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5th September 2019

Assessing the real purpose of the police code of ethics

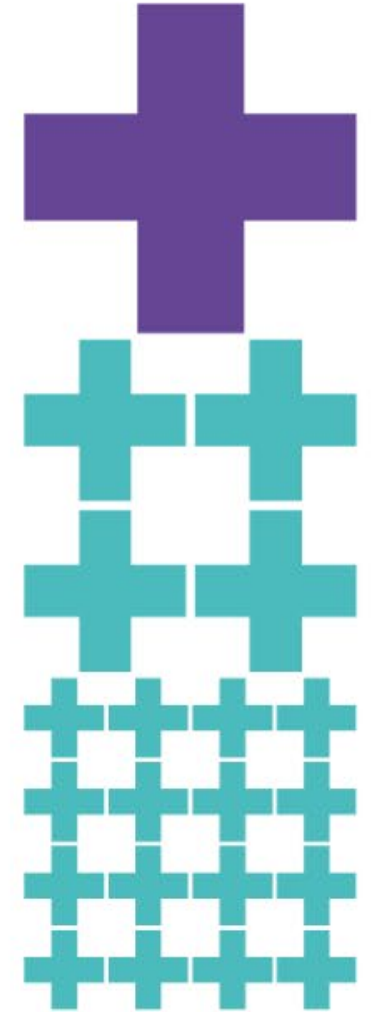
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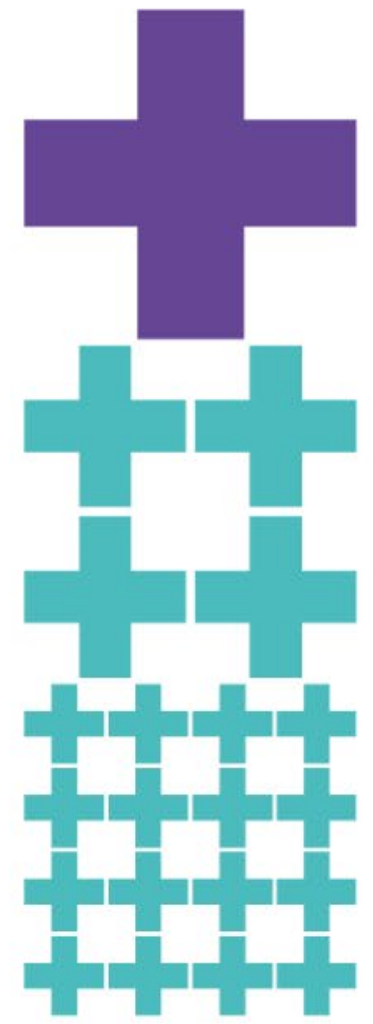
OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

- Background to the study
- The research question
- The research findings
- Taking the research further





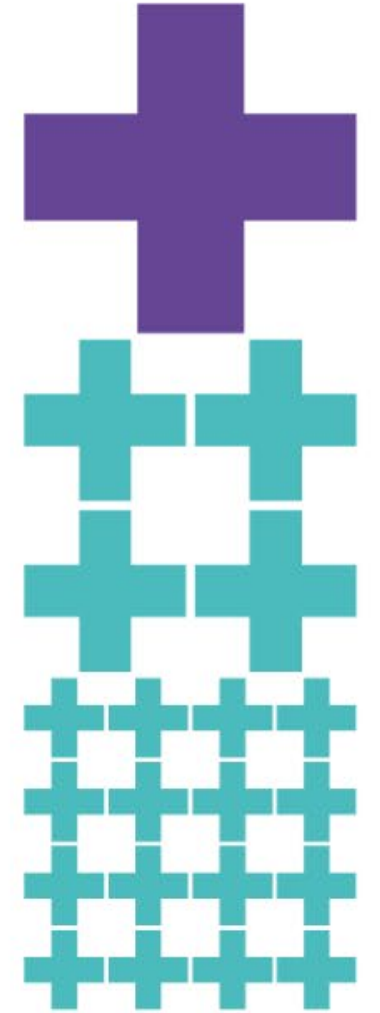
BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY



- Code of Ethics = A Code of Practice for the Principles and Standards of Professional Behaviour for the Policing Profession
- Issues about disclosure → police more intrusive into the lives of suspects, victims and witnesses
- Recent-high profile cases have been the result of poor practice by investigators → the Allan case (2017)

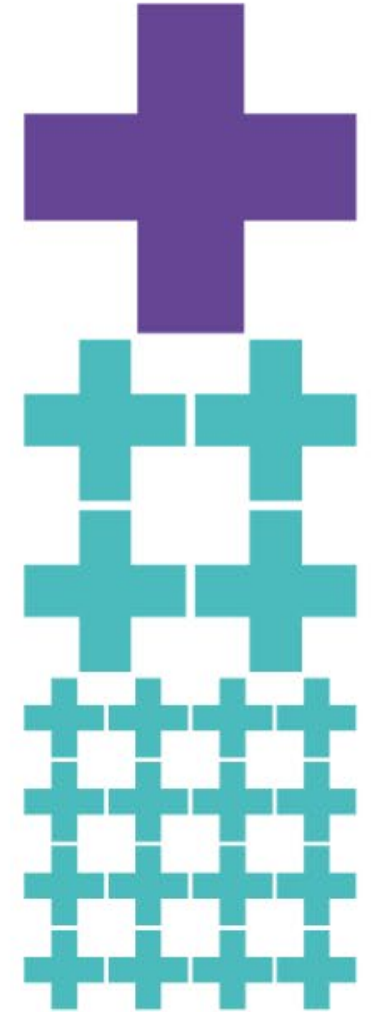
DISCLOSURE

- INTERPRETATIVE DISCLOSURE
- IMPLICATORY DISCLOSURE
- CULTURAL DISCLOSURE
- OFFICIAL DISCLOSURE



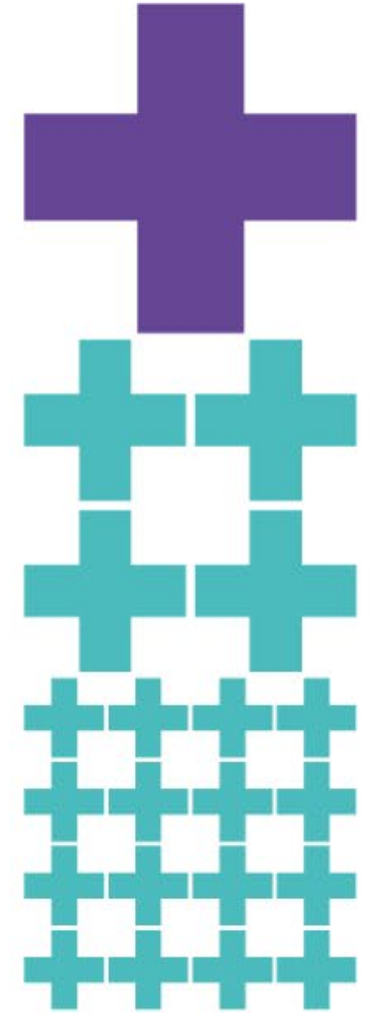
THE RESEARCH QUESTION

- What is the real purpose of the Police Code of Ethics?
- Disclosing versus not disclosing: is it ethical?
- Do police officers need a Code of Ethics?



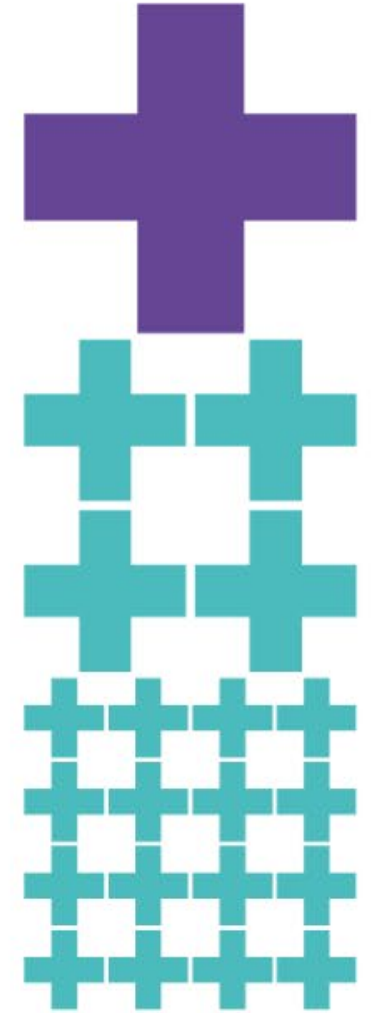
THE STUDY

- Small sample but comprehensive of all ranks
- From detective constable to Assistant Chief Constable
- 4 focus groups → 14 police officers → 5 females 9 males



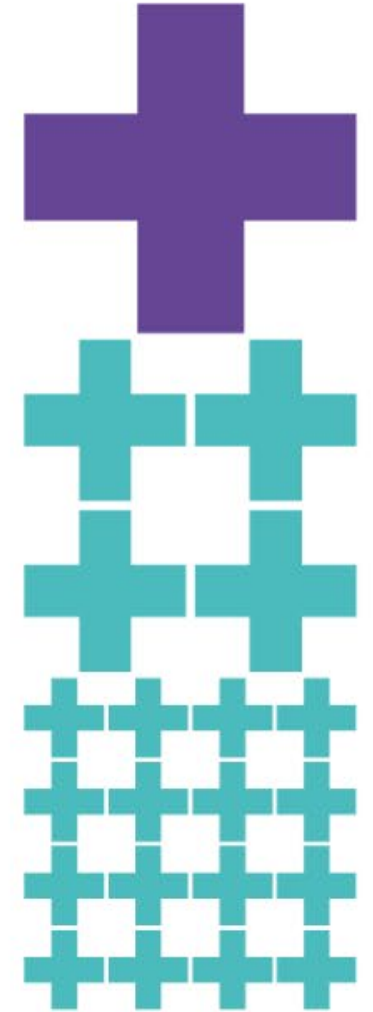
THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

- Although CoE is a benchmark no many officers aware of all the principles, nonetheless they all adhere to the principles in their profession



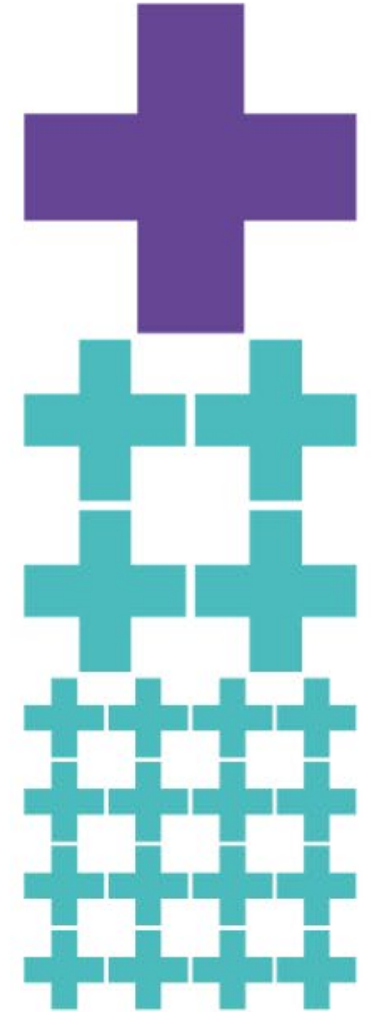
STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR

- Honesty and integrity
- Authority, respect and courtesy
- Equality and diversity
- Use of force
- Orders and instructions
- Duties and responsibilities
- Confidentiality
- Fitness for work
- Conduct
- Challenging and reporting improper conduct



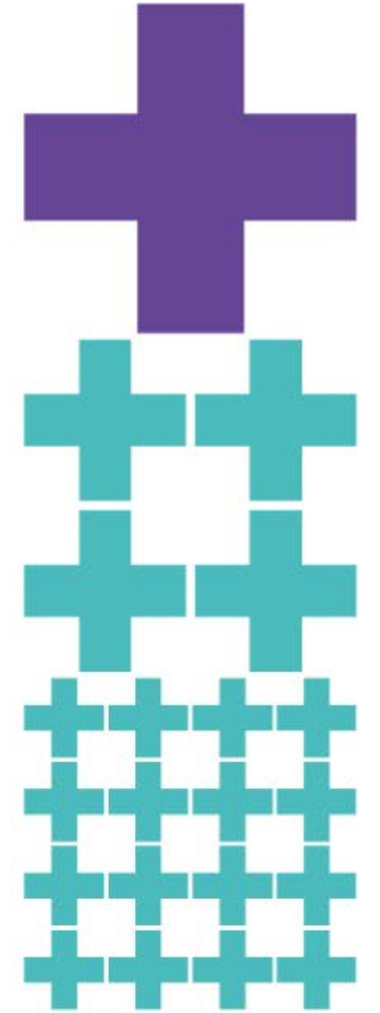
THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

- CoE is not on the back of officers' mind when conducting any investigation
- BUT
- officers of all ranks know to conduct themselves and follow the CoE without “thinking” because they follow their common-sense



COMMON-SENSE

- Acting with integrity
- Acting with honesty

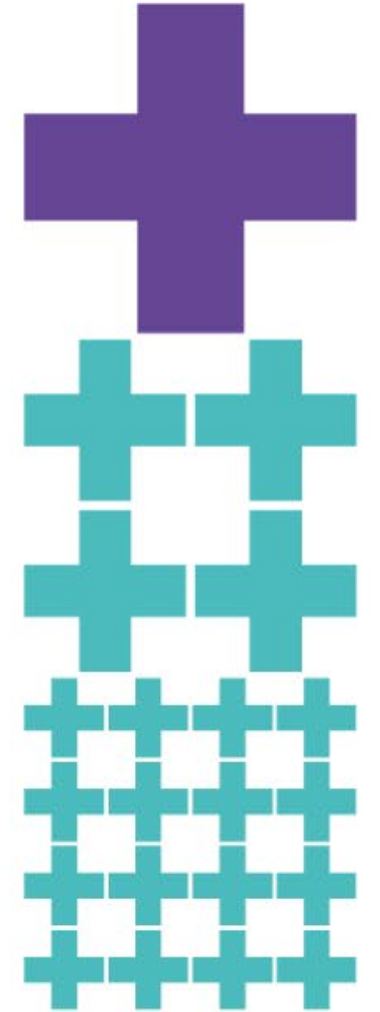


THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

- CoE is not always relevant

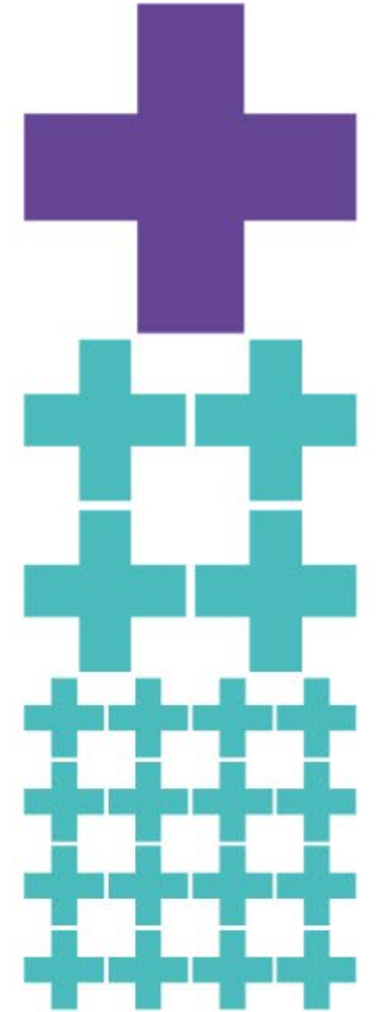
BUT

- is the best possible guide
- CoE appears to be fit for purpose



TAKING THE RESEARCH FURTHER

- Demand for digital investigation is outstripping resources
- It is not sustainable to keep increasing resources
- Greater consistency is required in policing



ANY
QUESTIONS?

