

Controlled Assessment Task 1- Student Example

White collar crime can be seen in the assignment brief through Mr Palmer's conspiracy to cheat the public by overcharging and filing inaccurate tax returns. This type of crime is specifically known as professional crime which involves abusing a position of power for personal gain. This can include fraud, tax evasion, breaking health and safety laws, for example the Bernie Madoff case where a Ponzi scheme was used to encourage the public to invest with the promise of gaining money. The crime breaks the law so is criminal as well as being regarded as deviant due to the trust that is broken, which goes against social norms. People who commit this crime tend to be a higher class, respectable, educated members of society. They often target wealthy people however tax payers, consumers and employees are victims of this crime as well. The awareness of this crime is low due to the complexity as well as it being underreported and often dealt with internally.

Crimes committed by high profile individuals are often not reported due to the social reasons of lack of knowledge and complexity as well as lack of media interest. The offenders are in a position of power and therefore have the ability to keep the crime a private affair and stop the public from knowing. The crime is also complex as it can involve large amounts of people and is also to do with economics making it difficult to understand and tackle. Due to these reasons, the media also does not show interest in the crime and therefore the information is not spread widely. Personal reasons may also cause the crime to not be reported, these may include shame and not being affected. People are often embarrassed to have let someone they trusted take advantage of them and do not report the crime due to not wanting to admit for fear of not sounding intelligent. A lot of high profile companies are also not involved in committing these crimes and therefore many people are not affected and cannot report.

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Individual crime is also seen in the brief through the online abuse targeted towards Matthew due to his sexual orientation. This individual crime is specifically hate crime, as it is motivated by hate and discriminatory beliefs. Examples can include verbal abuse, assault and harassment, the case of Sophie Lancaster supports this as she was attacked for her gothic fashion. Hate crime has recently become criminal as well as being seen as widely deviant as society does not see it as acceptable. People who commit this crime are known to have a prejudiced value system, the crime is committed for the thrill, as defending turf, or because they believe the victim is evil. Typical victims of this crime are often minorities, they are people with different individual traits that the criminal is offended by. Public awareness of hate crimes was originally low but as more crimes are committed the awareness has risen due to campaigns for change.

Not reporting this crime may be due to the personal reasons of fear and not being affected. Many people who have been affected by this crime may be scared of the offender and the consequences of reporting it such as their family's safety, as they were targeted due to their individual traits which may be shared. A large amount of the public is also not affected by this crime, giving them no reason to report it as they do not want to be involved. Social and cultural reasons for not reporting this crime could include lack of knowledge and culture bound crime. Many of these acts of prejudice are not reported due to lack of knowledge as the crimes often occur without people knowing about them. It may also not be reported because the crime can be culture bound meaning that there is hate related to a specific culture and therefore a lot of people may be involved which often makes them hard to tackle and people do not want to be involved.