



# Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998

## 1998 CHAPTER 32

### PART VII

#### POLICE COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

#### **53 Complaints – informal resolution**

- (1) The Ombudsman shall consider whether the complaint is suitable for informal resolution and may for that purpose make such investigations as he thinks fit.
- (2) A complaint is not suitable for informal resolution unless—
  - (a) the complainant gives his consent; and
  - (b) it is not a serious complaint.
- (3) If it appears to the Ombudsman that the complaint is suitable for informal resolution, he shall refer the complaint to the appropriate disciplinary authority.
- (4) Where a complaint is referred under subsection (3), the appropriate disciplinary authority shall seek to resolve it informally and may appoint a member of the police force to do so on behalf of the authority.
- (5) The Chief Constable shall, at the request of the Police Authority, provide a member of the police force to be appointed by the Police Authority under subsection (4).
- (6) If, after attempts have been made to resolve a complaint informally, it appears to the appropriate disciplinary authority—
  - (a) that informal resolution of the complaint is impossible; or
  - (b) that the complaint is for any other reason not suitable for informal resolution,the appropriate disciplinary authority shall notify the Ombudsman accordingly and refer the complaint to him.
- (7) Subject to subsection (8), no statement made by any person for the purpose of the informal resolution of a complaint shall be admissible in any subsequent criminal, civil or disciplinary proceedings.

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- (8) A statement is not rendered inadmissible by subsection (7) if it consists of or includes an admission relating to a matter which does not fall to be resolved informally.