

THE POLICE COMPLAINTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Role and Responsibilities

1. The Police Act 2006 provides for the setting up of an independent Police Complaints Board, tasked with:
 - a. The Handling of complaints involving the conduct of persons serving with the force.
 - b. The recording of matters from which it appears that there may have been conduct of such persons which constitutes or involves the commission of a criminal offence or behaviour justifying disciplinary proceedings.
 - c. The manner in which any such complaints or any such matters as are mentioned in paragraph (1.b.) are investigated or otherwise handled or dealt with.
2. After any such investigation, the Police Complaints Board shall communicate its decision to the complainant. The complainant may, if not satisfied, appeal the decision by advising the Secretary of the Police Complaints Board.

Members of the Police Complaints Board

3. The current Members of the Police Complaint Board are:-
 - a. Chairman: Henry Pinna
 - b. Members: Mr Leslie Edmonds OBE
Mr Joseph Garcia
Mr Julio Alcantara
Lt Col (Retd) Francis Brancato OBE

4. The Members of the Board are appointed for a period of three years and are eligible for re-appointment.

Complaints

5. Since April 2007 members of the public have been able to lodge their complaints with the newly established totally independent Police Complaints Board.
6. The first annual report of the Police Complaints Board covers the period 1 April 2007 to 31 December 2007. 52 complaints were received from members of the public. To this figure we must add a further two complaints which remained pending from the previous year.
7. Therefore the total number of complaints investigated, under investigation, or pending investigation is 54.

Breakdown of Complaints investigated since April 2007

8. Alleged Assault:	3
9. Alleged discreditable conduct, and or abuse of authority:	20
10. Alleged neglect of duty and or not complying with orders:	<u>5</u>
Total:	<u>28</u>

Results of Complaints after investigation

11. Complaints not sustained:	22
12. Complaints sustained:	2
13. Complaints withdrawn by complainants:	<u>4</u>
Total:	<u>28</u>

14. The two complaints which were sustained were dealt with by the Line Manager.
15. Although the number of complaints which were not sustained is significantly larger than the number of complaints which were sustained, an overall pattern has emerged which calls for some careful attention. After careful perusal of the complaints received during 2007 these reveal that quite a significant number of these involved members of the public feeling aggrieved because Police Officers were perceived as being rude, abrasive, inconsiderate, or wholly unprofessional in their behaviour and attitude. It

should be noted that a number of cases which were not sustained carried recommendations towards improving procedures.

Pending

16. Complaints under investigation:	19
17. Sub-Judice:	6
18. Complaint on hold on complainants request :	<u>1</u>
Total:	<u>26</u>

Appeals

19. Number of appeals received as at 31 December 2007: 3.

HENRY PINNA

CHAIRMAN PCB.

JANUARY 2008