE is used for major incidents. Where an

incident falls below the threshold for a major incident, the model becomes ETHANE. It is recommended that this format is used for all incidents and be updated as the incident develops.

Nouh et al., (2019) states there are numerous and growing challenges for police forces in the UK when responding to critical and major incidents. These problems include having insufficient resources to deal with the scale of the incidents, a lack of formal guidance, a lack of local experience in responding to these incidents, as well as short-term, high-pressure working conditions (HS van den Brink et al., 2012). There is also a need for a shift in policing towards new knowledge and skills, including a reduction in dependency on the authorisation of exceptional extra resources through the gold and silver command structure.

Another challenge facing response officers is their mental health and wellbeing after being involved in a major or critical incident. Given the stress placed on officers, it is widely recognised within public health and the mental health community that being a police officer as a profession can place significant strain on both their physical and psychological wellbeing. A study by B. Craddock & Telesco, 2022 showed that in North America, between 100 to 150 officers per year take their lives, a statistic that is attributed directly to the daily stress that can be part of the working life of officers. Shortages in both mental health provision and human resources can further exacerbate the adverse effects that witnessing violent critical incidents has on police officers. The health concerns of officers are amplified by the fact that police forces are

reporting increased difficulty with recruitment and retention. When officers are personally involved in traumatic events, the potential for hidden or repressed issues is always there. The illusion that we, as officers, are invulnerable may increase some of those feelings. According to Perloff (1983) individuals who feel the most invulnerable prior to a trauma, often experience the most distress after the incident.

When officers are personally involved in traumatic events, the potential for hidden or repressed issues is always there. The illusion that officers, are invulnerable may increase some of those feelings. Solomon (2011) states that only one third of the officers involved in a critical incident will experience a mild or no reaction to a traumatic event, while the remaining two-thirds will experience from moderate to extreme reactions. The combination of exposure to critical incidents and the suppression of normal human emotions makes police officers vulnerable to the development of PTSD symptoms (Clair, 2006).

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Essay 3

Effectiveness of Cognitive Interviews in Obtaining Initial Accounts from Victims and Witnesses in Policing

Research on the unreliability of eyewitness accounts has prompted attempts to develop retrieval improvement techniques. Fisher and Geiselman (1992) identified the cognitive interview as one of these techniques. Police utilise a questioning technique called a cognitive interview (CI) to help victims and eyewitnesses better recall details about a crime scene (Mcloed, 2013).

The Cognitive Interview, an alternative to the Standard Interview, was created by Geiselman et al. (1985). It incorporates research on cue-dependent forgetting into its four steps, which aim to maximise various retrieval pathways by stimulating as many cues as feasible.

- **Stage 1:** Reinstate the context.
- **Stage 2:** Recall events in reverse order.
- **Stage 3:** Report everything, they can remember.
- **Stage 4:** Describe events from someone else's point of view.

Interviewing is a core skill required by police officers when obtaining statements from individuals involved in different types of investigations (Thielgen et al., 2022). The goal of an interview is to obtain an unaltered, comprehensive narrative that does not include information external to the witness's or victim's memory. However, in many circumstances the available information may be biased due to stress, trauma, or suggestion. When interviewing victims of a crime, research suggests it is paramount

that the interview is conducted immediately to increase the reliability of their initial statement and to achieve best evidence. It has been demonstrated that conducting and documenting victim and witness interviews as the initial stage of an investigation is crucial to the identification of criminal activity and can directly impact the findings of the investigation (Finn et al., 2019)

Krizan & Jones, (2024) states that previous research indicates that evidence the officer's access when conducting an interview can be influential, meaning that officers' beliefs, or evidence that they have seen before the interview, may alter the information obtained. Furthermore, studies show that officers often influence information that is gathered from witnesses by sequentially asking about potential events in a leading manner. It is, therefore, imperative that alternate interview strategies are used when obtaining witness evidence to limit initial biasing. Research indicates that taking an unbiased account from individuals before interviewing them using typical police interviewing techniques can reduce the impact of negative influence on memories. One could argue that because police forces typically lack adequate staffing, training, and education, it would be impossible to properly implement any evidence-based practices. Therefore, to support police generally, less formal, more context-sensitive, and adaptable adjustments are necessary. However, there is evidence that some of the basic principles are more significant than others in the context of cognitive interviews (Krizan & Jones, 2024).

The cognitive interview relied on four basic components: it makes witnesses retrieve the original context, remembering is more effective when several elements are encoded, the retrieval of original episodic context is easier when specific stimulus elements are reencountered, and the last strong memory trace is most likely the genuine memory. The cognitive interview promoted good interactional memory through such strategies as mental reinstatement of the context, more focused questioning, asking about different times and perspectives, and using open-ended prompts alternating with concrete, follow-up questions for specific sensory content (Thielgen et al., 2022).

The cognitive interview is a psychological technique developed to maximise recall of accurate information and to minimise inaccuracy in interviews of eyewitnesses and victims, particularly with the intention for evidence relating to criminal investigations (Geiselman et al., 1985). Although the cognitive interview has been advanced and proposed by the UK College of Policing for use within police investigations, there is disagreement in the empirical literature as to how impactful it is (Vanderhallen and Vervaeke, 2014). Only a selection of research has taken place with uniformed rank and file UK police officers. It is crucial that the CI has little impact on extra-factual information and highlighting its ability to reduce error where inaccuracies in police reports can be acted upon (Bull et al., 2017).

Odinot et al., (2013) and Adams-Quackenbush et al., (2019) both state that in the past three decades, field experimentation and laboratory simulations have produced a sizeable body of research on the effectiveness of cognitive interviews, across a large array of cultural and social contexts (Memon et al., 2010). However, the number of studies that specifically focus on the value of the cognitive interview within the investigation of criminal acts has been relatively low. Currently, there are only a small

number of quantitative studies that have taken place within a real-life criminal justice context, for example with UK police forces, using the cognitive interview technique as a framework to gather evidence from witnesses and victims (Brown et al., 2014). The inference of these studies underlines the importance of the Cognitive Interview as a method to improve witness performance and might be a powerful tool for future work to improve the investigation of complex events requiring the collection of large amounts of evidence from multiple witnesses and victims (Brown et al., 2008); not only to maximise accuracy but also to help minimise the reinvestigation costs (Memon et al., 2010). Still, research into the use of cognitive interviews within real criminal investigations is underdeveloped because few detail the practical application, effectiveness, limitations, and set of skills required for cognitive interviews to be a tool of practical value within an investigation (Brown et al., 2008).

In conclusion, cognitive interview-based approaches are a promising means for obtaining a more comprehensive picture of initial accounts from victims and witnesses in policing and criminal justice practice. Yet there are drawbacks such as implementation issues (Adams-Quackenbush et al., 2019). The results from studies demonstrate that not all components of cognitive interviews are effective and that more work is required to determine whether required, extended, or adopted cognitive interview components are of practical use in policing. Future research is needed to examine ways to effectively use cognitive interviews in obtaining accounts from victims and witnesses.

Police officers have different needs and capacities in various regions, such as in the Netherlands. Based on the challenges in the literature and they know that cognitive interviews are the most up-to-date and recommended methods for police to enhance

testimony quality, their organisation, nation criminal justice system need to accept that police officers have needs for training, a training must address the existing and newly arisen gaps between cognitive interviewing techniques and their own needs. Thielgen et al., (2022) states that many countries and organizations in the world are now struggling with finding ways to adapt these formal guidelines to local policing practice.

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Essay 4

Effectiveness of Interventions to Reduce Re-offending in Domestic Violence in the UK

In the year ending March 2020, it was estimated that 2.3 million people aged 16 to 74 years had experienced domestic abuse (1.6 million women and 757,000 men) with reoffending. The police and other professionals utilise various frameworks and strategies to support vulnerable victims and aim to reduce reoffending by offering support to the victims. These include MARAC, IDVAS and victim support services. There are many factors that can affect the appropriateness of these services and approaches like the level of risk and the willingness of the victim to engage with the specialist support services. The problem is much bigger than shown in official statistics, as many victims don't tell anyone about the abuse, and they are not recorded so getting accurate data regarding reoffending is difficult.

Evidence-based policing is an approach that is used to tackle these issues it uses scientific evidence and evaluation in decision-making to develop problem-solving strategies in the hope of improving effectiveness and efficiency. The objective of evidence-based policing is to provide the police with an opportunity to make more informed decisions on policy and practice in reducing crime, repeat victims and repeat offending. This may require targeted interventions such as offender focused approaches or more community awareness. It also requires criminal justice practitioners to adhere to policies and practices that have been shown to be effective, which inevitably leads to a decrease in crime rates and an improvement in community safety along with the risk of repeat offending (College of Policing, 2024).

The police partner with DRIVE who focus on disrupting and changing the behaviour of domestic abuse perpetrators. They make the final decision based on their capacity. The aim of DRIVE is to reduce the risk that the most serious domestic abuse (DA) offenders pose to victims, other vulnerable people, and the wider community and to enable participants at risk of causing high harm to recognise the need to change their harmful behaviours and break the cycle of domestic abuse.

Due to their high risk of serious harm and minimal involvement with current interventions, the study focuses on high-risk, high-harm, and/or serial offenders. DRIVE employs a coordinated multi-agency response in addition to rigorous case management to execute a whole-system strategy. DRIVE has close ties to:

- victim services
- the police
- probation
- children's social services
- housing
- substance misuse
- mental health teams

(DRIVE, 2023)

There is little proof that domestic abuse perpetrator programmes have a major influence, according to evaluations that have yielded a range of outcomes. This may

be because there are so many different programmes, locations, and environments available, and because assessments measure successful outcomes in a variety of ways repeat arrest, conviction, prosecution, attitude, emotional control, behaviour, and quality of life. It is also necessary to consider the different forms of abusive activity that are quantified, such as physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, as well as if the behaviour eventually stops or has decreased (HMIP, 2021)

Statistics show that 10 to 18 percent of those arrested for domestic violence are arrested again within six months, 15 to 30 percent face a second arrest within 28 months, and up to 60 percent are rearrested within 10 years. And it's safe to say these numbers only tell part of the story, considering most domestic violence is never reported to law enforcement (Flannery, 2022). Equally significant, recidivism among offenders is relatively common and often occurs soon after the previous offence (Kingsnorth, 2006; Gondolf, 2000)

The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) framework aims to manage reoffending in domestic abuse, and to reduce reoffending and address persistent and prolific domestic abuse perpetrators. In addition to the existing victim and child protection strategies, the Lancashire police force is offering rigorous and comprehensive offender management by including DA perpetrators in the IOM model. Long-term behaviour modification is the force's goal with those high-harm criminals. Close collaboration with commissioned services, such independent domestic violence advisers (IDVAs), is one example of this (College of Policing, 2024)

Several key factors, such as gender, age, and previous arrest history, are consistent predictors of domestic violence reoffending (Hanson and Wallace-Capretta, 2006; Ventura and Davis, 2004; Ventura and Davis, 2005). In Canada, the domestic abusers most likely to reoffend are generally young, unmarried, have an unstable lifestyle, have substance abuse issues, have low verbal intelligence, hold negative attitudes regarding spousal assault and interpersonal relationships, and have a history of criminal behaviour (Hanson and Wallace-Capretta, 2006). Some studies have also predicted recidivism based on whether an offender used a weapon and whether the offender already had a protective order issued against them (Kingsnorth, 2006)

Indeed, prior domestic violence has consistently been the most important predictor of recidivism for offenders (Ventura and Davis, 2005). It would seem, then, that once an offender starts abusing their partner, it is harder to stop them from doing so. According to this, police should consider a person's past arrest history, the existence of protection orders, the usage of a weapon in a prior domestic violence event, and the quantity of prior charges when attempting to identify a chronic domestic violence offender (Kingsnorth, 2006).

Court orders are often used to try and stop reoffending happening, nearly one-third 31% of offenders with a no contact order because of their initial domestic violence offence breached the order. There were several important factors predicting which offenders were most likely to breach their orders. One of the most important factors was whether the offender was already under a previous order at the time of the previous domestic violence incident; these offenders were nearly three times as likely to breach their current order (67 % versus 24 %).

This finding was not surprising given that these offenders had already demonstrated an inability to comply with court and/or police conditions. Criminal history was another important predictor of no contact violations. Generally speaking, nearly half of the offenders with a history of relationship violence (45 per cent), a general history of violence (50 per cent), and/or a previous offence against the current victim (46 per cent) violated their no contact order compared to one-fifth or less of offenders without these histories.

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