

Your Reference:  
Our Reference: PJ/1001979 & 1002012

Independent Police Support Group  
By e-mail to:  
**request-25147-abb713b7@whatdotheyknow.com**  
**request-28362-83ce4bfe@whatdotheyknow.com**

23 March 2010

IPCC Contact:  
Philip Johnston  
Tel: 020 7166 3000

Dear Sir or Madam,

## **YOUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

I refer to your requests of 28<sup>th</sup> December 2009 and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010.

Request of 28<sup>th</sup> December 2009:

Since police officers became protected in employment law under the Public Interest Disclosure Act, please supply the following information:

1. The number of police officers who have made complaints/allegations to the IPCC.
2. What was the outcome of each disclosure?

Request of 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010:

Please provide the following information since the IPCC introduced the confidential reporting line for police officers and staff.

1. How many reports have been made via this line?
2. What was the outcome for each matter reported via this line?

All reports to the IPCC confidential reporting line are dealt with as disclosures under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 (PIDA). This protects a worker from suffering any detriment as a result of complaining about a malpractice within their place of work. The IPCC is listed as a prescribed person under the act and is therefore able to receive disclosures; however, it will be the responsibility of the force in question to ensure that provisions are in place internally for their staff that will protect them from suffering any detriment as a result of disclosing information under PIDA.

In compliance with your requests the IPCC is disclosing to you with this letter a spread sheet giving the numbers of reports made to the confidential reporting line since it became operational and information about the sources of those reports.

Each report is individually assessed and a decision made as to how the matter should be progressed; however, the report will normally be passed to the relevant point of contact ("appropriate authority") in the police force if (i) the information appears to fall within the remit of the IPCC as defined by the Police Reform Act 2002 (PRA) and (ii) the consent of the reporter has been obtained. Information will be passed to the appropriate authority without consent only if it is

considered to be in the public interest to do so. Matters assessed as potentially falling within the definition of a 'complaint' under the PRA are processed by the IPCC in accordance with the statutory procedures relating to complaints made directly to the IPCC. The report will not be passed on to the appropriate authority if the matter does not fall within the police complaints and misconduct provisions of the PRA.

Where the matter reported does not fall under the statutory remit of the IPCC the reporter may be advised to raise the matter with the relevant force directly.

As to outcomes, the IPCC records only its initial assessment of the report and the steps taken on the basis of that assessment (i.e. as to seeking consent and whether or not the matter has been passed to the appropriate authority). This information is recorded within the individual case file and can be identified and extracted only by reference to the contents of the relevant documents in each file. The enclosed spread sheet confirms that up to 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010, 318 reports have been made to the confidential reporting line. It is estimated that it would take approximately 10 minutes per case to identify and extract this information so that answering this aspect of your request would greatly exceed the cost limit under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, which limit is set in Regulations at £450 or 18 hours work at £25 per hour. Accordingly, the IPCC is not obliged to provide you with this information.

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:

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 public authority's own internal complaint mechanism before complaining to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

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