Outline what is meant by the terms conformity and obedience with reference to the public services

In the public services Conformity and obedience and absolutely necessary in order to maintain discipline. In outlining what is meant by the terms conformity and obedience I will give the dictionary definition of them and then say how the public services uses each.

Conformity is defined as being an Action or behaviour in correspondence with socially accepted standards, conventions, rules, or laws, or a Similarity in form or character agreement. The public services use conformity to unify many different types of personalities and people. This is done by disciplining them but by also other methods such as putting them in similar uniforms. This is conditioning of them in order to achieve a group mentality. This is also a method of distinguishing different ranks with each rank belonging to a group of individuals with that rank. This can cause a them and us attitude between lower and higher ranks. Conformity is done to make the behaviour of those involved predictable and assured, which when you’re in dangerous situations is necessary to get orders followed by an entire group and have an assurance that they will follow them. It can be argued that members of group will try to act like the group generally and behave normally, or rather exhibit behaviours normal to that group. So in the public services this would be refereeing too especially within the armed services the rigid and conformed behaviour, which too a group that always acts in that manner would be normal. This is because individuals should seek to conform in a group.

Obedience is defined as dutifully complying with the commands, orders, or instructions of one in authority. Clearly this is required in the public services to ensure personnel are doing what they are told. This recognition of command and a command and rank structure means they will follow orders from above and allows the service to function. This will compliment discipline in the service enforcing the benefits it gives. Without obedience orders aren’t followed and the service cannot function.