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Practice Brief – Task 1 - AC1.1 Analyse Types of Crime

White collar crime is the act of non-violent crime in a commercial situation for financial gain, some examples of this include fraud and tax evasion. The types of victims are usually of the middle class as they must have enough money to invest in a financial scheme, mainly older and recently retired and are usually people recruited by friends, similar to situations like the Ponzi scheme. The common types of offender that commit white collar crimes like fraud are respected businessmen of a high social status that work in commercial employment and are trusted by victims, or they could be organised groups such as large businesses or the mafia. The level of public awareness for fraud and other types of white collar crime is generally very low as the media isn't interested in "boring" crime and prefers violent and sexual crimes to be publicised, because the public are supposedly more interested in it, and view it as exciting but frightening. Furthermore, it is difficult to prosecute talented businessmen as they use very sophisticated methods and complex transactions in order to conceal their activities. The offender may also seem very respectable and trusting, arousing no suspicion from the public, causing levels of awareness to be low. Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme is an example of fraud, he was an American businessman who used this scheme to defraud investors of over \$50 billion, and they believed that their money was being paid to a variety of funds to make more money. White collar crimes like fraud are both deviant and criminal because the actions are against the law and also challenge the norms of society. White collar crime is shown in the brief, when it is said that Mr.S "has been making fraudulent expense claims" to pay for his "extravagant lifestyle".

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Illegal drug use is a type of moral crime that goes against the moral standard of society. The victims and offenders of moral crimes, like substance abuse, are most commonly the same person, and could be someone in a difficult situation (for example financially or mentally) as some people turn to drugs when they have mental health issues. This means that the crime is seen as victimless.

Public awareness levels are generally low as this crime is usually hidden from families and friends in order to avoid stigma and judgement, and the public are likely to ignore it and not report the crime as they may feel sympathy for the offender. Such as, the situation of someone abusing drugs due to mental health issues. In the brief it is said that Mr.S is “gambling” which is another example of moral crime due to Christian morality.

State crime is any crime committed by state agencies with a goal of furthering their policies that usually go against the European Convention of human rights- #genocide, war crimes, and imprisonment without trial are examples of state crime. The types of people that commit state crime are generally high-up government officials, like Hitler and Nazi Germany during the holocaust, and Bosnia in the early 1990’s, which are both cases of genocide. The people that usually become victims are any citizens of a country or those of a different political or religious view to that of the leader or government. The level of public awareness of state crime has become increasingly higher because of social media and news reports, for example everyone is aware of the atrocities in Iraq that were carried out on the order of Saddam Hussein. Similar to other types of crime I have discussed, state crime is both deviant and criminal because it breaches our moral compass and is against the law of the Human Rights Act.

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The final type of crime I will discuss is hate crime, which is an example of individual crime. Hate crime is any offence that is believed to be motivated by prejudice against a person based off any of these 5 categories; race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or if someone is transgender. Any regular crime can be aggravated if there is believed to be an element of hate, such as assault. If this is committed it has a maximum of 6 months, but this increases if hate and prejudice is an aggravating factor. The typical type of victim is someone who fits into any of the 5 categories mentioned above, or a person associated with someone of one of these categories. An example of a victim of hate crime is Adam Pearson, who experienced this because of his disability called neurofibromatosis. The general offender is anyone with prejudicial views against someone of the 5 strands, or people with traditional views that differ from those of the victim. The levels of public awareness are increasing due to high media coverage, with people like Adam Pearson raising awareness. Hate crime is mentioned in the brief where it mentions “homophobic comments”.

AC1.2 Reasons Why Crimes Are Unreported

Crime may not be reported because of a large number of factors, such as personal; reasons, social reasons and victimless crime. Personal reasons include fear of potential consequences from the criminal for themselves or their family. Domestic abuse is a good example of this, as the victim may panic about future abuse from the offender if they don't get arrested. Domestic abuse is mentioned in the brief, where Mrs.S is a victim of “verbal and physical abuse”. Shame is another personal; reason for why people may not report crime, especially if it involves a sexual act like rape or indecent assault. Rape victims are likely to be ashamed or embarrassed about what's happened to

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them, and men especially feel that they can't tell anyone due to general standards of a man and feeling as if they should've stopped it from happening.

Social and cultural reasons are another factor that has an effect in the amount of crime reported, for example lack of knowledge on what measures to take or people may not even be aware that they were a victim of crime. This applies when people are being cyber-bullied, as people may not realise its bullying or that it's actually a crime. The public are also generally unaware that vagrancy is against the law, so no one reports it. Culture bound crime is any crime that is socially acceptable within particular cultures, like honour killings that are accepted in some religions. People who see different cultures as mystifying will most likely ignore this type of offence because they don't want to interfere. Honour crime is illustrated by the brief, as the family of Mrs.S are "arranging to have Mrs.S killed" purely because are "furious that she has married a white British, non-Hindu man"

A lack of current public concern may mean that certain crimes aren't reported. This occurs if an offence isn't actually considered criminal by the public, for example, downloading illegal videos and music and smoking cannabis. A majority of the population download illegal songs or watch pirate DVD's at some point in their life, and so people are socialised into thinking it is normal and ok to do so. In relation to smoking cannabis, people are not concerned if someone is doing it because they don't see that it harms anyone (it could be perceived as victimless) and so do not report it on the basis that the offender should be allowed to do it if they wish to.

There are three types of victimless crime that have low levels of public awareness, and so aren't often reported. Prostitution is an example of these

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offences, people in our society know that it happens and don't care if it continues as long as it doesn't affect them. Furthermore, it is legalised in some countries so people believe that, if both parties give consent, it should be legal as there is perceived to be no harm caused. Another example of victimless crime is assisted suicide, a crime that is usually carried out because of care and not financial gain or revenge, and the person dying wants to it to take place. The government have created guidelines to illustrate when prosecution won't occur, showing that they recognise that in some cases, no action should be taken. However, campaigns like the assisted dying campaign have still been mostly unsuccessful, as a bill was proposed to parliament but was rejected after hearing. In the brief, Mr.S commits a moral crime (gambling) which is usually perceived as victimless, which is most likely why his wife, or anyone that was aware he was doing this did not report it.