

Public Awareness Survey

January 2013

The Office of the Police Ombudsman released key results today from a survey carried out in January 2013 to assess public awareness of the system for complaints against the police in Northern Ireland.

It is recognised that many factors, some of which are outside the control of the Office, may influence the attitudes and perceptions of the public. These factors could include; past experience of the work of the Office, wider community confidence and to some extent the adverse publicity that surrounded the Office during recent times. These surveys, however, provide an indicator of public attitudes to the Office and provide useful information on trends over time.

- A high proportion of respondents (84%) said that they had heard of the Police Ombudsman.
- The majority of respondents (84%) who had heard of the Police Ombudsman thought that he was independent of the police.
- The majority of respondents (83%) who had heard of the Police Ombudsman felt that the Police Ombudsman would help ensure that the police in Northern Ireland do a good job.
- Seventy-six percent of respondents who had heard of the Police Ombudsman were confident that the Police Ombudsman deals with complaints in an impartial way.
- Eighty-six percent of respondents thought that they would be treated fairly if they made a complaint against the police.

Further results will be available in the Annual Statistical Bulletin due to be published in May 2013.