

Your Reference:
Our Reference: PJ/1001624

Mr Andrews
By e-mail to:
request-9689-3dea9a0f@whatdotheyknow.com

11 February 2010

IPCC Contact:
Philip Johnston
Tel: 020 7166 3000

Dear Mr Andrews,

YOUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I refer to your email of 23rd April 2009 in which you asked for an internal review and made a new request for the percentage of investigations which were sent for criminal charges consideration in 2007 and 2008. I have interpreted this as a request for the percentage of complaints and misconduct investigations carried out under the Police Reform Act which were sent to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

The IPCC report '*Police Complaints: Statistics for England and Wales 2008/09*' confirms the number of complaint cases referred to the CPS during that year. This report is available on the IPCC web site at www.ipcc.gov.uk/index/resources/research/stats.htm and on request to the IPCC.

The report states on page 16 that a total of 444 complaint cases (1,099 individual allegations) were referred to the Crown Prosecution Service in 2008/09. Of these 32 cases were identified as being recommended for prosecution.' It is further stated that these figures relate to 42 of the 43 forces and, in addition, Lancashire had five cases marked as 'prosecution' following CPS involvement. I can also confirm that in the year to 31st March 2009, 18,137 allegations, associated with 8,148 complaint cases, were investigated by the 43 Home Office police forces. Therefore, the 444 cases referred to the CPS represent 5.4% of the annual total of 8148 investigated complaint cases completed during 2008/09.

Any referrals to the CPS in 08/09 in respect of investigated complaint cases completed during previous years would not be included in these 444 referrals. This means it is highly likely that more than 444 referrals to CPS were actually made during 2008/09.

As these figures are in respect of *complaint* cases only, they do not include the matters recorded and investigated under the Police Reform Act 2002 as 'conduct matters' or 'death or serious injury matters'. These, however, account for a very small minority of the total matters investigated.

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The financial year 08/09 was the first year for which this information was collected by the IPCC. The information is not held for the year to 31st March 2008 and the number of cases referred to the CPS during that year would have to be requested by you from each individual police force.

IPCC ‘managed and ‘independent’ investigations, which account for only a small minority of the total number of investigations under the PRA 2002, are not included in the figures quoted above.

In the autumn of 2010, the IPCC intends to publish information as to the outcome of its investigations completed in 2008/09, including information as to the number of cases referred to the CPS.

Yours sincerely

Philip Johnston
Independent Police Complaints Commission