



# Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998

## 1998 CHAPTER 32

### PART VII

#### POLICE COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

#### 50 Interpretation of this Part.

(1) In this Part—

“the appropriate disciplinary authority” means—

- (a) in relation to a senior officer, the [<sup>F1</sup>Board]; and
- (b) in relation to any other member of the police force, the Chief Constable;  
“complaint” shall be construed in accordance with section 52(8);  
“complainant” means the person by, or on behalf of whom, a complaint is made;

[<sup>F2</sup> “ the Director ” means the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland; ]

“disciplinary proceedings” means—

- (a) in relation to a member of the [<sup>F3</sup>Police Service of Northern Ireland], proceedings identified as such by regulations under section 25;
- (b) in relation to a reserve constable, proceedings identified as such by regulations under section 26;

“officer of the Ombudsman” means—

- (a) a person employed by the Ombudsman under paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 3;
- (b) a person providing assistance to the Ombudsman in pursuance of arrangements made under paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 3;
- (c) a member of the police force on temporary service with the Ombudsman in accordance with arrangements under paragraph 5 of Schedule 3;
- (d) a member of the police force providing assistance to the Ombudsman under paragraph 6 of Schedule 3;
- (e) a member of a police force in Great Britain on temporary service with the Ombudsman in accordance with arrangements under paragraph 8 of Schedule 3;

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**Changes to legislation:** *Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, Section 50 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

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“the Ombudsman” means the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland;  
“police officer” means a member of—

- (a) the police force; or
  - (b) a police force in Great Britain;
- “prescribed” means prescribed by regulations under section 64;  
“serious complaint” means a complaint—
- (a) alleging that the conduct complained of resulted in the death of, or serious injury to, some person; or
  - (b) of such other description as may be prescribed;
- “serious injury” means a fracture, damage to an internal organ or impairment of bodily function.

- (2) Where a complaint is made orally, references in this Part to a complaint being referred to a body or person shall be read as references to particulars of the complaint being so referred.

#### **Textual Amendments**

- F1** Words in s. 50 substituted (4.11.2001) by 2000 c. 32, s. 78(1), **Sch. 6 para. 23(5)(a)**; S.R. 2001/396, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F2** Definition in s. 50(1) inserted (13.6.2005) by Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 (c. 26), **ss. 34(2)**, 87(1); S.R. 2005/281, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1 para. 5**
- F3** Words in s. 50(1) substituted (4.11.2001) by 2000 c. 32, s. 78(1), **Sch. 6 para. 23(5)(b)**; S.R. 2001/396, art. 2, **Sch.**

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 50A inserted by [2023 c. 41 s. 45\(1\)](#)
- s. 60ZD inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 13 para. 3](#)
- s. 66(3A) modified by 2003 c. 6 s. 30(11) (as added) by [S.I. 2007/912 \(N.I.\) Sch. 4 para. 4](#)