

Evaluate the need for discipline in the uniformed public services

In evaluating the need for discipline in the public services it is essential to weigh up the benefits versus the negatives of discipline within the uniformed public services and then come to a conclusion that determine if discipline is necessary in the uniformed public services and if so why?

Some of the benefits of discipline are:

- Holding together multiple individuals with many types of personalities and psychological profiles
- Ensuring that a hierarchical structure is kept in place and orders received and carried out
- That command and control is in place and followed out to the letter by the members of service
- That rules and regulations are clearly outlined to the members of the service and followed
- To reduce conflict between ranks and reduce the culture of them and us
- To ensure that the appropriate behaviour expected of the services members is understood and carried out, the services image is maintained and improved
- To ensure that those who's behaviour is not suitable is discovered and reported
- To reduce internal disputes so that as many resources as possible are freed up so they can be allocated elsewhere
- To ensure that members are able to achieve self-discipline
- To remove to an extent individuality in favour of a group mentality
- To ensure that the reward and punishment system is understood by the services members
- To ensure that rank carries respect and responsibility
- To ensure that there is order within the service and that order will percolate into the public from the service
- To ensure that the service is respected or feared and not perceived to be either oppressive or weak, which ever extreme
- To ensure there is a base confidence in every member of the service and they respect any who have undergone the same training, this leads to mutual respect
- To be able to ensure that all understand each others responsibilities and roles associated with the rank that they carry
- To ensure that the public confidence is not disrupted and images/assumptions that are positive to be maintained e.g. the police are seen as "right" and "honest"

Some of the problems with discipline are:

- That blind obedience may occur and individuals will not question orders that are wrong, this will lead to crimes being committed, especially a problem within the military.
- Can create "individuals" that are too group orientated and become able to function as an individual
- Individuals become adapted to a structured environment and leaving it often results in individuals breaking down as they can cope