
STATES OF JERSEY



JERSEY POLICE COMPLAINTS AUTHORITY: REPORT FOR 2005

Presented to the States on 25th April 2006
by the Minister for Home Affairs

STATES GREFFE

REPORT

In presenting this, its fifth annual report to the States of Jersey, the Authority is pleased to report that the number of complaints made against the Police during the year which resulted in supervised investigations amounted to 30, compared to a total of 37 in 2004. This reduction in numbers is noted with satisfaction.

Complaints by type during 2005

2004	Description	2005
11	Excessive use of force	6
12	Abuse of authority/Incivility	11
1	Use of CS spray	1
13	Other	12
37	Total	30

At the end of 2004, there were 7 complaints where the investigation was still in progress; of these complaints 4 were unsubstantiated, 2 were substantiated in part and one still remains unresolved as the matter is sub-judice.

The majority of complaints follow the pattern of previous years with the complainant alleging that the Police used undue force or abused their authority. It is important to remember that the description of the complaint is that of the complainant. At the time of the incident which resulted in the complaint, some complainants are under the influence of drink or drugs.

Only one complaint was made following the use of CS spray and, in fact, this complaint was subsequently withdrawn.

The Law provides for the Authority to supervise an investigation in cases of a serious nature and during the year the Authority, for the first time, supervised an investigation carried out by the Devon and Cornwall Police into a fatal road accident in St. Clement involving a States of Jersey Police car.

From the schedule below it will be noted that almost half of the complaints during the year were withdrawn by the complainant whilst the investigation was in progress or in some cases before the investigation even started. Complainants sometimes have second thoughts and can see no justification for processing a formal complaint.

In the case of the 2 complaints that were substantiated appropriate disciplinary action was taken against the officers concerned.

Outcome of the investigations during 2005

2004	Outcome	2005
10	Complaint withdrawn	14
3	Vexatious complaints or incapable of investigation	3
13	Complaint unsubstantiated	5
4	Complaint substantiated	2
7	Investigations in progress at year end	6
37	Total	30

Whilst the figures show the numbers of complaints, they cannot show the time involved in investigations, some taking many months to complete.

The Authority remains diligent in exercising its supervisory duties and great care is taken to ensure that full enquiries are carried out during the investigation of complaints.

During the year, meetings were held with the Attorney General to discuss aspects of the Police (Complaints and Disciplinary) (Jersey) Law 1999 under which the Authority operates.

The Authority has prepared a brief information leaflet explaining its role regarding complaints against the Police. Apart from stressing its total independence when supervising investigations by the Police, it advises complainants of the procedure to be followed when making a complaint. The leaflet will be available at all parish halls and at Police Headquarters in Rouge Bouillon in the near future.

The Authority again wishes to express its appreciation of the high standard of expertise in the Professional Standards Department at Police Headquarters. The members of staff involved have continued their support of the Authority's work.