

Police Accountability

Criminal Justice

The mechanisms that check policing, and the weakness built into each one.

Layers of oversight, internal and external.

Mechanisms

Internal supervision and standards units

Independent complaints and investigation bodies

Courts: exclusion of evidence, civil claims

Inspectorates and published performance data

Local governance and elected oversight

Known weaknesses

Most complaints are handled internally

Investigations are slow and rarely upheld

Data on force and searches is incomplete

Oversight often depends on police records

Sanctions rarely reach systemic causes

Educational reference. Oversight architecture differs sharply by country; compare mechanisms before comparing outcomes.