

# Six-Monthly Statistical Bulletin for the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, April - September 2012

## Notes

The following tables provide data on the work of the Office during the period 1 April 2009 and 30 September 2012, and include details of all complaints and allegations input up to 21st October 2012.

It is important to note that this data is extracted from the Office's 'live' Case Handling System, and may therefore be subject to future revisions. We have however endeavoured to ensure the factual accuracy of the collection of this information.

## Glossary of terms

### Informal Resolution

Informal resolution is offered to complainants of less serious allegations, e.g. rudeness or incivility. This process involves a senior police officer speaking to both the officer (s) involved and the complainant with a view to reaching satisfactory resolution of the complaint.

### Local Resolution

Local Resolution was piloted in PSNI D District from June to November 2010. The Police Ombudsman was concerned that less serious complaints were not being dealt with expeditiously and effectively at source and this was impacting on complainants' satisfaction with, and confidence in, both police and the police complaints system. Local Resolution gave back the responsibility of dealing with these complaints to first line managers in the PSNI whilst the Office maintained a monitoring role.

### Processing of new complaints received

When a complaint is made to the Office of the Police Ombudsman, it is received by the Initial Complaints Office (ICO) for preliminary assessment. The ICO has the authority to close complaints which are not suitable for formal investigation, for example, those which lie outside of the Office's remit. Where an investigation is deemed necessary by the ICO, the complaint is then passed to an investigations team for thorough

examination of the available evidence. The investigations teams' then works towards closing each allegation with a recommendation.

### **Recommendations following allegations closed**

When the investigation of an allegation is complete a recommendation for allegation closure is made. It should be noted that one allegation may have more than one associated recommendation, for example, when there are a number of police officers linked to an allegation.

### **Recommended Action**

Includes action such as criminal charges, disciplinary charges, Superintendent's Written Warning, Advice and Guidance and less formal management discussions.

### **Section 55 referral**

By virtue of Section 55 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 the Police Ombudsman can investigate matters about which no complaint has been made. This is known as a Section 55 referral.

## Data

**Table 1: Complaints and allegations received, 2009/10 - April-September 2012/13**

The Office has received 1,602 complaints and 2,595 allegations during the first six months of 2012/13.

Year	Complaints	Allegations
2009/10	3542	6499
2010/11	3335	6330
2011/12	3340	5995
April-September 2012/13	1602	2595

**Table 2: Complaints and Allegations received by Organisation, 2009/10 - Apr-Sept 2012/13**

Organisation	Complaints				Allegations			
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Apr-Sept 2012/13	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Apr-Sept 2012/13
Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)	3528	3316	3288	1571	6478	6299	5930	2554
Designated Civilian	6	10	34	15	6	13	44	16
Airport Police	1	0	2	1	2	0	5	7
Harbour Police	1	4	2	2	7	12	2	3
Serious and Organised Crime Agency	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Other / Unknown	5	4	14	13	5	5	14	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>3542</b>	<b>3335</b>	<b>3340</b>	<b>1602</b>	<b>6499</b>	<b>6330</b>	<b>5995</b>	<b>2595</b>

**Table 3: Complaints Received by District Command Unit (DCU), 2009/10 - April-September 2012/13**

The majority of complaints received in April-September 2012/13 were attributed to DCU A.

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	April-Sept 2012/13
District A	433	480	388	226
District B	413	384	376	206
District C	411	438	388	188
District D	513	443	442	217
District E	420	374	488	170
District F	318	332	306	143
District G	335	327	330	138
District H	447	384	354	160
Unknown PSNI DCU	238	154	216	123
Other Organisation	13	19	50	28
Unknown Organisation	1	0	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3542</b>	<b>3335</b>	<b>3340</b>	<b>1602</b>

\*\*Unknown' DCUs include complaints that have limited available information, e.g. where the complainant fails to co-operate with the investigation or where the complaint is deemed outside the Office's remit at an early stage.

**Table 4: Complaints Received by Area Command Unit (ACU), 2009/10 - April-September 2012/13**

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	April-Sept 2012/13
Antrim	112	108	119	63
Ards	105	99	86	40
Armagh	84	71	84	30
Ballymena	164	100	115	39
Ballymoney	16	29	33	11
Banbridge	74	80	92	26
Carrickfergus	48	48	26	12
Castlereagh	95	108	95	39
Coleraine	203	202	161	80
Cookstown	51	43	50	21
Craigavon	155	132	175	65
Down	100	104	93	58
Dungannon and South Tyrone	73	71	82	43
East Belfast	157	142	139	63
Fermanagh	91	118	87	39
Foyle	164	191	185	90
Larne	56	41	32	28
Limavady	73	59	68	19
Lisburn	223	160	186	86
Magherafelt	55	34	43	16
Moyle	8	12	13	2
Newry and Mourne	107	91	137	49
Newtownabbey	130	127	111	56
North Belfast	266	308	206	135
North Down	111	127	114	51
Omagh	103	100	87	40
South Belfast	256	242	237	143
Strabane	43	43	34	13
West Belfast	167	172	182	91
Unknown PSNI ACU	238	154	216	123
Other Organisation	13	19	50	28
Unknown Organisation	1	0	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3542</b>	<b>3335</b>	<b>3340</b>	<b>1602</b>

**Table 5: Allegations Received by Allegation Type, 2009/10 - April-September 2012/13**

Failure in Duty accounted for the largest number of allegations in all of the reported periods, followed by Oppressive Behaviour.

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	April-Sept 2012/13
Failure in Duty	2436	2513	2158	952
Oppressive Behaviour	1884	1906	1954	777
Incivility	856	696	623	278
Other	408	265	338	152
Search	285	295	271	122
Unlawful/Unnecessary Arrest/Detention	230	245	224	105
Malpractice	152	115	125	58
Discriminatory Behaviour	71	74	81	46
Mishandling Of Property	68	105	107	44
Traffic	68	71	65	33
Section 55 Referral	41	45	49	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>6499</b>	<b>6330</b>	<b>5995</b>	<b>2595</b>

**Table 6: Allegations Received by District Command Unit (DCU), 2009/10 - April-September 2012/13**

District A was attributed to the highest number of allegations received during April-September 2012, followed by District D.

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	April-Sept 2012/13
District A	880	954	783	374
District B	783	713	699	312
District C	705	795	653	320
District D	983	818	758	355
District E	776	747	924	285
District F	593	662	558	217
District G	633	659	599	244
District H	800	744	652	290
Unknown PSNI DCU	325	207	304	157
Other Organisation	20	31	63	38
Unknown Organisation	1	0	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>6499</b>	<b>6330</b>	<b>5995</b>	<b>2595</b>

**Table 7: Allegations Received by Area Command Unit (ACU), 2009/10 - April-September 2012/13**

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	April-Sept 2012/13
Antrim	209	194	190	104
Ards	153	167	139	71
Armagh	140	119	160	45
Ballymena	288	174	191	64
Ballymoney	24	53	49	20
Banbridge	166	158	167	44
Carrickfergus	90	80	37	16
Castlereagh	174	187	166	62
Coleraine	382	413	331	153
Cookstown	94	79	87	37
Craigavon	274	287	340	108
Down	172	179	143	92
Dungannon and South Tyrone	140	137	159	68
East Belfast	299	241	237	89
Fermanagh	173	250	166	55
Foyle	316	396	346	147
Larne	93	77	63	50
Limavady	145	121	124	40
Lisburn	485	311	333	144
Magherafelt	100	65	70	26
Moyle	13	27	18	3
Newry and Mourne	196	183	257	88
Newtownabbey	199	233	198	91
North Belfast	543	600	431	210
North Down	206	262	205	95
Omagh	186	196	146	57
South Belfast	484	472	462	223
Strabane	72	77	59	31
West Belfast	337	354	352	164
Unknown PSNI ACU	325	207	304	157
Other Organisation	20	31	63	38
Unknown Organisation	1	0	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>6499</b>	<b>6330</b>	<b>5995</b>	<b>2595</b>

**Table 8: Recommendations arising from allegations closed, 2009/10 - April-September 2012/13**

During April-September 2012/13, 42% of recommendations arising from allegations closed were not substantiated due to a lack of evidence to support the allegations made.

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	April-Sept 2012/13
Not Substantiated	4038	4183	3628	1580
Non Co-operation by Complainant	1968	1811	1928	739
To PPS No Criminal Charges Recommended	936	985	898	449
Outside Remit	549	615	581	293
Informal/Local Resolution Accepted	691	633	404	166
Withdrawn by Complainant	599	548	415	149
Recommended Action	403	389	424	179
Ill founded	386	472	282	149
Other	158	169	194	79
Substantiated - No action recommended	95	93	113	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>9823</b>	<b>9898</b>	<b>8867</b>	<b>3801</b>

**Table 9: Recommendations made to PSNI Discipline Branch, 2009/10 - April-September 2012/13 (Note: Includes open and closed allegations)**

The Office has made 161 recommendations for disciplinary action or management discussion during April-September 2012, and 51% of these recommended that Advice and Guidance be given to officers.

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	April-Sept 2012/13
Advice and Guidance	358	214	318	82
Management Discussion/ Training/Ops/Supervision	12	52	55	31
Superintendent's Written Warning	36	43	116	45
Misconduct Hearings	13	18	19	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>161</b>

**Table 10: Recommendations made to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS), 2009/10 - April-September 2012/13 (Note: Includes open and closed allegations)**

During the first six months of 2012/13, there have been 11 criminal charges recommended against PSNI officers.

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	April-Sept 2012/13
Recommendations for no prosecution	1041	975	917	341
Recommendations for prosecution	5	14	6	8
<b>Total recommendations made</b>	<b>1046</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>349</b>
Number of charges recommended	7	18	9	11