

**THE INTEGRITY  
STATUTE**

**On 1 May 1997 at Dordrecht, the Netherlands, the Minister of the Interior, H. Dijkstal, received the Integrity Statute of the Dutch police.**

## **The Integrity Statute of the Dutch Police**

**Protected by the Law**

## **The Integrity Statute**

As a police officer, society has given you special powers. It is a matter of pride. You take them seriously and use them in a fitting manner. You are fully aware of your social and role model functions. That is why you follow the rules laid down in the law, the oath of office and standing orders with respect to the use of force. You work independently, professionally and with a clear conscious. You display impeccable behaviour.

Still, there are dilemmas and daily situations where the lines that divide honest and dishonest behaviour are vague. Not a matter of right and wrong, these are dilemmas in which others expect results from you and where you are under time pressure. There are events in which your own norms and values, sometimes even your moods, are important or are put to the test. There are situations, for example, that could involve colleagues or acquaintances – daily issues for which the ultimate decision is not necessarily right or wrong, but where the answers will come from your own line of reasoning.

The Integrity Statute of the Dutch police will provide an incentive for discussing such dilemmas. The purpose of the statute is to stimulate and encourage the police forces to establish their own norms and codes of conduct, in so far as they have not already done so. Impeccable behaviour for everyone in a police organisation, on duty and off, forms the basis of police work. The Council of Police Superintendents sees the statute as a major addition to activities taken at regional level. That is why all every police officer under the corps commander receives the Integrity Statute of the Dutch police.

1.

## **Democratic Consciousness**

- 1.1 A police officer is loyal to the laws of the Netherlands
- 1.2 A police officer acts in accordance with Section 1 of the Constitution of the Netherlands.
- 1.3 A police officer, in his or her actions, places the interests of the public above self-interest.

## **You are bound by the law**

### **2. Reliability and Respect**

- 2.1 A police officer does not lie.
- 2.2 A police officer files reports that are correct and exact.
- 2.3 A police officer lives up to his or her commitments.
- 2.4 A police officer draws attention to dishonest behaviour in the police organisation.
- 2.5 A police officer has respect for people.
- 2.6 A police officer does not make racist or sexist insinuations to the public or to his or her colleagues.
- 2.7 A police officer makes sure that detainees are treated properly.
- 2.8 A police officer listens politely to what people have to say.
- 2.9 A police officer takes all complaints seriously, per definition.

## **We can depend on you**

### **3.**

### **Independence**

- 3.1 A police officer is extremely reserved when it comes to accepting gifts.
- 3.2 A police officer does not use his or her position to “arrange” private discounts for the supply of goods or services.
- 3.3 A police officer avoids high-risk contacts in his or her private life and maintains well-organised professional contacts that are open to discussion.
- 3.4 A police officer reports all paid and unpaid sidelines to the corps commander.

### **You cannot be led astray**

#### **4. The Use of Force**

- 4.1 A police officer detests the use of force, but may have to use it at times.
- 4.2 A police officer will temper his or her right to use force in a suitable, proportionate manner.

### **You know when**

**5.**

### **Handling Sensitive Information**

- 5.1 A police officer does not misuse information.
- 5.2 A police officer knows how to keep a secret.

### **You know how to keep a secret**

### **6. The Proper Use of Police Powers**

- 6.1 A police officer uses his or her powers irrespective of a person's standing.
- 6.2 A police officer only uses sanctioned investigative methods.

### **You do your work in good faith**

The cover of the statute is stoplight red. The red colour symbolises the careful consideration that must be given to decisions involving dilemmas. You can only make such decisions by stopping to think about them and by talking openly with others. Remember, you are held accountable for each decision you make involving the public or your colleagues. The measuring rod on the front cover shows that such decisions require precision work. It is a question of millimetres, not metres. Try holding yourself up to the measuring rod. How honest are you?

The Dutch police organisation and each individual police officer will actively ensure compliance with the statute. The statute forms the general guideline for the entire police organisation (all components, each individual police officer, executives and non-executives). The fundamental rules of the statute are principles and you cannot get around them.

**Protected by the Law**

## **Colophon**

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