Summary Post

It is encouraging to see how both Jaco and Nelson have expanded on my initial analysis of Q Industries' ethical violations. Their thoughtful responses provide complementary and valuable insights into the limitations of current professional codes and the pressing need for enforceable accountability mechanisms in computing ethics.

Jaco builds on my argument by reinforcing the link between algorithmic bias and systemic discrimination, citing evidence that flawed facial recognition systems disproportionately misidentify people with darker skin tones (Gentzel, 2021; Pour, 2023). He persuasively notes that bias stems not only from unbalanced data sets but also from algorithmic architecture itself, thus deepening the ethical concern.

Nelson extends the discussion by highlighting the broader issue of the "toothlessness" of voluntary ethical codes (Gotterbarn, 2018), supporting his point with Johnson's (2020) observation that reputational damage alone does little to deter unethical behaviour. His integration of whistleblower protection under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 effectively demonstrates how law can operationalise ethical intent. He also identifies growing institutional efforts by professional bodies like the BCS and IEEE (BCS, 2022; IEEE, 2023) to embed ethics into professional standards, while warning of the persistence of "ethics shopping" across regulatory frameworks (Greene, 2021).

Collectively, these perspectives reinforce the argument that binding legal and institutional reform is essential to uphold ethical integrity in autonomous defence technologies.

Word count: 217

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