

POLICE



CODE OF ETHICS FOR UK POLICE

✓ **Conduct**

To behave in a manner whether on or off duty, which does not discredit the police the police service or undermined public confidence in policing.

✓ **Confidentiality**

To treat information with respect, and access and disclose it only in the proper course of my duties.

✓ **Challenging and reporting improper conduct**

To report, challenge or take action against the conduct of colleagues which have fallen below the standards of professionals behaviour.

✓ **Fitness for work**

To ensure when on duty that they are fit to carry out their responsibilities.

✓ **Duties and responsibilities**

To be diligent in the exercise of their duties and responsibilities.

Policing principles

Accountability

You are answerable for your decisions, actions and omissions.

Fairness

You treat people fairly.

Honesty

You are truthful and trustworthy.

Integrity

You always do the right thing.

Leadership

You lead by good example.

Objectivity

You make choices on evidence and your best professional judgement.

Openness

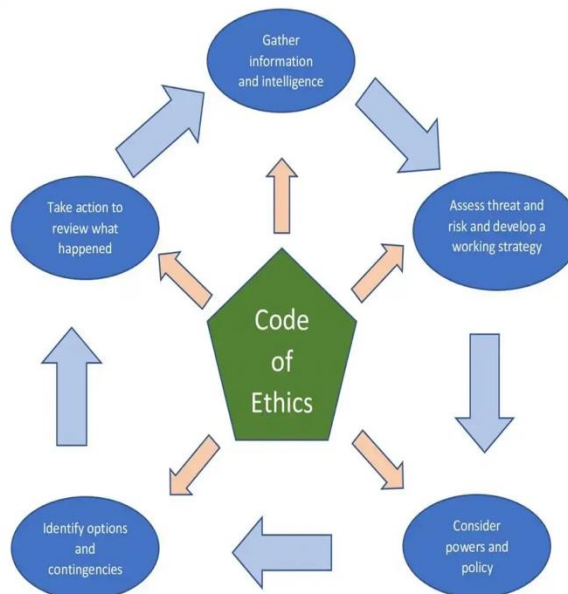
You are open and transparent in your actions and decisions.

Respect

You treat everyone with respect.

Selflessness

You act in the public interest.



POLICE CORRUPTION

Police officers act corruptly when, in exercising or failing to exercise their authority, they act with the primary intention of furthering private or departmental/divisional advantage.'

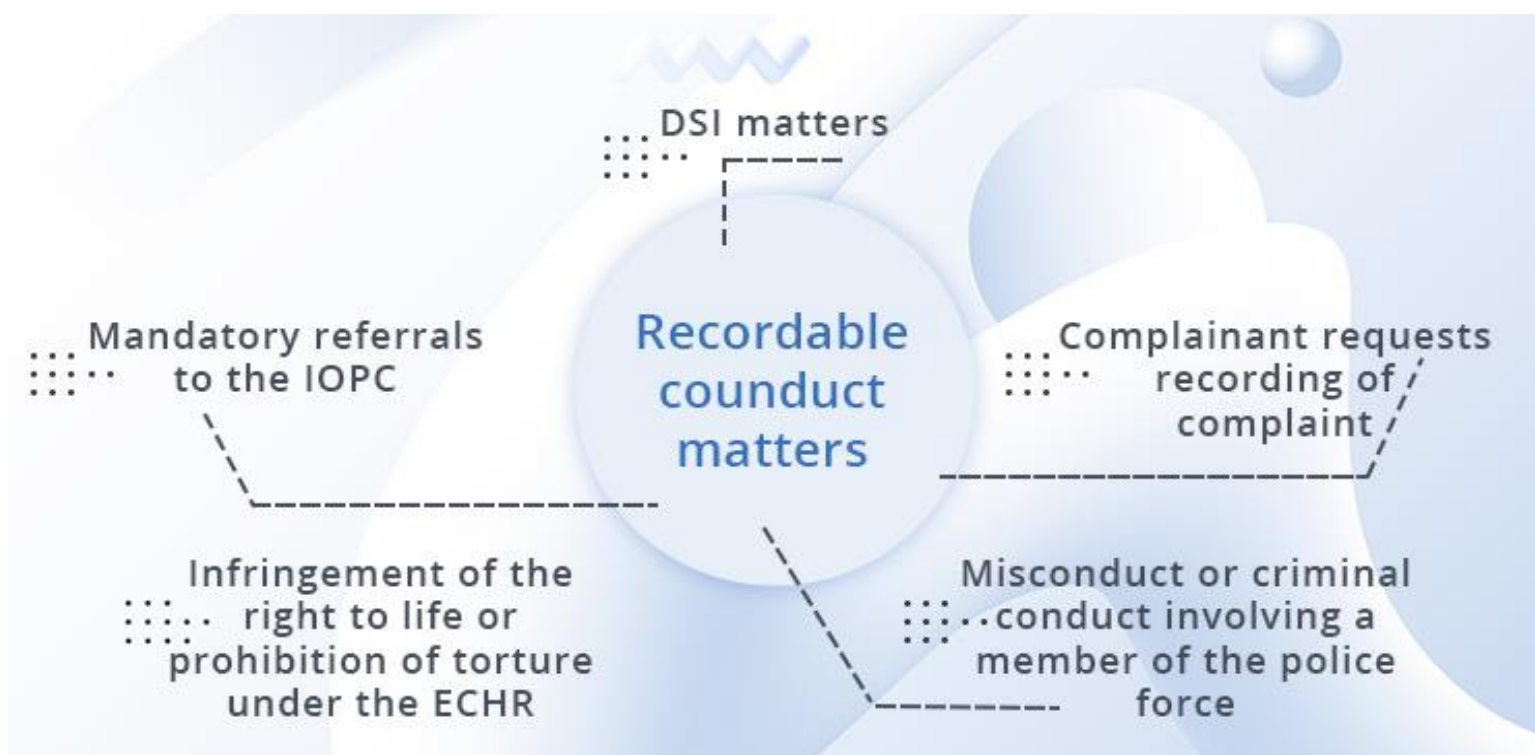
Though some will disagree with such an inclusive definition – one that inevitably encompasses quite a wide range of low-level, ethically-problematic conduct rather than more obviously serious misconduct – the argument is that such acts should be included as they are motivated by what the Wood Commission in Australia called 'the spirit of corruption' (Wood, 1997a); that is to say the primary intention behind such acts, like more serious forms of corrupt conduct, is the furtherance of private or organisational advantage.

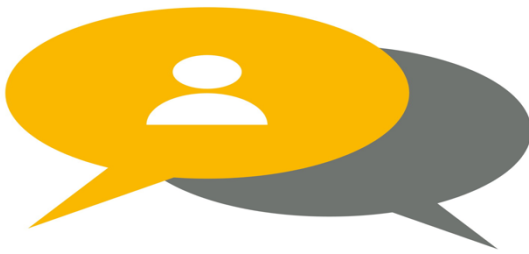
The Oath Of Attestation

I do solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will well and truly serve the Queen in the office of Constable, with fairness, integrity, diligence and impartiality, upholding fundamental human rights, and according equal respect to all people; and that I will, to the best of my power, cause the peace to be kept and preserved and prevent all offences against people and property; and that while I continue to hold the said office I will, to the best of my skill and knowledge, discharge all the duties thereof faithfully according to law.



TYPE OF CORRUPT/UNETHICAL ACTIVITY	EXPLANATION
Corruption of authority	When an officer receives some form of material gain by virtue of their position as a police officer without violating the law per se (e.g. free drinks, meals, services); misuse of professional perquisites (credit cards etc)
'Kickbacks'	Receipt of goods, services or money for referring business to particular individuals
Opportunistic Theft	Stealing from arrestees (sometimes referred to as 'rolling'), from traffic accident victims, crime victims and the bodies or property of dead citizens.
'Shakedowns'	Acceptance of a bribe for not following through a criminal violation, i.e. not making an arrest, filing a complaint or impounding property
Protection of illegal activities	Police protection of those engaged in illegal activities (prostitution, drugs, pornography) enabling the business to continue operating.
The 'Fix'	Undermining criminal investigations or proceedings, the 'loss' of traffic tickets, etc.
Direct Criminal Activities	A police officer commits a crime against person or property for personal gain 'in clear violation of both departmental and criminal norms.
Internal payoffs	Prerogatives available to police officers (holidays, shift allocations, promotion) are bought, bartered and sold.
'Flaking' or 'Padding'	Planting of, or adding to, evidence (argued by Punch to be particularly evident in drugs cases).
'Tipoffs' and inappropriate information disclosure	Activities ranging from offering advance warning of police activities to criminals through to the inappropriate release of information to the media
Inappropriate secondary business/employment interest—posts-	Engagement in activities while employed as a police officer that might (or be thought to) conflict with existing role; taking up employment after leaving
Retirement Employment	service raising similar ethical questions
Other forms of misconduct	Brutality; discriminatory practice; drinking on duty etc.





Find out more about the police complaints system

policeconduct.gov.uk

GUIDE TO THE POLICE COMPLAINTS SYSTEM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

If you've got a problem or if you're unhappy about something that happened to you which involved the police, it can usually be sorted out by speaking to the police force. But if they can't put things right for you, then you can make a complaint.

WHAT CAN YOU COMPLAIN ABOUT?

You can complain if:

- You are unhappy about the way you are treated by the police or you feel harassed by them.
- You feel that nobody is listening to you.

How can you complain about the police?

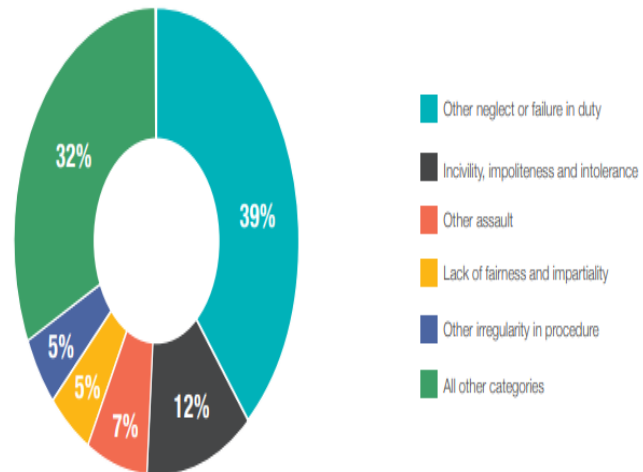
- You can complain on the IOPC website, or you can contact the police force involved via their website or by phone. With your permission someone can complain for you.

- The person dealing with the complaint will contact you to get the details.
- They should ask you what you want to happen.
- You can expect to be listened to and treated fairly.
- You will be kept updated about the progress of your complaint.
- You must receive an update every 28 days.
- When your complaint is finalised, you will be contacted about the outcome and any action that will be taken as a result.
- If you're not happy with the result, you may be able to request a review.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT IF YOU COMPLAIN?

- The police may give you an explanation for what happened.
- The police may provide you with an apology.
- The officers involved could be given training and development.
- The force may change their policy or procedures.
- The officers involved could face disciplinary action.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE OUTCOMES?



- ✓ personal information
- ✓ exact date and time of incident
- ✓ details of officers / members of staff being complained
- ✓ details of who was present i.e., other police officers and/or any witnesses