

Your Reference:  
Our Reference: PJ/1001689

Mr D Canning  
By e-mail to:  
request-11726-3c7c7c90@whatdotheyknow.com

29 May 2009

IPCC Contact:  
Philip Johnston  
Tel: 020 7166 3000

Dear Mr Canning,

Thank you for your e-mail received on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

You request that the IPCC releases the rules governing whether the police have to or have not to investigate serious complaints made by members of the public in relation to criminal activities.

These rules are contained in the relevant statute and case law and will thus be reasonably accessible to you. I note that you sign your correspondence as 'Derek Canning LLB (Hons)'. Accordingly, this information is exempt under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

If you are not satisfied with my decision you may request an independent internal review by our FOI complaints officer, who has had no involvement in dealing with your request. If you wish to complain about any aspect of this decision, please contact:

Freedom of Information Act Complaints  
IPCC  
90 High Holborn  
London  
WC1V 6BH

E mails should be clearly marked 'Complaint against FOI decision' and sent to: [foi@ipcc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foi@ipcc.gsi.gov.uk).

Should you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you will have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner; however, I should point out that under section 50(2)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act, you are normally obliged to exhaust the IPCC's own internal complaint mechanism before complaining to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

**Philip Johnston**  
**Independent Police Complaints Commission**