

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Professional Standards, Governance and Accountability
Status: Definitive
Code: **4304PS** (126326)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Justice Studies
Teaching School/Faculty: Justice Studies

Team	Leader
Ian Whitfield	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ4 **Credit Value:** 20 **Total Delivered Hours:** 55

Total Learning Hours: 200 **Private Study:** 145

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	22
Online	11
Workshop	22

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	Essay	Essay 2500 words	60	
Portfolio	Portfolio	Portfolio of work consisting of four short submissions (500 words) on case studies in ethics and professional standards	40	

Aims

To understand the meaning of ethics and their relevance in policing. Students will consider both the theory and application of ethics.

To consider what is meant by professional standards and how they apply to police officers and the police service.

To examine the governance and accountability of police officers and the police service generally. To compare the professional standard requirements within the police service to those of similar professional organisations. Examining the role of each of the various bodies involved in the governance and accountability of police officers and the police service.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Explain what is meant by professional standards as they relate to police officers and the police service and the issues arising from this
- 2 Examine ethical theories and the application of ethics to policing, the meaning of ethics and how they apply to police officers and the police service.
- 3 Describe the meaning of governance and accountability in policing and the various bodies that play a part in those processes and how they operate.
- 4 Explain the legislative basis for the governance and accountability structures and processes.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Essay 2500 words	1	3	4
Portfolio (4 x 500 words)	2		

Outline Syllabus

*The police officer role and the relevance of ethics.
Professional standards and the professionalization agenda.
Relevance of current professional standards policies and procedures.
The doctrine of 'constabulary independence'.
Operational decisions and external and internal influences.
The agencies and bodies that play a part in governance and accountability in policing.*

Learning Activities

Lectures, supported online Canvas activities and Workshops.

Notes

Lectures and other activities will provide the students with information to then enable them to practically apply the knowledge acquired, within the tasks and experiences incorporated into the workshops. Discussions and activities such as comparing and contrasting the professional standard requirements within the police service to those

of similar professional organisations. Reflecting upon the potential for an insider threat within the police service, and identifying the strategies in place to prevent this. Scenarios and case studies will also be utilized in order to allow students the opportunity to apply knowledge, debate and reflect.

Where relevant and appropriate the concept of evidence based policing will be introduced and its relevance and benefits explained. There will also be reference to the College of Policing 'What Works' facility.

National Policing Curriculum

Indicative Content

Understanding the Police Constable Role

1.3 What it means to be a police constable e.g. constabulary independence, crown servant

1.4 Roles and responsibilities of those charged with ensuring that the police deliver a professional service: • Home Secretary • Police and Crime Commissioners (Combined Authority Mayor) • Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) • NPCC (National Police Chiefs Council) • Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) • Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) (formerly Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)) • Chief Constables • College of Policing • Staff Associations • Professional Standards

1.5 How Police and Crime Plans impact on the police service

5.1 Extent of powers applicable to: • Police officers • Special Constabulary • PCSOs • Police staff

5.2 How police powers are regulated: • Legislation • Professional Standards

Maintaining Professional Standards

1.1 Necessity: • Fair, ethical and unbiased delivery of policing services

1.2 Governance: • Legislation • Professional standards • Professional Standards Unit (PSU)

1.3 Roles and responsibilities: • PSU • Chief Officers • Disciplinary procedures • Hearings • Role of the IOPC (formerly IPCC), in serious cases

1.4 Professional standards: • Police (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 • Disciplinary procedures • Notifiable associations • Off-duty conduct • Avoiding corruption • Abuse of authority (for sexual purposes, financial gain etc.)

1.5 Code of Ethics

2.1 Comparison to professional standards requirements within similar organisations

2.2 Absence of ordinary employment law: Office of Constable

3.1 The level of professional standards required in both professional and personal life

3.2 Potential impact of policing targets on professional standards

3.3 Potential consequences of failing to comply with strict professional standards

4.1 Reports detailing the thematic inspections into police integrity: • IOPC/IPCC reports • 'Without Fear or Favour' (2011)

5.1 Instances when IOPC/HMICFRS would act as the lead investigative body, including post-incident management

- 5.2 Advantages and disadvantages of an independent investigating body
- 5.3 Investigation processes in comparative professional contexts
- 6.1 Reasons why people in positions of respect or authority might act unprofessionally
- 6.2 Case studies: abuse of power/authority
- 7.1 Impact of police misconduct hearings being heard in public
- 7.2 Lessons learnt from past instances of misconduct/malpractice
- 8.1 Organisational factors that have contributed to inappropriate behaviour/negative case outcomes
- 8.2 Perceptions of the police service as having a 'blame culture' • Strategies for mitigation
- 8.3 Reviewing improvement to the professional standards of the policing profession

Learning Outcomes

Understanding the Police Constable Role

1,5

Maintaining Professional Standards

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8