

STATES OF JERSEY



JERSEY POLICE COMPLAINTS AUTHORITY: REPORT FOR 2002

Presented to the States on 29th April 2003
by the Home Affairs Committee

STATES GREFFE

REPORT

The Authority is pleased to submit this, its second annual report, covering the year 2002.

As members will recall, the Authority acts under the Police (Complaints and Discipline) (Jersey) Law 1999, and as an independent body its responsibilities are to oversee, monitor and supervise certain complaints made against members of the States of Jersey Police and members of the Honorary Police.

During this year the Authority leased office premises at 5/7 Great Union Road, and from September 2002 this address had become our administrative headquarters. Mrs. Judith Smith was appointed Secretary to the Authority and took up her duties in September.

The number of investigations of complaints supervised by the Authority during 2002 amounted to 21 and the table below analyses the main reasons for the complaint as given by the complainant –

Excessive force used by the police	10
Use of CS spray	3
Harassment and threatening manner	5
Other	3

It will be appreciated that, having made a complaint, a complainant from time to time changes his or her mind and withdraws that complaint.

Of the total number of complaints for which the Authority agreed to supervise the investigation, the following analysis details the outcome –

Complaint withdrawn	12
Complaint considered vexatious or incapable of investigation	4
Complaint unsubstantiated	3
Complaint substantiated	1
Investigation still continuing	1

The Authority can report that during its second year of operation its own supervision procedures continue to work adequately and it can confirm that all the investigations carried out by the police under its supervision have been carried out satisfactorily.

The Authority particularly wishes to express its appreciation of the staff in the Professional Standards Department of the States of Jersey Police. Their co-operation has been unfailingly professional.

It should be noted that, although media reports indicate apparent significant crime and disturbance in the Island from time to time, the number of complaints against the Police made by members of the public and coming to the attention of the Authority is comparatively small. It is also pleasing to note that the majority of these complaints are withdrawn by the complainant and only one complaint during the year was substantiated.

March 2003