

Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland

Equality monitoring Report:

Results of the Survey of Complainants to the Police

Ombudsman for Northern Ireland 2007-2012

Published December 2012

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Executive Summary

This report presents the findings of five years' data from the Police Ombudsman's Equality Monitoring Survey, which covers all Section 75 categories, as well as employment status and country of birth. Between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2012 there were 16,300 complainants to the Office, of whom 30% returned equality monitoring survey forms.

The survey found that the services of the Office were being taken up by all of the groups monitored. However, when compared with the general population, there were disproportionately high numbers of: young men; ethnic minorities; single, separated, divorced or co-habiting people; people with disabilities; unemployed people; people with dependants; and people who supported other political parties outside the five main Northern Ireland parties or did not support any party. There were lower than expected proportions of: women; people with no religious beliefs; people born in Northern Ireland; and Sinn Fein, SDLP or Alliance Party voters.

Trends have been largely stable. However, the proportions of complainants aged 25-34 years, the

proportion with no religious beliefs, ethnic minorities and of unemployed people have been increasing.

Allegations of Oppressive Behaviour were more likely to be made by: men generally; young men compared with older men; young women compared with older women; Catholics; people born in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland compared with those born in other EU countries or non EU countries; people who were single; unemployed people; students; Nationalist or "Other" party supporters; and people who did not have dependants. Allegations of Failure in Duty were more likely to be made by: women generally; older women compared with younger women; older men compared with younger men; people with religious beliefs other than the main Christian churches; people from EU countries outside the UK and Ireland compared with people from Northern Ireland; divorced people; married people; and people with dependants. Allegations of Incivility were more likely to be made by women generally. Allegations of Discriminatory Behaviour were more likely to be made by people with minority ethnic backgrounds and gay, lesbian or bisexual people.

Introduction

This report covers The Police Ombudsman Equality Monitoring Survey from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2012, during which time we recorded 16,300 complaints, of which 16,100 were public complaints. The survey questionnaire included the categories of age, gender, marital status, religious belief, race, disability, sexual orientation, employment status, dependants, political opinion and country of birth.

In relation to complaints received between April 2007 and March 2012, the Office had received back 4,840 completed questionnaires, representing a sample size of 30% of all complainants. Not all respondents completed all questions, resulting in response rates to each question ranging from 22% for the political opinion question to 30% for the religious belief and marital status questions (see Appendix 4, Table 1).

In addition to those respondents who declared their gender on the monitoring form, it was also possible to determine a majority of complainants' genders from their title or salutation, so that there was a total sample of 98% for whom gender was known.

In addition to those who declared their age on the monitoring form, it was also possible to determine complainants' ages

from the date of birth that they provided, giving an overall sample of 59% for whom age was known.

Survey Findings

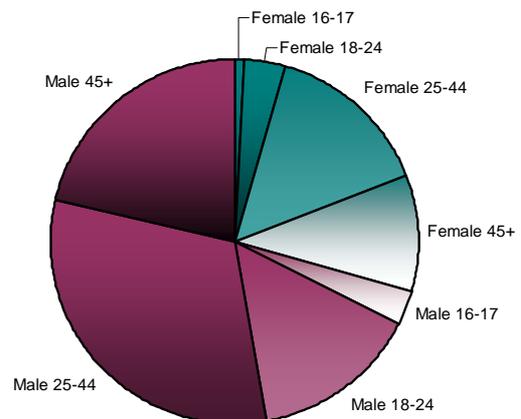
Note: All references to Tables refer to Appendix 4.

Gender and Age

Seventy percent of complainants were male and 30% were female. Some 68% were aged under 45: 4% were aged 16-17; 19% were aged 18-24; 21% were aged 25-34; and 25% were aged 35-44. Only 4% were aged over 65.

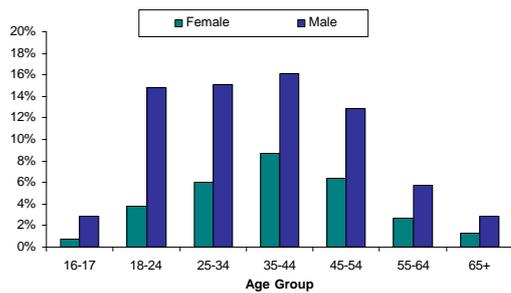
In terms of gender and age combined¹, almost half of complainants were young men (Figure 1). The largest proportion of females in the sample fell within the 35-44 age range (Figure 2, Table 2).

Figure 1: Gender and Age Group (1)



¹ For some complainants only age was known and for others only gender was known, resulting in a slightly different age group distribution within gender, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

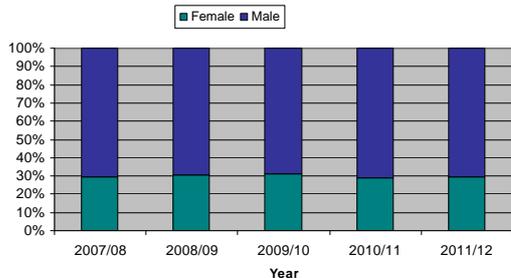
Figure 2: Gender and Age Group (2)



Trends

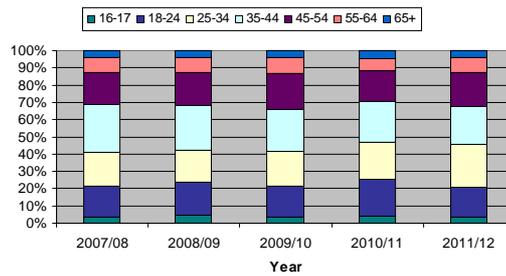
Trends in the gender of complainants have remained stable over the past five years (Figure 3, Table 3).

Figure 3: Annual Trends, Gender



The proportions of complainants within each age group have remained relatively stable over the past five years (Figure 4, Table 4). However, between 2007/08 and 2011/12, the proportion of complainants aged 25-34 increased, reaching a peak in 2011/12. The 35-44 age group consistently made up the largest proportion of complainants, but has been generally falling over time.

Figure 4: Annual Trends, Age Group



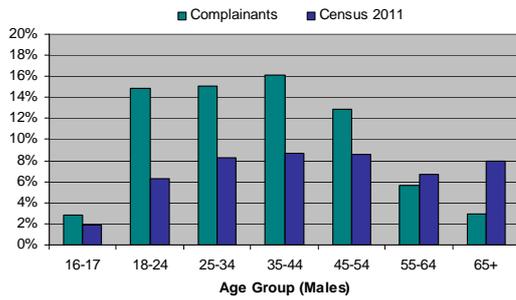
Comparison to NI Population

Compared to the population generally², males, and young men in particular, were over-represented among complainants (Figure 5, Table 5). Males made up 70% of complainants compared with 48% of the population. Whilst cumulatively males aged between 16 and 44 made up a quarter of the population, they comprised almost half of complainants. Within the age bands presented the biggest differential was for 18-24 year old males. There is some research evidence to suggest that young men may be more likely to come into contact with the police and, because of the nature of the contact, to also be more likely to experience inappropriate police behaviour³.

² Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, Census 2011, Population and Household Estimates for Northern Ireland

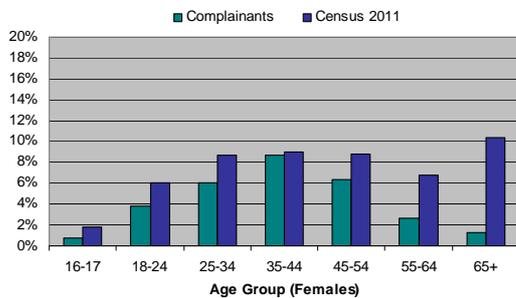
³ Improving Engagement: Building Trust in Policing with Young People; Shared Space No. 11 March 2011, Community Relations Council

Figure 5: Age Group, Male Complainants and Census



Females were generally under-represented within the complainant profile, comprising 52% of the population compared with 30% of complainants (Figure 6, Table 6). The greatest differential is for women aged 65 and over.

Figure 6: Age Group, Female Complainants and Census

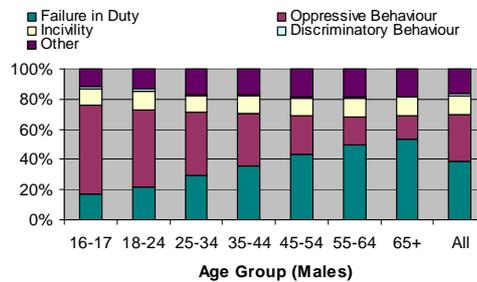


Allegations

Male complainants were generally more likely to make allegations of Oppressive Behaviour than their female counterparts, whilst female complainants were more likely than male complainants to make allegations of Failure in Duty or Incivility. There were differences in the types of allegation made by men and women of different age groups (Figures 7 and 8, Table 7). Oppressive Behaviour

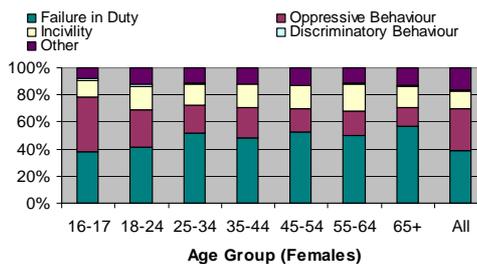
accounted for the greatest proportion of allegations made by males in age groups under 35. The likelihood of making Oppressive Behaviour allegations decreases with age. The likelihood of males to allege Failure in Duty increases with age. Males aged 35-44 were just as likely to allege Failure in Duty as they were to allege Oppressive Behaviour.

Figure 7: Allegations by Age Group (Males)



A greater proportion of the allegations made by females aged 16-17 were of Oppressive Behaviour than Failure in Duty. For females across all age bands 18 and over, the greatest proportions of allegations were of Failure in Duty. The likelihood of making Failure in Duty allegations compared with other types generally increased with age (Figure 8).

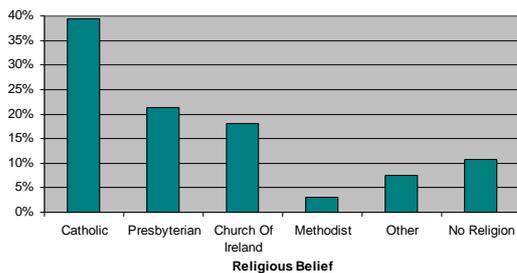
Figure 8: Allegations by Age Group (Females)



Religious Belief

Thirty nine percent of complainants were Catholic, 21% Presbyterian, 18% Church of Ireland, 3% Methodist, 8% had 'Other' beliefs and 11% had no religious belief (Figure 9, Table 8).

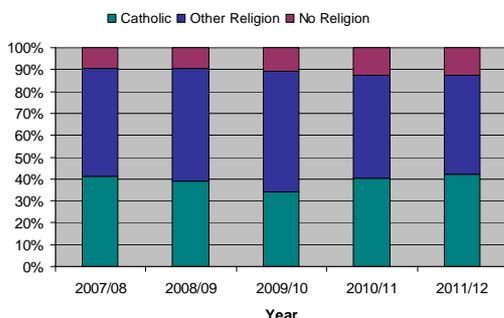
Figure 9: Religious Belief⁴



Trends

The proportions of complainants who had Catholic or other beliefs have remained generally stable over the past five years except for in 2009/10, when the proportion of complainants with a Catholic faith was lower compared with other years (Figure 10, Table 9).

Figure 10: Annual Trends, Religious Belief

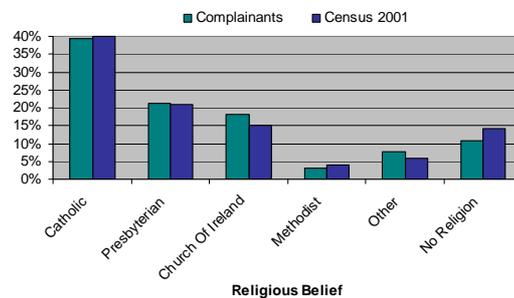


⁴ 'Other' includes Other Religious Beliefs and Other Christian Beliefs.

Comparison to NI Population

The profile of complainants is slightly different to that of the population generally, based on the 2001 population Census⁵. A higher proportion of complainants were Church of Ireland and a smaller proportion had no religious beliefs (Figure 11, Table 10).

Figure 11: Religious Belief, Complainants and Census



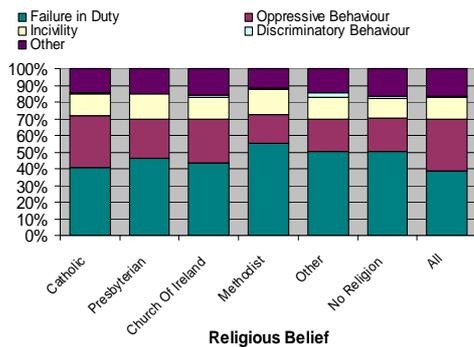
Allegations

There were some differences in the types of allegation made across the various religious beliefs (Figure 12, Table 11). Catholic complainants were more likely to allege Oppressive Behaviour than complainants of all other religions and complainants with a Church of Ireland faith were more likely to allege Oppressive Behaviour than all other religions except for Catholics. Presbyterian complainants were more likely to allege Oppressive Behaviour than those with a Methodist faith, 'other' religions or no religion. Complainants with no religious beliefs were more likely to

⁵ Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, Northern Ireland Census 2001, Key Statistics [2011 Census data for religion were unavailable at the time of writing].

allege Discriminatory Behaviour than Catholics, Church of Ireland, Methodists or Presbyterians and complainants with other religions were more likely to allege Discriminatory Behaviour than Catholics or Methodists.

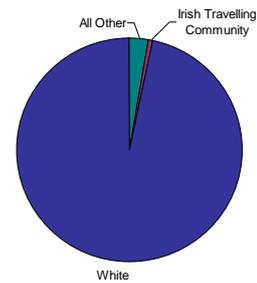
Figure 12: Allegations by Religious Belief



Racial Group

Ninety-seven percent of complainants were White (Figure 13, Table 12). Three percent of respondents were from 'other' ethnic groups (including just over 0.5% who were from the Irish Travelling Community). Whilst every effort is made within the Office to monitor according to the main racial groups in Northern Ireland, the majority of the non-White respondents described themselves as belonging to 'other' race or ethnic groupings.

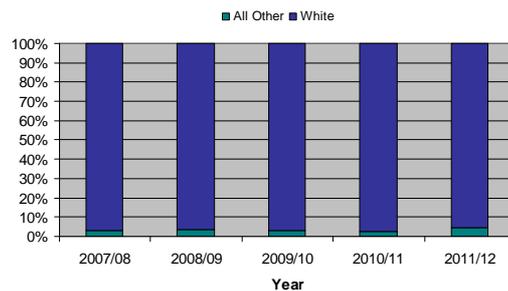
Figure 13: Racial Group



Trends

The proportion of complainants who had a race other than White has fluctuated over the past five years, reaching 5% in 2011/12 (Figure 14, Table 13).

Figure 14: Annual Trends, Racial Group

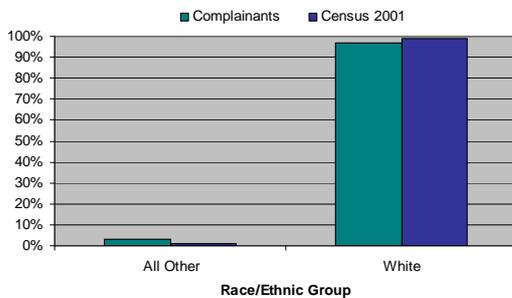


Comparison to NI Population

Because of the relatively small proportions of non-White racial groupings in Northern Ireland and the small numbers of complainants involved, it is not possible to do a reliable comparison of the racial profile of complainants against the population generally. However, one general observation is that there appears to be a greater proportion of complainants who are not White than one would expect from the general population, based on 2001 Census

figures⁶ (Figure 15 Table 14). This observation should be interpreted with caution, as the disparity may be a result of factors such as the over-representation of young men within complainants and the changing ethnic composition of Northern Ireland in recent years, rather than an increased propensity for people from ethnic minorities to make complaints about the police.

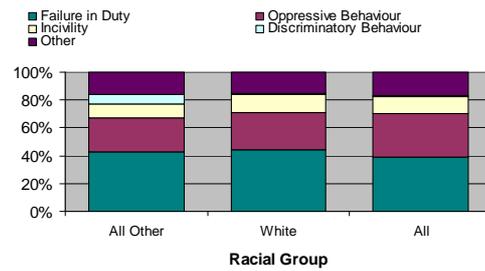
Figure 15: Racial Group, Complainants and Census



Allegations

There were some small differences in the types of allegation made by White and by minority ethnic complainants (Figure 16, Table 15). Overall, the greatest proportion of allegations made by both White and minority ethnic complainants was related to Failure in Duty. Allegations of Discriminatory Behaviour comprised 1% of allegations made by White complainants, but accounted for 7% of those made by complainants from ethnic minorities.

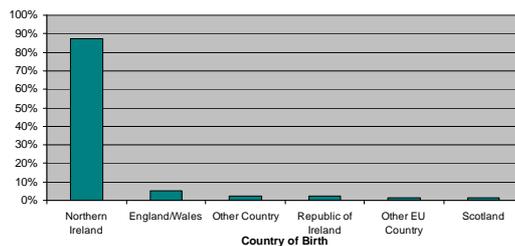
Figure 16: Allegations by Racial Group



Country of Birth

Following Police Ombudsman sponsored research into the experiences of Black and Minority Ethnic Communities in Northern Ireland⁷ a question on Country of Birth was added to the complainant monitoring form in April 2006. Eighty-seven percent of complainants had been born in Northern Ireland, 5% had been born in England or Wales, 2% in the Republic of Ireland, 1% in Scotland, 2% in other European countries and 2% in other countries outside the European Union (EU) (Figure 17, Table 16).

Figure 17: Country of Birth



Trends

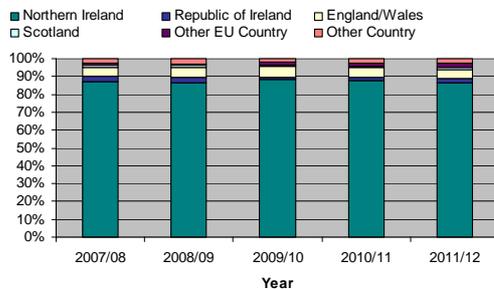
There has been a stable trend in the country of birth of complainants, with almost nine in ten complainants having

⁶ [2011 Census data for racial group were unavailable at the time of writing].

⁷ Policing, Accountability and the Black and Minority Ethnic Communities in Northern Ireland, Institute for Conflict Research, 2006

been born in Northern Ireland each year (Figure 18, Table 17).

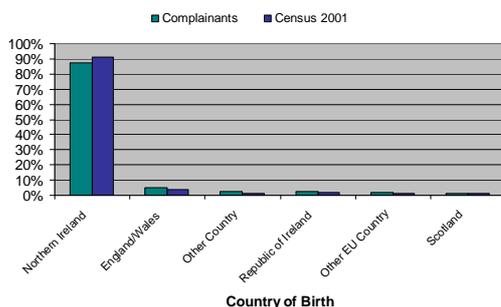
Figure 18: Annual Trends, Country of Birth



Comparison to NI Population

A lower proportion of complainants had been born in Northern Ireland compared with the general population. The distributions of other countries of birth were similar (Figure 19, Table 18). The small differences observed may be due to the changing demographic profile of Northern Ireland in recent years following the 2001 Census⁸.

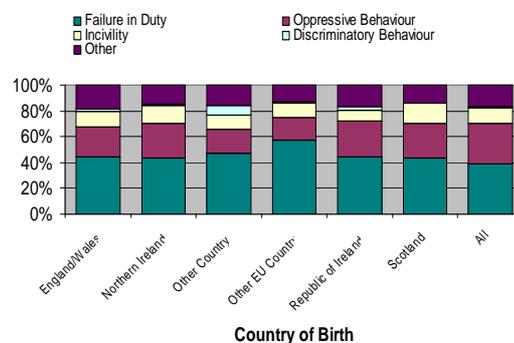
Figure 19: Country of Birth, Complainants and Census



Allegations

Failure in duty made up the greatest proportion of allegations made by complainants irrespective of their country of birth. However, complainants who were born in an EU country outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland were significantly more likely than all other complainants, except for those born in non EU countries, to make allegations of this type. Complainants born in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland were more likely than those born in other EU countries or non EU countries to allege Oppressive Behaviour. Complainants born in non EU countries were more likely to allege Discriminatory Behaviour than all others except for those born in the Republic of Ireland. Complainants born in the Republic of Ireland were more likely to allege Discriminatory Behaviour than those born in Northern Ireland (Figure 20, Table 19).

Figure 20: Allegations by Country of Birth

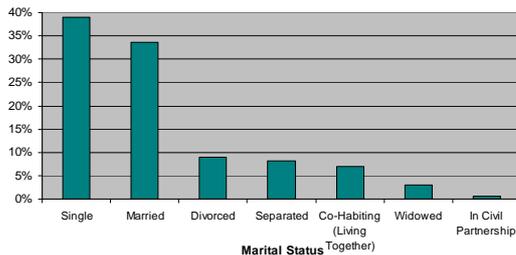


⁸ [2011 Census data for country of birth were unavailable at the time of writing].

Marital Status

The greatest proportion of complainants were single (39%); 34% were married, 9% were divorced, 8% were separated, 7% were living with a partner, 3% were widowed and 1% were in civil partnership (Figure 21, Table 20).

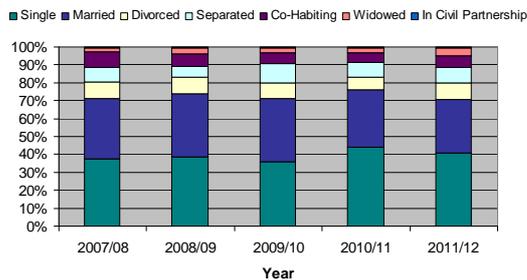
Figure 21: Marital Status



Trends

The proportion of single complainants rose between 2007/08 and 2010/11, falling slightly in 2011/12. (Figure 22, Table 21).

Figure 22: Annual Trends, Marital Status

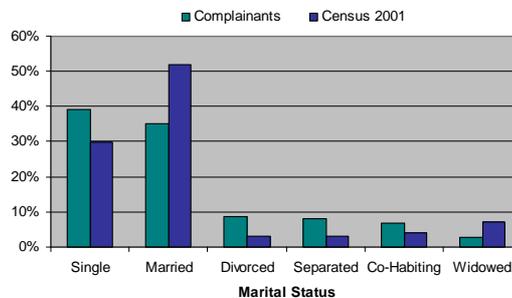


Comparison to NI Population

The marital status profile of complainants is not what would be expected from the population profile based on the 2001

Census⁹ (Figure 23, Table 22). There is a greater proportion of single complainants compared with the population generally. The proportions of complainants who were co-habiting, separated or divorced were also higher than the Census figures. People who were married or widowed are therefore under-represented among complainants compared with the population generally.

Figure 23: Marital Status, Complainants and Census



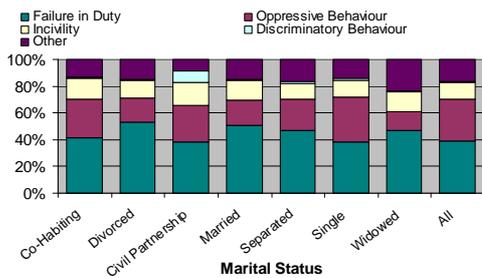
Allegations

There were some differences in the types of allegation made depending on the marital status of complainants (Figure 24, Table 23). Divorced or married complainants were more likely to allege Failure in Duty than those who were single or co-habiting. Single complainants were more likely to allege Oppressive Behaviour than those of all other marital statuses except for those in civil partnership. Co-habiting complainants were more likely to allege Oppressive Behaviour than those who were divorced, married, separated or widowed.

⁹ [2011 Census data for marital status were unavailable at the time of writing].

Complainants who were in civil partnership were more likely to allege Discriminatory Behaviour than all other complainants.

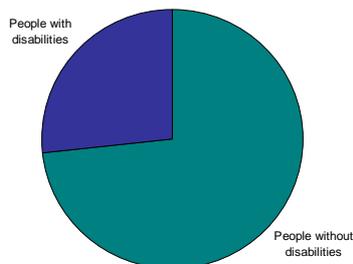
Figure 24: Allegations by Marital Status



Disability

Disability is a complex concept and there are a number of ways of defining it. For monitoring purposes we provided respondents with a description of disability as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act (1995) and asked whether or not they considered themselves to be disabled. Twenty-seven percent of complainants stated that they had a disability and 73% stated that they did not (Figure 25, Table 24).

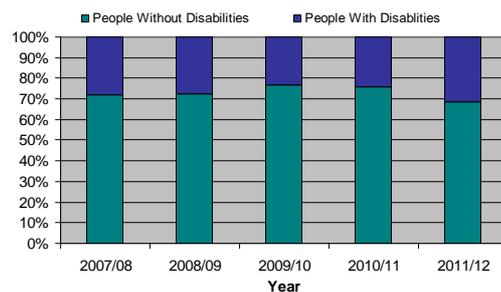
Figure 25: Disability



Trends

The proportion of complainants with disabilities decreased between 2007/08 and 2010/11 but increased to its highest level during 2011/12 (Figure 26, Table 25).

Figure 26: Annual Trends, Disability



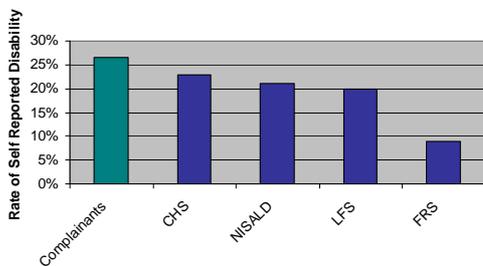
Comparison to NI Population

There is no one definitive accepted measure of the level of disability in Northern Ireland. A number of government departments have estimated the level based on survey or administrative data, depending on their particular policy needs. The level reported by complainants is high compared with some Northern Ireland wide surveys; the NI Survey of People with Activity Limitations and Disabilities (NISALD)¹⁰ estimated that 21% of the adult population in Northern Ireland are limited in their daily activities for reasons associated with a disability or long-term condition. The Family Resources Survey

¹⁰ Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, The Prevalence of Disability and Activity Limitations Amongst Adults and Children Living in Private Households in Northern Ireland, Bulletin 1, July 2007

(FRS)¹¹ estimated 9% of adults to be permanently sick or disabled and the Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey (LFS)¹² found that 20% of respondents (from the working age population) self-reported as disabled. However, the NI Continuous Household Survey (CHS)¹³ estimated that 23% of adults are disabled (Figure 27, Table 26).

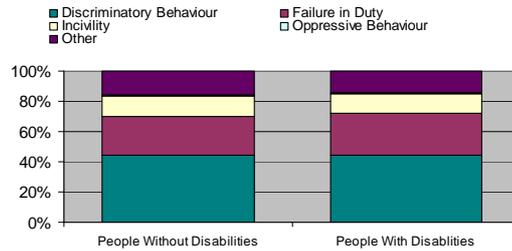
Figure 27: Disability, Complainants and Survey Measures



Allegations

There were no significant differences in the types of allegations made by complainants with a disability compared with those who did not have a disability (Figure 28, Table 27).

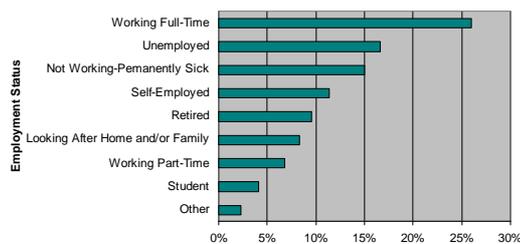
Figure 28: Allegations by Disability Status



Employment

Twenty-six percent of complainants were working full-time, 17% were unemployed, 15% were not working because they were sick, 11% were self employed, 10% were retired, 8% were caring for their family and/or home, 7% were working part-time, 4% were students, and 2% were otherwise employed (Figure 29, Table 28).

Figure 29: Employment Status



Trends

The proportions of complainants who were students fell significantly over the reporting period and the proportion who were unemployed significantly increased. The proportion of complainants in either full or part time employment consistently accounts for around one third of

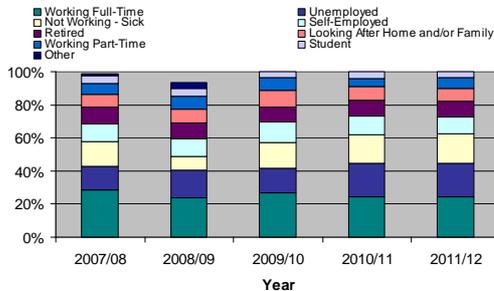
¹¹ Department of Social Development, Family Resources Survey 2009/10

¹² Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Labour Force Survey October-December 2007, 2009 and 2011

¹³ Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, Continuous Household Survey 2010/11

respondents each year (Figure 30, Table 29).

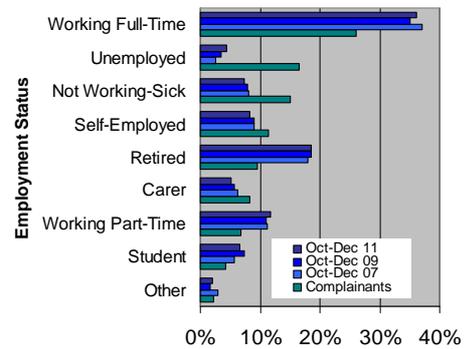
Figure 30: Annual Trends, Employment Status



Comparison to NI Population

The profile of the employment status of complainants is somewhat different to that of the population generally, based on the Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey (LFS)¹⁴ (Figure 31, Table 30). The most marked difference was for unemployed people, who accounted for 3-4% of the working population compared with 17% of complainants. Related to this, complainants were more likely to be self-employed or carers and less likely to be working full-time or part-time or retired compared with the general population. Complainants were also more likely to be out of work due to illness or disability.

Figure 31: Employment Status, Complainants and NI Labour Force



Allegations

There were some differences in the types of allegation made according to the employment status of the complainant (Figure 32, Table 31).

Apart from unemployed complainants, all others were most likely to allege Failure in Duty, although at varying rates, with retired complainants being most likely. Unemployed complainants were more likely than all others to allege Oppressive Behaviour and those who were retired least likely. Complainants who were working part-time were most likely to allege incivility. Complainants who were carers, working full-time or retired were more likely to allege Incivility than those who were unemployed. Students were more likely to allege Discriminatory Behaviour than all others.

¹⁴ Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Labour Force Survey October-December 2007, 2009 and 2011

Figure 32: Allegations by Employment Status

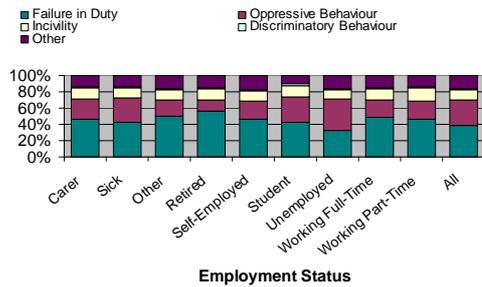
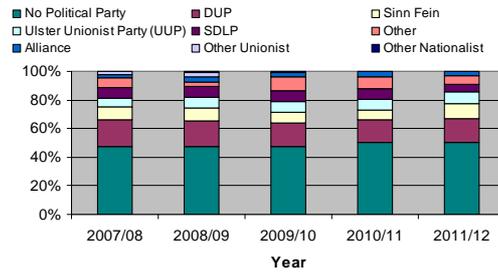


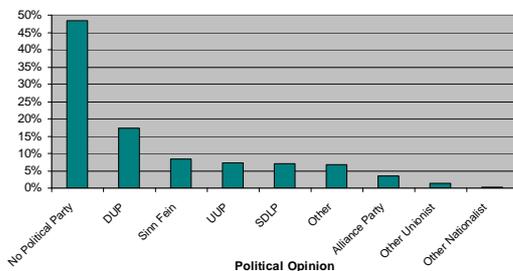
Figure 34: Annual Trends, Political Opinion



Political Opinion

The greatest proportion of complainants (48%) supported no political party; 17% supported the DUP, 8% supported Sinn Fein, 7% supported the SDLP, 7% supported the UUP, 3% supported the Alliance Party, and 8% supported other parties (Figure 33, Table 32).

Figure 33: Political Opinion



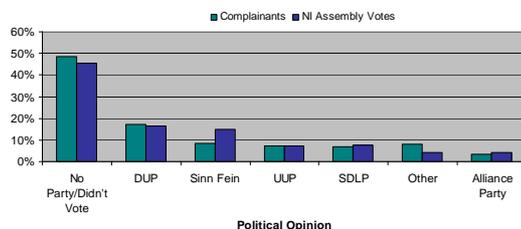
Comparison to NI Population

The political opinion profile of complainants is slightly different to that of the population generally, based on voting patterns to the NI Assembly in 2011¹⁵ (Figure 35, Table 34). The proportions of complainants who supported Sinn Fein, SDLP or the Alliance Party were smaller than the proportions of votes cast in the 2011 Assembly elections. The proportions of complainants who supported other parties outside the five main Northern Ireland parties or did not support any political party were greater than might be expected compared with voting patterns.

Trends

The proportion of complainants who were Sinn Fein supporters increased between 2010/11 and 2011/12. The proportion supporting parties outside the main Nationalist and Unionist parties decreased in recent years. The proportions supporting the other main political parties have remained fairly stable over the five year reporting period (Figure 34, Table 33).

Figure 35: Political Opinion, Complainants and NI Assembly Votes

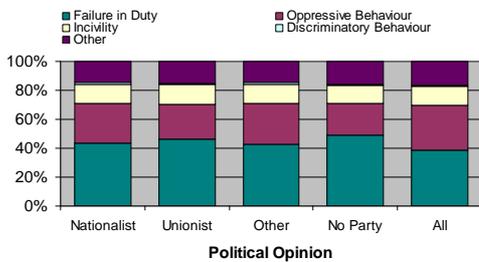


¹⁵ Electoral Office, 2011 Northern Ireland Assembly Elections

Allegations

Complainants who supported 'Other' parties outside of the Nationalist/Unionist categories were more likely than those who supported Unionist parties or no party to allege Failure in Duty. Nationalists or 'Other' party supporters were also more likely to allege Oppressive Behaviour than Unionists (Figure 36, Table 35).

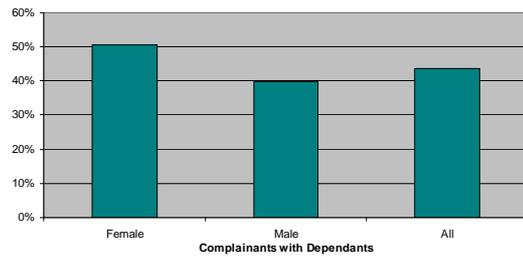
Figure 36: Allegations by Political Opinion



Dependants

Forty-four percent of complainants stated that they had dependants and 56% stated that they did not. Female complainants were more likely than male complainants to state that they had dependants (Figure 37, Table 36). Most complainants stated that their dependants were spouses/partners and children or elderly parents or relatives. However, a number described their dependants as friends or members of their community.

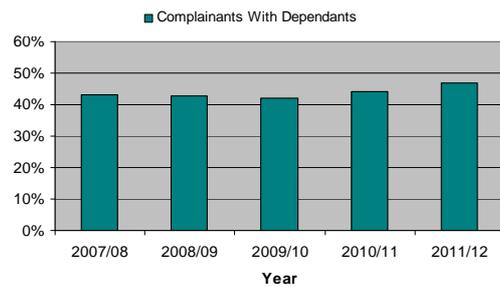
Figure 37: Persons with Dependants



Trends

The proportion of respondents stating that they had dependants increased between 2009/10 and 2011/12 (Figure 38, Table 37).

Figure 38: Annual Trends, Persons with Dependants

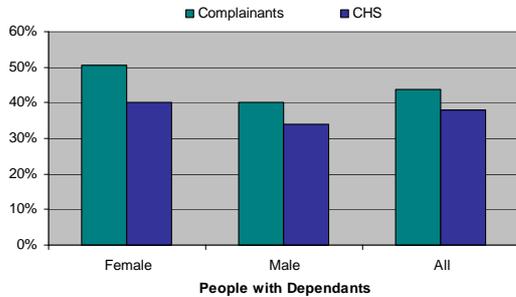


Comparison to NI Population

There is no definitive accepted measure of the number of individuals in Northern Ireland who have dependants. A number of government departments have estimated the level based on survey or administrative data, depending on their particular policy needs. The NI Continuous Household Survey (CHS) estimated that 38% of adults have dependant children (34% of males and 40% of females), a lower level than the 44% overall figure estimated by the monitoring data. This will not, however, cover all dependants, including other relatives, friends, neighbours etc., which

the complainant data capture and this may account to some degree for the differences found (Figure 39, Table 38).

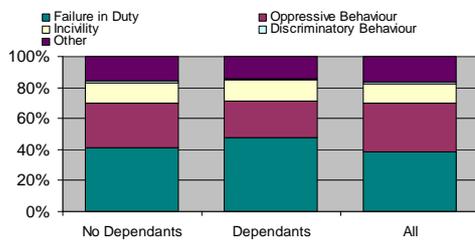
Figure 39: Dependants, Complainants and CHS



Allegations

There were some differences in the types of allegation made according to whether or not the complainant had dependants (Figure 40, Table 39). Complainants who had dependants were more likely to allege Failure in Duty than those who did not. Complainants who did not have dependants were more likely to allege Oppressive Behaviour than those who did.

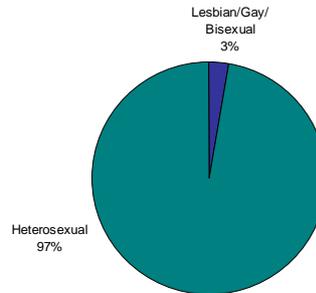
Figure 40: Allegations by Dependant Status



Sexual Orientation

Overall, 3% of complainants declared that they were Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual (LGB) (Figure 41, Table 40).

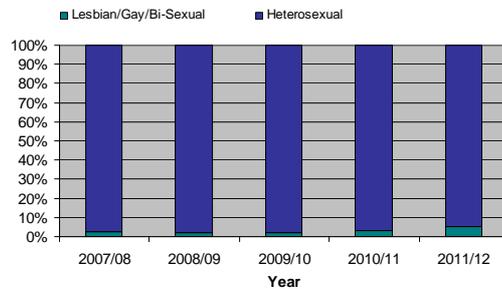
Figure 41: Sexual Orientation



Trends

The proportion of complainants who were Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual increased over the past three years (Figure 42, Table 41).

Figure 42: Annual Trends, Sexual Orientation



Comparison to NI Population

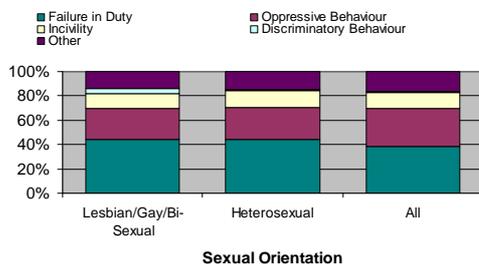
There are no reliable estimates of the size and demographic profile of the LGB population in Northern Ireland. There is a commonly accepted view that about 10% of people within any population are

lesbian or gay men¹⁶. However, there are survey findings which suggest that this could be as low as 1%¹⁷. Thus, it is not clear whether the level of 3% of complainants self-reporting as LGB is representative of the population.

Allegations

LGB complainants were more likely to make allegations of Discriminatory Behaviour than heterosexual complainants. There were no other differences in the levels of specific allegation types made (Figure 43, Table 42).

Figure 43: Allegations by Sexual Orientation



¹⁶ Quoted in, 'Who Lives in a Place like this?', Diversity Matters, Disability Action, Belfast, April 2003

¹⁷ Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009. www.ark.ac.uk

Appendix 1: Background and Methodology

The Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland was set up by the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 in order to provide an impartial and independent system for investigating complaints against the police in Northern Ireland. The Office is committed to fulfilling the obligations laid upon it by Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998) (the "equality duties"). To help us achieve this we send every complainant a confidential self-completion questionnaire, asking for information relevant to the nine categories specified in Section 75. As we are committed to providing a service to all individuals and socio-economic groups within our society, we also ask a question on the additional category of employment status, which we consider to be a reliable indicator of economic deprivation. On receipt of returned questionnaires they are input on to the Office's Case Handling System (CHS) with the complaint data. Only those staff who are directly involved in the processing of the data have data access permissions. Staff involved in the handling and investigation of the complaint do not, at any time, have access to these data. The equality database is downloaded and analysed using a combination of DI Diver, Microsoft Excel and SPSS packages.

Where possible, reliable comparative population data were obtained from

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and other public bodies. It is not possible to make valid comparisons with police complaints data for other jurisdictions.

The figures in this statistical release are based on information received between April 2007 and March 2012. Figures provided in the tables may not add up to 100% due to the effect of rounding. Figures may also be subject to minor revision. The Police Ombudsman Revisions Policy is available at www.policeombudsman.org/publications.

The Office has conducted the Equality Monitoring Survey since it opened in November 2000. All survey findings are published annually and are available on the Office website at www.policeombudsman.org/publications.

For the first time in this report, compared with previous annual Equality Monitoring reports, we have introduced new age group categories of 16-17 and 18-24 to replace the previous age group category of 16-24. This followed consultation with youth representative groups, who expressed an interest in monitoring the number of complaints received by young people aged under 18. Up until March 2013 the Office will survey only those complainants aged 16 and over. From 1 April 2013 the Office will survey complainants aged ten and over.

Statistical Significance

Statistical significance tests have been carried out on the findings and differences are only reported where they have been found to be statistically significant at the 5% ($p < 0.05$) level of probability (two tailed). This means that for any observed result that is found to be statistically significant one can be 95% confident that this has not happened by chance.

Appendix 2: Notes to Readers

Official Statistics:

This is an Official Statistics publication. Official Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular data validation checks to ensure that they meet the required standards. They are produced free from any political interference.

Data use

The data collected are used by the Office to monitor access to the service provided to the public across the categories specified in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, and to report to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. The data may also be used to answer enquiries from the Northern Ireland Assembly, the Department of Justice, Parliament and the public.

Data quality

Police Ombudsman staff carry out regular quality assurance reviews of all data input into the CHS. For the Equality Monitoring Survey, Research and Performance Directorate Staff input the data on to the CHS and supervisors undertake a 10% data quality check to ensure that transfer of the information is accurate. Where necessary, data may be corrected.

Data limitation

Equality monitoring forms are normally issued to all complainants. However, in some cases forms are not issued, for example when it is impossible to identify the complainant (i.e. the Complaints Officer has recorded the complainant as anonymous), because the complainant's address is not recorded or if only an email address is available. Forms are also not currently issued if the complainant is recorded as a juvenile.

In other cases the complainant contacts the Office to ask to be excluded from future surveys. Whilst Office staff aim to persuade the complainant by explaining the background to the survey in some cases the complainant still wishes to be excluded from all future surveys.

The Police Ombudsman also investigates matters of public interest and complaints which have been referred to him by the Chief Constable, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, or Director of Public

Prosecutions for Northern Ireland. In these cases there is no public complainant and therefore forms are not issued.

Non-Response Bias

When considering the types of allegation made, there is a difference in the distribution of allegation types between all complainants and the sub-group of complainants who returned equality monitoring questionnaires (respondents). For all complainants, 38% of allegations were of Failure in Duty and 31% were of Oppressive Behaviour. However, for respondents, 44% of allegations were of Failure in Duty and 27% were of Oppressive Behaviour. Thus complainants who make allegations of Failure in Duty were more likely to return equality monitoring questionnaires than complainants who make allegations of Oppressive Behaviour.

Further information

For further information contact:

By Letter:

Research and Performance Directorate
Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland
New Cathedral Buildings
11 Church Street
Belfast BT1 1PG

By Phone:

028 90569905

By Email:

research@policeombudsman.org

COMPLAINANT MONITORING FORM

IN CONFIDENCE

This form asks you to supply some information about yourself. We are asking you for this information because by law the Police Ombudsman has to look at trends in complaints against the police.

Your help in supplying this information is very much appreciated.

If you are under 16 years of age you do not need to fill in this form.

1. AGE

How old are you?

2. GENDER

Please tick one box.

Male

Female

3. MARITAL STATUS

Please tick one box.

Single

Married

In Civil Partnership

Co-habiting (living together)

Separated

Divorced

Widowed

4. EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Please tick one box.

Looking after home and/or family

Student

Not working because you are permanently sick

Unemployed

Retired

Working full-time

Self employed

Working part-time

Other (Please State)

5. RELIGIOUS BELIEF

Please tick one box.

Catholic

Methodist

Church of Ireland

Presbyterian

No Religion

Other Christian (Please State)

Other Religious Belief (Please State)

PLEASE TURN OVER

6. RACE

Please tick one box.

Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>	Irish Travelling Community	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed Ethnic Group	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>	White	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Please State)	<input type="text"/>

7. COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Please tick one box.

Northern Ireland	<input type="checkbox"/>	England	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scotland	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wales	<input type="checkbox"/>	Republic of Ireland	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other EU Country (Please State)	<input type="text"/>	Other Country (Please State)	<input type="text"/>						

8. DISABILITY

The Disability Discrimination Act (1995) defines disability as "a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities". In these terms, do you consider yourself to be disabled?

Yes No

If 'Yes', please state the nature of your disability.

9. SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Please tick one box.

Bi-sexual	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lesbian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Homosexual (gay)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heterosexual (straight)	<input type="checkbox"/>	I do not wish to answer this question	<input type="checkbox"/>		

10. DEPENDANTS

Do you have personal responsibility for the care of ...? (Tick each box that applies to your circumstances)

A child or children A person with a disability A dependent elderly person

Another dependent person - please provide details

None of the above

11. POLITICAL OPINION

Please indicate from the list below the political party that best represents your current political opinion.

The Alliance Party	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sinn Féin	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Social Democratic & Labour Party (SDLP)	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Political Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
I do not wish to answer this question	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Please State)	<input type="text"/>

Thank you for completing this form

Appendix 4: Statistical Tables

Note that proportions may not always add to 100% due to the effects of rounding.

Table 1: Response Rates

Response Rates	Number of Responses	Response Rate
Gender*	15842	98%
Age*	9458	59%
Religious Belief	4752	30%
Race	4638	29%
Country of Birth	4472	28%
Marital Status	4787	30%
Disability	4583	28%
Employment Status	4747	29%
Political Opinion	3474	22%
Dependants	4342	27%
Sexual Orientation	4370	27%

*Includes data sourced from salutation and date of birth given

Table 2: Gender and Age Group

Age Group	Female	Female %	Male	Male %	Total	Total %
16-17	73	1%	271	3%	344	4%
18-24	359	4%	1401	15%	1760	19%
25-34	565	6%	1428	15%	1993	21%
35-44	818	9%	1521	16%	2339	25%
45-54	603	6%	1217	13%	1820	19%
55-64	253	3%	538	6%	791	8%
65+	120	1%	274	3%	394	4%
Total	2791	30%	6650	70%	9441	100%

Table 3: Gender by year

Year	Female	Male
2007/08	29%	71%
2008/09	31%	69%
2009/10	31%	69%
2010/11	29%	71%
2011/12	29%	71%

Table 4: Age Group by year

Year	16-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
2007/08	3%	18%	19%	28%	18%	9%	4%
2008/09	4%	19%	19%	26%	19%	9%	4%
2009/10	3%	18%	20%	24%	21%	9%	4%
2010/11	4%	21%	21%	24%	18%	7%	5%
2011/12	3%	17%	25%	22%	20%	9%	4%

Table 5: Age Group (Male Complainants) and Census

Age Group	Males	Census 2001
16-17	3%	2%
18-24	15%	6%
25-34	15%	8%
35-44	16%	9%
45-54	13%	9%
55-64	6%	7%
65+	3%	8%
Total	70%	48%

Table 6: Age Group (Female Complainants) and Census

Age Group	Females	Census 2001
16-17	1%	2%
18-24	4%	6%
25-34	6%	9%
35-44	9%	9%
45-54	6%	9%
55-64	3%	7%
65+	1%	10%
Total	30%	52%

Table 7: Allegation Types by Gender and Age group

Allegation Type	16-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Females							
Failure in Duty	38%	41%	51%	48%	53%	50%	57%
Oppressive Behaviour	41%	28%	21%	23%	17%	19%	14%
Incivility	12%	18%	16%	17%	17%	19%	15%
Discriminatory Behaviour	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	2%
Other	8%	12%	11%	12%	13%	11%	13%
Sub-total (Females)	100%						
Males							
Failure in Duty	17%	22%	29%	36%	43%	50%	54%
Oppressive Behaviour	59%	51%	42%	34%	26%	18%	15%
Incivility	11%	13%	11%	12%	11%	13%	12%
Discriminatory Behaviour	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Other	12%	13%	17%	17%	18%	19%	19%
Sub-total (Males)	100%						

Table 8: Religious Belief

Religious Belief	Number	%
Catholic	1870	39%
Presbyterian	1009	21%
Church Of Ireland	862	18%
Methodist	142	3%
Other	359	8%
No Religion	510	11%
Total	4752	100%

Table 9: Religious Belief by year

Religious Belief	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Catholic	41%	39%	34%	40%	42%
Other Religion	49%	52%	55%	47%	45%
No Religion	9%	9%	11%	13%	12%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 10: Religious Belief Complainants and Census

Religious Belief	Complainants	Census 2001
Catholic	39%	40%
Presbyterian	21%	21%
Church of Ireland	18%	15%
Methodist	3%	4%
Other	8%	6%
No Religion	11%	14%
Total	100%	100%

Table 11: Allegation type by Religious Belief

Allegation Type	Catholic	Presbyterian	Church Of Ireland	Methodist	Other	No Religion
Failure in Duty	41%	46%	43%	55%	50%	51%
Oppressive Behaviour	31%	24%	27%	18%	19%	20%
Incivility	13%	15%	13%	15%	14%	11%
Discriminatory Behaviour	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	2%
Other	14%	15%	16%	12%	15%	17%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 12: Ethnic Origin

Ethnic Origin	Number	%
White	4486	97%
All Other Races	152	3%
Total	4638	100%

Table 13: Ethnic Origin by year

Ethnic Origin	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
White	97%	96%	97%	98%	95%
All Other Races	3%	4%	3%	2%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 14: Ethnic Origin Complainants and Census

Ethnic Origin	Complainants	Census 2001
White	97%	99%
All Other Races	3%	1%
Total	100%	100%

Table 15: Allegation type by Ethnic Origin

Allegation Type	All Other	White
Failure in Duty	43%	45%
Oppressive Behaviour	24%	26%
Incivility	10%	13%
Discriminatory Behaviour	7%	1%
Other	16%	15%
Total	100%	100%

Table 16: Country of Birth

Country of Birth	Number	%
Northern Ireland	3909	87%
England/Wales	235	5%
Republic of Ireland	100	2%
Scotland	53	1%
Other Country	104	2%
Other EU Country	71	2%
Total	4472	100%

Table 17: Country of Birth by year

Country of Birth	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Northern Ireland	87%	87%	89%	88%	86%
England/Wales	5%	5%	6%	5%	5%
Republic of Ireland	3%	3%	1%	2%	2%
Scotland	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Other Country	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%
Other EU Country	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 18: Country of Birth Complainants and Census

Country of Birth	Census 2001	Complainants
Northern Ireland	87%	91%
England/Wales	5%	4%
Republic of Ireland	2%	2%
Scotland	1%	1%
Other Country	2%	1%
Other EU Country	2%	1%
Total	100%	100%

Table 19: Allegation type by Country of Birth

Allegation Type	England/Wales	Northern Ireland	Other Country	Other EU Country	Republic of Ireland	Scotland
Failure in Duty	44%	44%	47%	58%	45%	44%
Oppressive Behaviour	24%	27%	19%	17%	27%	27%
Incivility	11%	14%	11%	12%	9%	15%
Discriminatory Behaviour	2%	1%	7%	1%	3%	0%
Other	19%	15%	16%	13%	16%	14%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 20: Marital Status

Marital Status	Number	%
Single	1870	39%
Married	1607	34%
Divorced	424	9%
Separated	391	8%
Co-Habiting (Living Together)	329	7%
Widowed	140	3%
In Civil Partnership	26	1%
Total	4787	100%

Table 21: Marital Status by year

Marital Status	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Single	38%	39%	36%	44%	41%
Married	34%	35%	35%	32%	30%
Divorced	9%	9%	9%	7%	9%
Separated	8%	6%	10%	8%	9%
Co-Habiting (Living Together)	8%	7%	6%	5%	7%
Widowed	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%
In Civil Partnership	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 22: Marital Status, Complainants and Census

Marital Status	Complainants	Census 2001
Single	39%	30%
Married	35%	52%
Divorced	9%	3%
Separated	8%	3%
Co-habiting	7%	4%
Widowed	3%	7%
Total	101%	99%

Table 23: Allegation type by Marital Status

Allegation Type	Co-Habiting	Divorced	Civil Partnership	Married	Separated	Single	Widowed
Failure in Duty	42%	53%	38%	51%	47%	38%	47%
Oppressive Behaviour	29%	18%	28%	19%	24%	34%	13%
Incivility	15%	13%	17%	14%	12%	13%	15%
Other	1%	1%	9%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Discriminatory Behaviour	13%	15%	9%	15%	16%	14%	23%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 24: Disability Status

Disability Status	Number	%
People without disabilities	3361	73%
People with disabilities	1222	27%
Total	4583	100%

Table 25: Disability Status by year

Disability Status	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
People without disabilities	72%	72%	77%	76%	69%
People with disabilities	28%	28%	23%	24%	31%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 26: Disability Status, Complainants and Survey Measures

	Complainants	CHS	NISALD	LFS	FRS
Rate of Self-Reported Disability	27%	23%	21%	20%	9%

Table 27: Allegation type by disability status

Allegation Type	People without disabilities	People with disabilities
Discriminatory Behaviour	44%	45%
Failure in Duty	26%	28%
Incivility	13%	13%
Oppressive Behaviour	1%	1%
Other	15%	14%
Total	100%	100%

Table 28: Employment Status

Employment Status	Number	%
Working Full-Time	1233	26%
Unemployed	788	17%
Not Working - Sick	711	15%
Self-Employed	538	11%
Retired	453	10%
Looking After Home and/or Family	396	8%
Working Part-Time	324	7%
Student	197	4%
Other	107	2%
Total	4747	100%

Table 29: Employment Status by year

Employment Status	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Working Full-Time	29%	24%	27%	25%	25%
Unemployed	14%	16%	15%	20%	20%
Not Working - Sick	16%	15%	13%	15%	16%
Self-Employed	11%	11%	13%	12%	10%
Retired	10%	9%	9%	10%	9%
Looking After Home and/or Family	8%	8%	10%	8%	8%
Working Part-Time	7%	7%	8%	5%	7%
Student	5%	5%	4%	4%	3%
Other	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 30: Unemployment Status, Complainants and Labour Force Survey

Employment Status	Complainants	Labour Force Survey		
		Oct-Dec 07	Oct-Dec 09	Oct-Dec 11
Other	2%	3%	2%	2%
Student	4%	6%	7%	7%
Working Part-Time	7%	11%	11%	12%
Carer	8%	6%	6%	5%
Retired	10%	18%	19%	19%
Self-Employed	11%	9%	9%	8%
Not Working-Sick	15%	8%	8%	7%
Unemployed	17%	3%	3%	4%
Working Full-Time	26%	37%	35%	36%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 31: Allegation type by Employment Status

Employment Status	Failure in Duty	Oppressive Behaviour	Incivility	Discriminatory Behaviour	Other	Total
Working Full-Time	49%	21%	14%	1%	14%	100%
Unemployed	34%	40%	12%	1%	13%	100%
Not Working - Sick	43%	31%	13%	1%	11%	100%
Self-Employed	48%	23%	12%	1%	16%	100%
Retired	56%	14%	15%	1%	15%	100%
Looking After Home and/or Family	47%	25%	15%	1%	12%	100%
Working Part-Time	46%	23%	17%	1%	13%	100%
Student	44%	32%	14%	3%	7%	100%
Other	51%	20%	13%	0%	15%	100%

Table 32: Political Opinion

Political Opinion	Number	%
No Political Party	1682	48%
DUP	603	17%
Sinn Fein	294	8%
Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)	251	7%
SDLP	243	7%
Other	232	7%
Alliance	120	3%
Other Unionist	44	1%
Other Nationalist	5	0%
Total	3474	100%

Table 33: Political Opinion by year

Political Opinion	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
No Political Party	47%	48%	47%	50%	50%
DUP	19%	18%	17%	16%	17%
Sinn Fein	9%	9%	8%	7%	11%
Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)	6%	8%	7%	8%	8%
SDLP	8%	7%	7%	7%	6%
Other	7%	3%	10%	8%	6%
Alliance	3%	4%	3%	4%	3%
Other Unionist	2%	3%	1%	0%	0%
Other Nationalist	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 34: Political Opinion, Complainants and NI Assembly Votes

	Complainants	NI Assembly Votes
No Party/Didn't Vote	48%	45%
DUP	17%	16%
Sinn Fein	8%	15%
UUP	7%	7%
SDLP	7%	8%
Other	8%	4%
Alliance Party	3%	4%
Total	100%	100%

Table 35: Allegation type by Political Opinion

Allegation Type	Nationalist	Unionist	Other	No Party
Failure in Duty	44%	46%	43%	49%
Oppressive Behaviour	27%	24%	28%	22%
Incivility	14%	14%	13%	12%
Discriminatory Behaviour	1%	1%	1%	1%
Other	15%	15%	15%	16%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 36: Dependants Status by gender

Dependants Status	Female	Male	All
Persons without dependants	49%	60%	56%
Persons with dependants	51%	40%	44%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table 37: Dependant Status by year

Dependant Status	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Persons without dependants	57%	57%	58%	56%	53%
Persons with dependants	43%	43%	42%	44%	47%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 38: Persons with dependants, Complainants and Continuous Household Survey, by Gender

Gender	Complainants	CHS
Female	51%	40%
Male	40%	34%
All	44%	38%

Table 39: Allegation type by Dependants Status

Allegation Type	Persons without dependants	Persons with dependants
Failure in Duty	41%	48%
Oppressive Behaviour	28%	24%
Incivility	13%	13%
Discriminatory Behaviour	1%	1%
Other	16%	14%
Total	100%	100%

Table 40: Sexual Orientation

Political Opinion	Number	%
Heterosexual	4239	97%
Lesbian/gay/bisexual	127	3%
Total	4366	100%

Table 41: Sexual Orientation by Year

Sexual Orientation	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Heterosexual	97%	98%	98%	97%	95%
Lesbian/gay/bisexual	3%	2%	2%	3%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 42: Allegation type by Sexual Orientation

Allegation Type	Lesbian/Gay/Bi-Sexual	Heterosexual
Failure in Duty	45%	44%
Oppressive Behaviour	25%	26%
Incivility	12%	13%
Discriminatory Behaviour	4%	1%
Other	14%	15%
Total	100%	100%