

Our Reference No: 1002778  
Your Reference No:

**ipcc**  
independent  
police complaints  
commission

Ms Sarah Marsh  
By Email: request-90538-773d011a@whatdotheyknow.com

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London WC1V 6BH

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15<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Dear Ms Marsh

IPCC Contact:  
Adam Lillis  
FOI Officer  
foi@ipcc.gsi.gov.uk

**Re: Your Request for Information**

Thank you for your email, received in this office on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2011, regarding your request for information.

I note that you have requested *"information about the number of complaints against police officers at Stoke Newington Police Station around the time of the London riots and in the period afterwards when police were making arrests (From August-October 2011). I want to receive information about the nature of the complaints."*

I can confirm that the IPCC holds data which is related to the information you have requested.

I would like to first explain how complaints against the police can be made. Complaints against any police force are handled by the relevant police force's Professional Standards Department (PSD). The Police Reform Act requires that all complaints sent to the IPCC be passed first to the relevant police force in order that they are recorded. We have to request permission from the complainant before passing complaints on.

An individual can also make his or her complaint directly to the Professional Standards Department. This means that the complaints and enquiries received by the IPCC may not represent all complaints received and recorded by the PSDs.

The IPCC produces annual reports on the number of complaints and allegations received by each force using data provided by the police forces. These statistics are broken down by the police force as a whole (Metropolitan Police in relation to your request) and not broken down further into boroughs. These statistics also list the type of allegations received by each force. These annual reports can be found on the IPCC website at the following address;

<http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/en/Pages/stats.aspx>

The IPCC did record an informal list of complaints and enquiries received that appeared to be relating to the policing of the recent riots. This spreadsheet recorded 24 complaints or

enquiries, or which 6 complaints were forwarded to the relevant police force. Of these 6 complaints, 4 were regarding the Metropolitan Police. 2 of these complaints against the Metropolitan Police were directed to the North East region PSD, which includes the borough of Stoke-Newington.

If all data held by IPCC on complaints was able to be accurately broken down into boroughs, this still wouldn't represent all complaints received against a particular borough as the IPCC does not receive all complaints against the police force as some are sent directly to the force.

I would advise that you redirect this request to the Metropolitan Police's Information team, who may be able to assist you further and in particular may hold info about complaints made against specific boroughs. Their contact details can be located at the following web address;

[http://www.met.police.uk/information/general\\_info.htm](http://www.met.police.uk/information/general_info.htm)

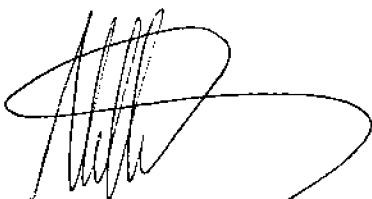
If you are not satisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review by our FOI appeals officer, who has had no involvement in dealing with your request. If you wish to complain about any aspect of this decision, please contact:

Amanda Kelly  
Director of Business Services  
Independent Police Complaints Commission  
90 High Holborn  
London WC1V 6BH

All emails requesting a review should be sent **directly** to: [amanda.kelly@ipcc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.kelly@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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Lillis', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the bottom right.

Adam Lillis  
Freedom of Information Officer  
**Independent Police Complaints Commission**