**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST**

**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND LEGAL STUDIES**

**SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS**

**DEPARTMENT OF DATA SCIENCE AND ECONOMIC POLICY**

COURSE CODE: DATA CURATION AND MANAGEMENT

COURSE CODE: **DMA 820**

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REGISTRATION NUMBER: **SE/DMD /24/0002**

ASSIGNMENT:

**QUESTIONS**

A . Produce two pages commentary on Data Policy of your respective organizations covering the following areas

1. Structure of data dismeniation
2. Format of data dessimination
3. Data sharing protocols and procedures if any
4. Data visibility (Website/social media handles)

B. suggest ways by which the mentioned areas of data curation can be improved/implemented in your organization

**A. Commentary on Ghana Police Service(Gh Police) Data Policy**

**1. Structure of Data Dissemination**

The Gh Police is organized under the Ministry of the Interior, headed by the Inspector General of Police (IGP) and supported by multiple directorates including Public Affairs and ICT/Data Management .The Ghana Police service has a structured approach to data dessimination, leveraging various units and systems to manage and share information.  
In 2020 to 2025 the IGP decentralized all communication and In 2025, the newly appointed IGP centralized all communications and external disclosures, shifting away from earlier decentralized regional release practices. This unified model mandates that only designated central units—primarily the Public Affairs Directorate—issue statements and information to the public media such as Gh Police TV and [GBC Ghana](https://www.gbcghanaonline.com/general/igp-information/2023/?utm_source=chatgpt.com).  
The rationale: decentral interviews or press releases from regions risk misinformation or incomplete facts, tarnishing Gh Police credibility. Centralization ensures full‑fact, consistent messaging, aligned with international best practices [GBC Ghana](https://www.gbcghanaonline.com/general/igp-information/2023/?utm_source=chatgpt.com).The units involved in data dessimination are

1. Criminal data services Bureau(CDSB)

Responsible for building criminal records processing prints lifted from crime scene and conducting criminal checks on individuals seeking employment or traveling outside Ghana.

1. Forensic science laboratory(FSL)

This unit provides scientific support to criminal investigations, analyzed and generate report.

1. INTERPOL Accra

The INTERPOL facilitates international cooperation on crime fighting,extradition of fugitives and sharing of criminal information

1. Police Gazette

A publication that contains information on wanted persons, missing person and other crime- related data.

1. West Africa police information system(WAPIS)Data collection and registration center(DACORE)

**2. Format of Data Dissemination**

Since 2018, Gh Police publishes updates via its official **website** (police.gov.gh) and verified **social media handles** (Facebook, X, Instagram) to educate the public, issue alerts (e.g. missing persons, wanted persons), solicit information, and update on operations.  
The **ICT Directorate**, which includes a dedicated Data Management unit, oversees system infrastructure, automation, and content management, ensuring technical integrity across online platforms.In terms of specific formats, the Gh Police Service uses

1. Police gazette: A publication that contains information on crime and law enforcement.
2. Digital databases;The CDSB maintains digital databases for storing and managing crime data including fingerprints and criminal records.
3. Reports; The Ghana Police Service generates report on crime trends and statistics which may be shared with the Public or other stakeholders.

**3. Data‑Sharing Protocols & Procedures**

Gh Police participates in regional and international intelligence‐sharing platforms. Key among these is the **West Africa Police Information System (WAPIS)**, linked through ECOWAS and INTERPOL, aimed at exchanging criminal, biometric, and investigative data among security agencies regionally.  
Within Gh Police, the CID and relevant departments feed into national WAPIS nodes, allowing inter‑agency access from Immigration, Prisons, Narcotics, etc  
Internally, while the ICT/Data Directorate manages data governance, there’s limited public documentation of specific internal SOPs governing classification, approvals or dissemination flows beyond centralized external messaging .The following are the data sharing protocols

1. Lawfulness, fairness and transparency
2. Purpose limitation
3. Integrity and confidentiality
4. Data minimization

**4. Data Visibility (Website & Social Media)**

The Gh Police official website launched in February 2018 to increase visibility and citizen engagement. It features multilingual access, IGP portals for complaints/feedback, and live‑chat functionality in some cases.  
Social media engagement over recent years has shown improved transparency and responsiveness, but also incidents of cyberbullying that have discouraged deeper engagement .  
Overall, Gh Police maintains verified accounts and uses them to reach a large online audience—estimating internet access at 35 % of population and 4 million Facebook users in Ghana at launch

**B. Suggestions for Improving Data Curation in Ghana Police Service**

**1. Clarify & Document Internal Data Flows**

* Develop and publish (internally at least) **SOPs** that map how raw data (e.g. crime stats, biometric records, investigative files) travel from collection → classification → analysis → release or sharing.
* Ensure designated **data controllers/processors** comply with Ghana’s Data Protection Act (Act 843 of 2012), including access rights, security safeguards, and record-keeping protocols

**2. Enhance Format & Timeliness of Dissemination**

* Adopt **structured open‑data formats** (CSV, JSON, APIs) for publicly releasable datasets (e.g. crime statistics by region), connected to national open‑data platforms like Ghana Open Data Initiative (data.gov.gh)
* Use dashboards or machine-readable feeds to allow developers, researchers, NGOs to reuse Gh Police data, enhancing transparency and enabling civic innovation.

**3. Strengthen Data‑Sharing Protocols**

* Formalize **inter‑departmental MoUs or protocols**, with clear rules for tracking, audit logs, and access controls when sharing data domestically (e.g. with Prisons, Immigration).
* Align national internal procedures more closely with WAPIS/INTERPOL requirements—ensuring data meets quality standards (biometric integrity, timely updates) before upload
* Provide **regular training** for staff at CID, ICT & regional offices on data privacy, quality, and cross‑agency sharing obligations.

**4. Improve Visibility & Engage Constructively**

* Allocate more resources to **Public Affairs and Social Media teams**, as recommended in academic studies, to manage engagement, moderate cyberbullying, and respond to public inquiries effectively .
* Introduce **feedback mechanisms** such as structured surveys or interactive reporting tools on the website and social platforms to gather citizen input and improve services.

**5. Ensure Compliance with Data Protection Law**

* Periodically review Gh Police data collection and dissemination practices to ensure alignment with the **Data Protection Act, 2012 (Act 843)**—particularly around consent, lawful basis for processing, special category data and security measures.
* Maintain a **data protection register**, appoint a compliance officer, and conduct audits to minimize risk of breaches and uphold public trust.

**Summary Table**

| **Area** | **Current State (GPS)** | **Recommended Improvements** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Structure of Dissemination | Centralized via Public Affairs Directorate | Documented SOPs, clear internal data controller roles |
| Format | Website posts & social media updates | Publish machine-readable datasets via open-data platform |
| Sharing Protocols | Participates in WAPIS; internal protocols opaque | MoUs, audit logs, training, quality control measures |
| Visibility | Website + verified social media, some engagement | More resources for social teams, feedback tools, surveys |

Implementing these reforms in your Gh Police will strengthen **transparency**, **data quality**, **public trust**, and **institutional accountability**, while ensuring compliance with national law and leveraging regional data-sharing frameworks.

**REFERENCES**

Ghana Police Service (2009) Annual Report.

Ghana Statistical Service(2021) Census Report

National Information Technology Agency (n.d) Ghana Open Data