
ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Version 4

1. Policy statement

Police officers across the country work tirelessly and to a very high standard every day protecting the public and keeping communities safe.

Issues of ethics, integrity and professional standards are fundamental to the effective and proper operation of the police service. It is essential that officers act with integrity at all times and that they are perceived to be doing so by the public. Support and cooperation from the public is a vital element of policing by consent and this can only be maintained by a police service acting to the highest standards of ethics and integrity.

2. Responsibility

The National Board is responsible for all policy formation.

3. Summary

It is vital that officers act with honesty and integrity at all times, whether on or off duty.

PFEW fully supports moves to examine issues of integrity and professional standards, however, any changes must be implemented in a fair and measured way and they must not result in the unfair treatment of police officers. Any changes must ensure safeguards are in place for officers and their families. In addition, officers must feel able to speak out if they have a reasonable belief of malpractice.

In 2014/5 HMICFRS committed to carry out an inspection of police integrity and leadership. Their report *Integrity Matters*¹ examined the extent to which progress had been made since their 2012 integrity inspection and found that, in general, the arrangements that police forces have in place to promote integrity are in appreciably better shape than in 2011 and 2012.

PFEW fully supports the College of Policing's Code of Ethics. It highlights the standards and principles expected of police officers. It sets out nine policing principles as well as 10 standards of professional behaviour. PFEW fully supports these principles and standards and believes it is vital that all police officers use the Code as they undertake their work, to ensure they fulfil the high expectations that the public have of policing and police officers.

¹ HMICFRS, *Integrity Matters: An inspection of arrangements to ensure integrity and to provide the capability to tackle corruption in policing*, January 2015

4. Procedures/implementation

PFEW will seek to ensure issues of ethics, integrity and professional standards remain at the heart of policing including changes to the police complaints and conduct provisions arising out of the Policing and Crime Act 2017.

We will support and encourage the use of the College of Policing's Code of Ethics.

We will support and protect whistleblowers.

Responsibility is delegated to the National Secretary and/or appropriate sub-committee.

	Author	Date	Date to be reviewed	Change
Version 1	EP-KP	July 2015	July 2016	
Version 2	EP-KP	July 2016	July 2017	Remove reference to Home Secretary changes from 2015
Version 3	KP-EP	July 2017	July 2018	Add reference to the Policing & Crime Act 2017
Version 4	KP	January 2019	July 2020	Minor changes

Signed by:



National Chair



National Secretary