

**JERSEY POLICE COMPLAINTS AUTHORITY:
REPORT FOR 2001**

**Presented to the States on 12th November 2002
by the Home Affairs Committee**



STATES OF JERSEY

STATES GREFFE

120

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Report

The Authority is pleased to submit to the States of Jersey its first Annual Report for the year 2001.

The States will recall that, at its meeting on 7th November 2000 it confirmed the appointment of Mr. Leslie May as Chairman of the Authority, and at the same time appointed the following six members, all for a period of three years commencing on 1st January 2001 -

Mr. Anthony Beaumont
Major General Charles Gordon Cornock C.B., M.B.E.
Advocate Nuno Santos Costa
Mr. Peter Holliday
Mr. Derek Le Maistre
Mrs. Toni Roberts

The Law under which the Authority acts (The Police (Complaints and Discipline) (Jersey) Law 1999) provides that the Authority is totally independent, and its role and responsibilities are to oversee, monitor and supervise certain complaints made against members of the States of Jersey Police and members of the Honorary Police. Article 15 of the Law makes provision for the Committee to make Orders, and the Police (Complaints and Discipline Procedure) (Jersey) Order 2000 (R&O 131/2000) provides details of the steps involved in dealing with complaints against the States Police and any subsequent disciplinary measure.

Similarly, Article 28 of the Law makes provision for the States to make Regulations, and the Police (Honorary Police Complaints and Discipline Procedure) (Jersey) Regulations 2000 (R&O 110/2000) sets down the procedures for dealing with complaints against the Honorary Police.

No specific guidelines were provided to the Authority, and it has, and will continue to establish the manner and procedures in carrying out its function.

The total number of complaints during the year amounted to 47, and the Authority is led to believe that this number shows a sharp decline from that of recent years.

More than half of these complaints (30) were resolved by the 'Informal Resolution' procedure. Under this procedure with the prior agreement of the complainant, the Police/Honorary Police carry out the investigation without the supervision of the Authority.

Of the remaining complaints, the Authority, in most instances decided to supervise the investigation. Types of complaint included -

Use of excessive force	8
Tight handcuffs	2
Wrongful arrest	1
Incivility	2
Others	4

A significant number of complaints were withdrawn by the complainant during the course of the investigation, 5 complaints were incapable of investigation for one reason or another and 3 complaints were unsubstantiated. The Authority noted that in many instances the complaint arose from a person who, at the time of the complaint, was or appeared to be, under the influence of alcohol.

The Authority is pleased to report that in all cases investigated under its supervision, it found the investigation to be satisfactory.

The Authority has received every co-operation from the States of Jersey Police, and H.M. Attorney-General has offered advice when requested.

Unfortunately the Authority has worked under some difficulties during the year due to not having office accommodation - this problem is in the process of being solved, and some administrative assistance should be soon forthcoming.

Jersey Police Complaints Authority