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In this essay I'm going to explain to the necessity of maintaining professional standards within the police service by considering the impact of the code of ethics and the standards of professional behaviour. I will start this by explaining why the police services must maintain a very high standards of professional standards and behaviour and give you an insight into the code of ethics also I'm going to explain about changes to policies and what the police services are doing to make things better.

The code of ethics was put together by the college of policing in 2014 and it sets standards and provides the professional guild lines for the policing services so everybody who works in policing have high standards and professional behaviour and a guild with instructions to follow in everyday decision making and to ensure that everyone in policing will always do the right thing for themselves and others. There is evidence in the policing services that state that by simply having a code of ethics is not enough to reduce unprofessional behaviour but by following the code of ethics it shows you about self-awareness, ensuring that everyone in policing feels able to always do the right thing and is confident to challenge colleagues. This is based on google (2021). Available at: <https://www.college.police.uk/ethics/code-of-ethics> (accessed October 2022).

The code of ethics is currently in the process being reviewed and this follows a public consultation between July and September 2021. It's very important for the police services to follow the code of ethics because if the public don't trust the policing services to be acting ethically and professionally and in their best interests they will probably not trust and assist the policing services in upholding the law. This is based on google (2021). Available at: <https://www.college.police.uk/ethics/code-of-ethics> (accessed October 2022).

It doesn't always work following the code of ethics as there are some police officers who don't uphold the law and are corrupt so an internal review is being launched shortly and will help to ensure that the system is much easier to remove officers who are not fit to serve the public, Baroness Casey's report into the culture and standards at the Metropolitan Police Service, published Monday 17 October 2022 raises a lot of concerns, including that there are very few officers that are being dismissed, officers with multiple allegations made against them are still able to serve the public and police service. The public very much expect the highest standards of behaviour from police officers and the vast majority meet this expectation. But recently too many high-profile incidents and reports, especially in London, have damaged trust which is unfair on the public and lets down other serving officers. The government has already changed the police discipline system over the last 7 years to make it more transparent, more proportionate and more accountable and a very good example of this is the introducing public misconduct hearings in 2015 and bringing in the Police Barred List in 2017, ensuring that officers and staff who are dismissed cannot re-join the police. This is based on google (2022). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/police-dismissals-to-be-reviewed> (accessed October 2022).

I had this information from the book Harfield. (2013). Blackstone's police operational handbook : practice and procedure (Second edition.). Oxford University Press and it states that the Standards of professional behaviour is a department within the policing services which investigates complaints involving other officers by investigating anyone of suspected of any wrongdoing, many organisations have standards of behaviour or a guild which is a code of ethics, as stated by Dr Peter Neyroud is a Associate Professor in Evidence-based Policing. He is the Director (Designate) of the M.St. Police Executive Programme. He has been at the Institute since 2010, following a 30-year career in the police service he said that it is more important for the police to have a code of conduct (standards of professional behaviour) then any other organisation because there are many more temptations to

get involved in crime and corruption within the policing services and they are there to protect weak and vulnerable and to help those who are unable to help themselves so it shows that the policing services have to maintain high standards of professional behaviour to gain the public's trust and support.

It's very important for everyone in the policing profession to maintain a very high standard of professional behaviour because the public confidence in the police goes off the policing services showing that they work to the highest levels of professional behaviour because without the confidence of the public makes it very hard for the policing services to uphold the law. The public have the right to expect the police service to protect them by upholding the law and providing a professional police service. The police services also have the right to a working environment without any harassment, inequality or discrimination from others within the service and members of the public. This was based on google (2022). Available at: <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/workforce-and-hr-support/police/police-staff/police-staff-council-handbook/police-staff> (accessed October 2022). Also, according to the 2020 crime survey of England and Wales the public confidence in the policing services has been dropping over the last two years and the statistics for this are in 2017 62% to 55% in 2020. Its stats that police performance in the tackling of violence against women and girls has also made a massive contribution to the decline in the public's trust in the police services. This was based on google (2020). Available at: <https://www.rusi.org/.../public-confidence-police-new-low-service> (accessed October 2022).

There was a case last year which shows and proves that if you don't follow the standard behaviour and code of ethics then it can cause massive stress on public trust and sometimes unforeseen circumstances of death injury and many other offences. This happened on the third of March 2021 involving a police officer whose name is Wayne Couzens he was using his powers and authority to kidnap which led to rape and then murder of Miss Everard, He admitted kidnapping, raping and murdering Miss Everard and was handed a whole-life sentence. In the wake of Couzens' life sentence for murder, it was revealed more than half of Met officers found guilty of sexual misconduct over a four-year period to 2020 kept their jobs, a total of 43 officers out of 83 or 52 per cent, this shows that a lot must be done and also shows that there is quite a lot of corruption throughout the policing services and its shows that whatever you have in place for example code of ethics and a professional behaviour system there will always be a percentage of people from the policing services that won't follow the rules and take the public's trust for granted. This was based on google (2021). Available at: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10137551/Killer-cop-Wayne-Couzens-48-appeals-life-jail-term-murder-Sarah-Everard.html> (accessed October 2022).

I'm going to show you some statistics from the police services professional standards department they deal with most of the complaints about police and collect the information from all the police forces in England and Wales, it's an important part of the process collecting all the information because it gives them an insight into how other police forces work and what good or bad practises are being used even looking for trends, all this information leads to a quarterly performance bulletin which analyses the comparisons of the handling of complaints across all the policing services. This was based on google (2019). Available at: [https://policeconduct.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Documents/statistics/complaints\\_statistics\\_2018\\_19\\_v2.pdf](https://policeconduct.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Documents/statistics/complaints_statistics_2018_19_v2.pdf) (accessed October 2022).

The number of complaint cases in England and Wales recorded in two thousand and eighteen to nineteen compared with the complaints recorded in two thousand and seventeen to eighteen fell, police services recorded a total of thirty-one thousand and ninety-seven complaints which resulted in a two percent drop then the previous year and eight of the policing services recorded over twenty

percent. This was based on google (2019). Available at:  
[https://policeconduct.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Documents/statistics/complaints\\_statistics\\_2018\\_19\\_v2.pdf](https://policeconduct.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Documents/statistics/complaints_statistics_2018_19_v2.pdf) (accessed October 2022).percent fewer complaints then the previous year and four policing services increased the number of complaints by twenty percent.

## Reference List

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