



External Ethics Committee

Role Description and Criteria

Help Shape Ethical Policing in Northamptonshire

Modern policing faces complex ethical challenges every day. Could you help Northamptonshire Police navigate these dilemmas and ensure decisions are made with integrity, transparency, and fairness?

We are inviting applications to join the Northamptonshire Police Independent Ethics Committee—a diverse and forward-thinking group that provides independent advice, guidance, and scrutiny on the ethical dimensions of policing in our county.

The committee plays a vital role in supporting ethical decision-making across a wide range of issues, including:

- Hypothetical scenarios and recent case studies.
- Issues around procedural and substantive justice.
- Dilemmas arising over the boundaries of risk and benefit and the protection of vulnerable people including minors, the elderly and people with mental illness.
- Dilemmas over the use of new digital technologies and the balance between informational privacy and public safety.
- Dilemmas arising over the use of genetic technologies as forensic evidence.
- Dilemmas over the training, safety and wellbeing of officers.

Members are given access to key information and personnel, ensuring their input is informed, impactful, and respected.

By joining, you'll be part of a voluntary group committed to delivering open, accountable, and values-driven policing. The committee considers both broad ethical themes—such as discrimination, surveillance, and public trust—as well as practical, day-to-day policing matters, including the use of force, stop and search, and officer conduct.

If you are passionate about doing the right thing, value fairness and transparency, and want to make a meaningful contribution to public service in Northamptonshire, we would love to hear from you.

We especially welcome applications from individuals with diverse backgrounds and lived experiences, including those from minority ethnic communities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and people with disabilities. Your insight is vital to ensuring the committee reflects and serves our communities effectively.

Commitment: The committee meets quarterly, with additional work taking place between meetings.

Knowledge and Experience

Applicants should demonstrate relevant qualifications and/or proven experience that enable them to contribute informed perspectives on complex ethical issues. Ideal candidates will bring expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Policing and Criminal Law
- Legal Practice
- Media and Communications
- Applied Ethics
- Health and Social Care (eg NHS)
- Business and Commerce
- Public Accountability
- Community service, partnership working, or voluntary engagement within Northamptonshire

Essential Criteria:

- Demonstrable experience or qualifications in ethics, philosophy, or law
- A sound understanding of ethical principles and their application within the policing context
- Active involvement in a professional or voluntary field where ethics is a core consideration
- Strong communication skills, with the ability to contribute constructively to discussions
- Willingness to attend scheduled meetings and participate in additional work outside of formal sessions
- Commitment to fairness, transparency, and public service
- Willingness to undergo security vetting

Desirable Criteria:

- Previous or current membership of a group or organisation where ethical considerations are central to its work or decision-making
- Experience in community engagement, project delivery, or participation in advisory groups.

Apply Now

To apply, please send:

- A cover letter explaining your interest and what you would bring to the committee
- A short CV of relevance to the appointment

Email your application to: executive.support@northants.police.uk