



Independent Office
for Police Conduct

Swyddfa Annibynnol
Ymddygiad yr Heddlu

The Lord Hogan Howe QPM
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29 May 2019

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Dear Lord Hogan – Howe,

Re: HL 15669

I write following your recent parliamentary question: “To ask Her Majesty's Government what the average time is taken for the Independent Office for Police Conduct to investigate a public complaint about police behaviour.”

As you will be aware, the most serious incidents involving injury during or following contact with the police, or allegations of serious criminal behaviour must be referred to the IOPC regardless whether or not a complaint is made by a member of the public. Many complaints investigated by the IOPC are received following earlier referral of a death or serious injury (DSI) matter and are investigated alongside the DSI matter as part of one investigation. The majority of public complaints about police behaviour are investigated locally by the relevant police force or resolved outside of the formal complaints process through local resolution.

The IOPC answered PQ 229128 from David Hanson regarding the timeliness of independent investigations by letter on 10 April 2019. A copy of the letter we sent to Mr Hanson was placed in the House Library. As my answer to Mr Hanson's question is relevant to the question you pose, I have copied the data table provided in response to PQ 229128 below for your information.

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cases the Independent Office for Police Conduct considered which lasted (a) less than six months, (b) six to 12 months, (c) 12 to 24 months, (d) 24 months or longer before a conclusion was reached in each of the last five years.

The below tables set out the number of independent investigations the IOPC has completed, broken down by length as requested for each of the last 5 financial years, including this year to date (to 28 February 2019).

The IOPC considers an investigation to be complete when the final report is approved by the relevant decision maker. However, subsequent processes and proceedings, such as inquests or consideration by the Crown Prosecution Service may take place some time after the conclusion of the final report.

Duration of independent investigations completed (final report approved) By year the referral was received.

Reporting Year	0-6 months (0-127 working days)	6-9 months (128-190 working days)	9-12 months (191-253 working days)	12-24 months (254-506 working days)	Over 24 months (507 days +)	Total
2013/14	9	16	12	48	26	111
2014/15	37	52	43	50	38	220
2015/16	88	107	75	173	34	477
2016/17	100	140	119	154	16	529
2017/18	243	183	130	61	n/a	617
2018/19 YTD*	117	58	11	n/a	n/a	186

* 01/04/2018 to 28/02/2019

Since becoming the IOPC on 8 January 2018 we have been closing more cases more quickly. We are now closing more cases than we are opening and approximately 80% of all IOPC investigations are completed within 12 months (compared to 68% in the previous financial year). Over a third of our investigations are now completed within 6 months.

As you will be aware, we inherited a large number of cases from the IPCC but have now cleared over 80% of these. Overall this is the best we have ever performed but as we discussed when we met, I am keen to make further improvements.

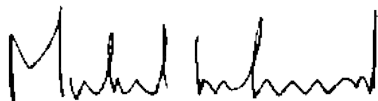
Further information relevant to your question can be found in the Independent Office for Police Conduct quarterly complaints statistics bulletins for all 43 Home Office police forces, British Transport Police, and other bodies under its jurisdiction. These bulletins contain performance information for each force on the handling of public complaints. The duration of time taken to finalise allegations referred to the IOPC and subject to independent or managed investigation is set out in these bulletins.

The bulletins are available on the IOPC website:

<https://policeconduct.gov.uk/research-and-learning/statistics/complaints-statistics/your-local-police-force>.

I hope you find this information helpful, but please do contact me if I can be of further assistance. I have copied this letter to the Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service in order that he can place a copy in the House library.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Lockwood', written in a cursive style.

Michael Lockwood
Director General
Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC)

cc. Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service