

STATES OF JERSEY



JERSEY POLICE COMPLAINTS AUTHORITY: REPORT FOR 2007

**Presented to the States on 21st October 2008
by the Minister for Home Affairs**

STATES GREFFE

REPORT

In presenting the Annual report for the year 2007 the Authority apologises for the lateness of submission which is due to illness and also enforced moves of our office premises earlier this year.

From the analysis below it will be noted that the number of complaints by members of the public against Police Officers show a marginal increase over the previous year. The types of complaint are similar to the previous year. Three of the complaints concerning the use of C.S. Spray were subsequently withdrawn. The heading of 'Other' in the analysis covers many different descriptions by complainants, including for example, instances where the claimant feels that he was wrongfully arrested, or that the Police breached their Code of Practice.

Analysis of Complaints

2006	Complaint	2007
14	Excessive use of force	8
6	Harassment/threatening behaviour	9
–	Use of C.S. Spray	4
10	Other	15
30		36

The investigation of some complaints takes a considerable time to complete, and the Authority is very conscious that in the interests of both the complainant and the Police Officers complained of, the sooner the investigation is completed, the better. Unfortunately, at the end of the year there were some 20 investigations still being progressed, although a significant number of those were finished early in 2008.

The table below shows the results of the investigations received in 2007, and it will be noted that of those completed, only 2 were partly substantiated.

Of the 6 investigations carried over from the previous year, one was substantiated, 2 were unsubstantiated, 2 were incapable of investigation, and one was withdrawn but later reinstated and remained incomplete at the end of 2007.

For administrative reasons some complaints necessitated engaging senior personnel from the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary to carry out the investigation.

2006	Outcome	2007
15	Withdrawn	8
5	Vexatious	1
4	Unsubstantiated	2

–	Partly substantiated	2
–	Other	3
6	Investigation in progress at year end	20
30	Total	36

Mr. Brian Curtis left the Authority on completion of his term of office on 31st December 2007 and we are grateful for his help and support during the last 3 years. We are pleased to welcome Advocate Debbie Lang as a new member of the Authority following her appointment on 1st January 2008 for a term of 3 years. We are also pleased that on completion of his first term of 3 years, Mr. Tom Slattery was appointed for another term of 3 year from 1st January 2008.

Early in January 2008, the Authority was forced to hurriedly move from its offices in Great Union Road. After several months in a temporary office at the Home Affairs Department, the Authority finally re-established itself in its present premises at 5 Library Place, St. Helier.

The Authority welcomes its new Secretary, Mrs. Elizabeth Moore, and congratulates her on managing the very difficult period following the enforced office change.