



## **Statistics and Research Publication Strategy**

### **Introduction**

The Police Ombudsman is required by law to provide an independent and impartial, efficient and effective police complaints system and one in which the public and the police can have confidence. One of the main ways in which the Police Ombudsman can measure his performance in meeting those requirements is through a statistical analysis of his work.

The gathering and analysis of this information is carried out by staff seconded to his Office from the independent Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

This information is then published in line with the Office's commitment to openness and accessibility and to inform public understanding of the work of the police complaints system. It is based on the following key principles:

### **Understanding user needs**

The content of the Police Ombudsman's statistical outputs and the supporting information provided will be informed by an understanding of stakeholder needs, including those of the public, the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB), the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and the Community and Voluntary Sector. Such needs are generally assessed through a combination of formal consultation exercises, analysis of demand for ad-hoc information, networking and discussion with stakeholders.

### **Informing and listening to our users**

We will help customers and users to understand and make the best possible use of our products by publishing supporting background or methodological information and material and by encouraging users to make use of our customer enquiry arrangements.

We provide details where we can be contacted if users want further information or analysis or simply want to give us their views on the material which has been published. We welcome comments from those using our statistical service and have provided on our website a response form for that very purpose. We will respond quickly to any issues which are raised with us.

We will publish timely, relevant, high quality statistics in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and will:

- Publish our statistics on the time and date pre-announced;
- Be transparent when we are unable to meet any of these commitments and publish an explanation on our website;
- Provide open and easy-to-use routes to allow users to supply us with their views and opinions;
- Respond quickly and accurately to questions and enquiries; and
- Respond in a timely manner to any complaints about our statistics.

### **Making the information as accessible as possible**

The information is published in such a way as to make it accessible to the widest possible audience and to maximise its re-use, subject to the need to comply with legal, ethical and confidentiality constraints.

In order to promote widespread accessibility and dissemination, thus enabling informed public debate, we will use the Web as our main channel for publication of statistics and research. We will publish our products on the Police Ombudsman's website in a printable format. However, if you do not have access to a printer and require a paper copy of a publication, you should contact us and one will be provided for you.

We will make it easy for users to find and understand our published data by using adequate signposting and standard documentation procedures.

All of the information that we publish on-line will be free at the point of use. Any charges to be imposed for other documentation will conform to the rules and procedures set out in the [National Statistician's Guidance: Presentation and Publication of Official Statistics](#).

### **Publication Strategy and Timetable**

The Police (NI) Act 1998 directs the Police Ombudsman to exercise his powers in the way he thinks best calculated to secure both the efficiency, effectiveness and independence of the complaints system and the confidence of the public and of members of the police force in that system. It also directs him to report to the Secretary of State annually. The Police (NI) Act 2000 stipulates that the Police Ombudsman shall supply the Northern Ireland Policing Board with such statistical information as is required to enable the Board to carry out its functions.

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998) requires public authorities in carrying out their functions to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between the nine equality categories listed in the Act. In support of its commitment to fulfilling these obligations the Office publishes research and statistical reports including:

## Equality Monitoring Report: Results of the Survey of Complainants to the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, 2008-2013

The timetable sets out the target publication dates for each of the reports we plan to publish. This timetable was updated on 4 April 2014 and will be updated every two months. We will inform users, via our website, of any planned changes to the publication schedule.

### **Changes to Publication strategy**

Prior to June 2013 the Office reported on results from the Complainant Satisfaction Survey and Police Officer survey in annual reports which are published in the Statistics and Research section of the website. However, results from the surveys for the financial year 2012/2013 were included within the Annual Statistical Bulletin. Following feedback from users the Office intends to publish Complainant and Police Officer Satisfaction Survey results in separate reports in the future.

### **Resources**

The Strategy will be delivered by the Information Directorate of the Office of the Police Ombudsman. The Directorate includes NISRA statisticians, of whom one performs the role of Senior Statistician for Official Statistics purposes and Police Ombudsman research support staff. It is led by the Director of Information. The Director has overall responsibility for delivering the Statistics and Research Publication Strategy and the Senior Statistician has responsibility for ensuring that all outputs meet the standards required by the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

**If you have any comments, suggestions or questions about the statistics produced by the Office, we would be happy to hear from you.**

### **You can contact us:**

#### **By letter:**

Statistics and Research  
Information Directorate  
Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland  
11 Church Street  
Belfast  
BT1 1PG

#### **By Phone:**

028 9082 8670

#### **By Email:**

[research@policeombudsman.org](mailto:research@policeombudsman.org)

## Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Publication Strategy

Research Report / Statistics Output	Publication Date
Report on public awareness of the system for complaints against the police in Northern Ireland, January 2014	30 April 2014
Annual Statistical Bulletin: Complaints and Allegations received by the Office of the Police Ombudsman, 2013/14	6 June 2014
Report on Police Officer Satisfaction with Services provided by the Police Ombudsman's Office, 2013/2014	September 2014
Report on Complainant Satisfaction with Services provided by the Police Ombudsman's Office, 2013/2014	October 2014
Equality Monitoring Report: Results of the Survey of Complainants to the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, 2008-2013	December 2014