



## **Statistics and Research Publication Strategy 2012/13**

### **Introduction**

The Research and Performance Directorate's (RPD) Publication Strategy is issued in accordance with the requirements set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Its aim is to make the Office of the Police Ombudsman's Official Statistics accessible to the widest possible audience and to maximise the re-use of the Office's statistical information subject to the need to comply with legal, ethical and confidentiality constraints. It is based on the following key principles:

### **Knowing our customers**

The content of RPD's statistical outputs, and the supporting information provided will be informed by an understanding of stakeholders' needs. Such needs are generally assessed through a combination of formal consultation exercises, analysis of demand for ad-hoc information, networking and discussion with stakeholders. Our research strategy will be prioritised based on the needs of our key stakeholders, including 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.

### **Informing 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 the RPD customer enquiry arrangements.

For each release we provide details where we can be contacted for further information and analyses and we welcome comments from all our customers and users. An online e-mail response form has been provided on our website to facilitate this.

### **Outputs**

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.

## **Web focus**

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. This means that we will publish our products on the Office'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.

## **Charging**

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.

## **Accessibility**

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

## **Publication Strategy and Timetable 2012/13**

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 NIPB with such statistical information as is required to enable the Board to carry out its functions.

The Police Ombudsman measures and reports his performance against those requirements through publication of:

- Annual Statistical Bulletin
- Police Ombudsman Annual Report
- Public Attitudes to the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland
- Six monthly Statistical Bulletin
- Annual Report on Complainant Satisfaction with services provided by the Police Ombudsman's Office in Northern Ireland

- Annual Report on Police Officer Satisfaction with services provided by the Police Ombudsman's Office in Northern Ireland

The Police (NI) Act 2003 states that the Police Ombudsman may investigate a current practice or policy of the police if the practice or policy comes to his attention under the Act, and he has reason to believe that it would be in the public interest to investigate the practice or policy. The Police Ombudsman publishes all such policy and practice investigation reports and they are available in the Research publications area of our website accessible here:

[www.policeombudsman.org](http://www.policeombudsman.org)

The Police Ombudsman has a corporate goal of, 'Contributing to improving policing with the community' and an objective, 'To seek actively to pursue measures leading to more effective and accountable policing'. In support of this goal and objective the Office carries out focused research and statistics activities. Planned publications for 2012/13 include:

- Analysis of Allegations of Oppressive Behaviour

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:

- Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland Equality Monitoring Report
- Patterns and Trends of Section 75 Groupings linked to police complaints within policing districts.

The attached timetable sets out the target publication dates for each of the reports referred to in this statement for 2012/13. This timetable is updated annually. The Office will endeavour to inform users, via the website, of any planned changes to the publication schedule.

## **Resources**

The research Strategy will be delivered by the Research and Performance Directorate of the Office of the Police Ombudsman. The directorate consists of NISRA statisticians, of whom one performs the role of Senior Statistician for Official Statistics purposes, Police Ombudsman research support staff and Police Ombudsman Professional Standards staff. It is led by the Director of Research and Performance. 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:**

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Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland  
11 Church Street  
Belfast  
BT1 1PG

**By Phone:**

028 9082 8670

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



## Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland Research and Statistics Publication Strategy 2012/13

Research Report / Statistics Output	Publication Date
Police Ombudsman Annual Statistical Bulletin	May 2012
Equality Monitoring by Police District Command Unit	June 2012
Analysis of Allegations of Oppressive Behaviour	August 2012
Website presentation of Area Command Unit Statistics	September 2012
Police Ombudsman 6 Monthly Statistical Bulletin	October 2012
Annual report on police officer satisfaction with services provided by the Police Ombudsman's Office in Northern Ireland 2011/12	October 2012
Equality Monitoring Report 2007-2012	November 2012
Annual report on complainant satisfaction with services provided by the Police Ombudsman's Office in Northern Ireland 2011/12	November 2012
Annual report on public awareness of the system for complaints against the police in Northern Ireland	December 2012