

FOI Disclosures May 2022

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This month we have responded to questions relating to the following topics:

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- [Recommendations made to MPS](#)
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If you require a full copy of any of the embedded attachments, please contact Requestinfo@policeconduct.gov.uk quoting the reference number from the relevant response.

<u>Ref</u> <u>5023430</u> Back to top	<u>Whistleblower protected disclosures</u>
<u>Request</u>	<i>Can I please have a copy for of the policy that outlines the “Robust Mechanisms” you have in place for Whistleblower Protected Disclosures?</i>
<u>Response</u>	<p>There is no IOPC policy relating to whistleblowing. The IOPC is a prescribed person for the purposes of public interest disclosures that qualify for protection under the Employment Rights Act 1996 (ERA). The Public Interest Disclosure (Prescribed Persons) Order 2014 designates the IPCC (and by extension, now the IOPC) as a prescribed person for “Matters relating to the conduct of a person serving with the police (as defined in section 12(7) of the Police Reform Act 2002) (i) or of any other person in relation to whose conduct the Independent Police Complaints Commission exercises functions in or under any legislation.”</p> <p>In accordance with our functions as a prescribed person, our Report Line exists for police officers and staff to report concerns of wrongdoing that a criminal offence has been committed, or where there is evidence of conduct that would justify disciplinary proceedings. Information about the report line is available here on our web site.</p> <p>A copy of our internal guidance on the report line is below.</p>

Reportline

Frequently asked questions

What is Reportline?

A: The IOPC Report Line has been set up specifically as a whistle blowing line to enable police officers or members of police staff to report concerns of wrongdoing or malpractice arising within the workplace. These reports may reveal that a criminal offence has been committed or where there is evidence of misconduct that would justify the bringing of disciplinary proceedings.

What is "Whistle Blowing?"

A: When someone blows the whistle, they are raising a concern about danger or illegality that affects others (e.g. members of the public, other employees or staff). The person blowing the whistle does not need to be directly, personally affected by the wrongdoing, a danger or illegality. A whistle-blower is simply trying to alert others and does not necessarily have a personal interest in the outcome of any investigation into their concerns. The whistle-blower must reasonably believe that the information they give or the allegation they make is substantially true, but they are not required to prove the wrongdoing in order for their disclosure to be legally protected. He or she is a messenger raising a concern so that others can address it.

Do Whistle-blowers have legal protection?

A: Almost all workers in the UK are protected by the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 (PIDA) including police officers and police staff. PIDA provides workers in the UK with a safe alternative to silence. It enables workers to raise concerns about wrongdoing responsibly. PIDA protects you if you raise a concern about wrongdoing internally to ensure that if a concern is raised it can be addressed and any wrongdoing corrected.

When an officer 'blows the whistle' about another officer they can do so to the IOPC who is a 'prescribed body' (under the provision of the Employment Rights Act 1996). The IOPC will make a record of the details provided which may be used by the officer or staff member under PIDA, should the matter go to an employment tribunal. The recording of these details does not necessarily mean the IOPC will investigate the complaint.

What is the difference between a complaint and whistle blowing?

A: Whistle blowing is when you raise a concern about something happening within the force which you feel is wrong. Public interest disclosure protections apply when a person raises concerns about:

- Potential criminality
- Failures to comply with legal obligations
- Miscarriages of justice
- Dangers to the health and safety of any person
- Environmental damage
- Attempts to cover up any of the above

If you are blowing the whistle you don't need to have a personal interest or be directly affected by the issue. You may simply be a messenger raising a concern.

If you have personally been poorly treated, you may want to make a complaint. This poor treatment could involve a breach of your employment rights or bullying for which you are wanting redress. Police personnel can only make complaints under the PRA in limited circumstances.

The Police have their own grievance and complaints procedure for personnel related complaints such as promotions, pensions, allocation of work, working hours or discipline. These complaints should be submitted to the force directly using their own grievance procedures with guidance from a Federation or Union representative. The IOPC does not have remit or oversight over these issues.

How will information disclosed via the Report Line be used?

A: All contact made to the IOPC Reportline will be recorded, and details added to our register as per our obligation under PIDA, for whistle blowing. If you telephone our Reportline you will be asked to put reports of wrongdoing in writing. Reasonable adjustments can be made in line with Equality Act 2010 where necessary if a complaint cannot be put into writing.

All information passed to us on the whistle blowing line (Reportline) anonymously or in writing will be assessed by the Reportline team and the IOPC intelligence unit where appropriate.

If it is decided that the information should be forwarded to the police force concerned we will only do so with your written consent if you have provided us with your details, unless in exceptional circumstances it is necessary to share information in the public interest. These details will also be logged on our register for the purpose of PIDA.

Are serving police officers allowed to make a "complaint" under the Police Reform Act 2002?

A: Police officers or members of police staff, may only be able to make a complaint under the Police Reform Act 2002 if:

- they were off duty at the time of the alleged incident took place, or
- if the complaint is against a person who at the time the alleged incident took place was under the direction and control of a different Chief Officer,
- they are expressing dissatisfaction with a police force other than the force they are serving with.

When can a police officer/staff member make a complaint under the Police Reform Act 2002?

A. If an officer works for one police force and their complaint relates to the conduct of an officer of a different police force who works under the direction of a different Chief Constable or if the conduct complained of occurred whilst they were off duty, they could make a complaint under the Police Reform Act and would have the same rights as a member of the public under the PRA. If the complaint does not relate to conduct, they can be a complainant if they are expressing dissatisfaction about a different force, not the one they serve with.

Can police officers or members of police staff make a complaint against the police force they work for?

	<p>A: Police officers and police staff can make allegations of wrongdoing but will not have the same rights under the PRA as someone who meets the criteria to be a complainant. Where reports made to Report Line contain allegations of criminality or breaches of the Standards of Professional Behaviour, they may result in an investigation. When serious concerns of wrongdoing are raised through Report Line, the Report Line team will consult with the IOPC intelligence unit on the next steps that should be taken.</p> <p>Complaints about employment or personnel matters must be dealt with directly through the internal procedures of the force the officer or member of staff are employed by. Police officers/members of police staff should consult with line managers, HR department or seek advice from Police Federation or Union Representatives in relation to these matters. The IOPC does not have any jurisdiction over employment or personnel complaints.</p> <p>All reports are considered in line with our duties under the Prescribed Persons Order 2014 <u>and</u> our functions under the police complaints legislation, according to which matters appearing to be complaints, conduct or Death or Serious Injury matters must normally be referred to the Appropriate Authority for a decision on recording.</p> <p>Police officers and members of police staff can also whistleblow through their police force, who will have their own confidential reporting mechanisms. Chapter 3 of the Home Office Guidance on Conduct Efficiency and Effectiveness sets out how police officers can raise concerns. The Guidance is clear that any conduct matter raised by a police officer is a protected disclosure for the purposes of PIDA.</p>
<p>Ref 5023418 Back to top</p>	<p><u>Investigations involving TASER use</u></p>
<p><u>Request</u></p>	<p><i>Between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2021:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>How many incidents of taser use did the IOPC investigate?</i> b) <i>In how many of these incidents was the police use of a taser a factor in the person's subsequent death?</i> c) <i>In how many of these incidents did the IOPC raise concerns about the behavior of officers who used tasers? In how many did it recommend disciplinary proceedings or a referral to the CPS?</i> d) <i>In how many of these incidents did you identify "potential missed opportunities to de-escalate the situation"?</i> e) <i>In each incident, how many times was a taser used? Did the IOPC identify any concerns around prolonged or multiple taser charges?</i> f) <i>Please provide an annual breakdown and the age, ethnicity and sex of each defendant in answer to each question.</i>
<p><u>Response</u></p>	<p>As you are aware, our Review of IOPC cases involving the use of Taser 2015-20 contains data and analysis relating to 101 independent IOPC investigations that involved Taser use over a five-year period. You may also be aware that our review answers parts a to e of your request in regard to these 101 investigations.</p> <p>Based on the work we carried out when producing the data for our review report we know that finding the same data for other investigations from the remaining 5 years would involve several days of manual searching with the result that we would not be obliged to carry out this work under FOIA.</p> <p>We have considered whether to provide on a voluntary basis the data you require as to characteristics of each person involved in the taser incidents that were considered under our review. We have concluded that this combination of data</p>

would when combined with other data that may be accessible from a range of sources, would be reasonably likely to result in the disclosure of personal information in breach of UK GDPR. This would include Special Category Data relating to ethnicity that we would be prohibited from releasing under your request.

In addition to our recent Review report, the following sources would appear to us to be relevant to your request:

- IPCC review of Taser complaints and incidents 2004 – 2013 (2014; [use of force review of taser complaints and incidents.pdf \(policeconduct.gov.uk\)](#)).
- Police use of force: evidence from complaints, investigations and public perception (2016; [Police use of force: evidence from complaints, investigations and public perception \(policeconduct.gov.uk\)](#)). This includes an analysis of IPCC investigations relating to use of force (including Taser) between 2009/10 and 2013/14.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) (and previously the Independent Police Complaints Commission) is responsible for producing annual national statistics on deaths during or following police contact in England and Wales. In 2011/12, we started routinely recording data relating to the use of Taser stun guns by the police as part of this report, and this data has been used to provide a response to part b of your request. The figures provided are therefore a subset of the statistics compiled on deaths during or following police contact, as opposed from being derived from figures on the total number of IOPC independent investigations involving Taser as requested at part a.

The timeframe looked at for part b of your request is deaths that occurred between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2021. We have not considered more recent deaths because the reporting of deaths within this category will be included in our 2021/22 report '*Deaths during or following police contact: Statistics for England and Wales 2021/22*'. These cases are still in the process of being verified and checked.

The statistics include deaths that have occurred across a number of circumstances that are grouped into five categories. Circumstances that can include Taser do not include deaths falling into the 'Road Traffic Incidents' category. Therefore, none of the cases within this category will have the Taser variable selected.

For the purposes of this data, use of Taser does not include situations where a Taser was drawn but not discharged. Stating that a case involved Taser does not mean that the Taser was considered to be a contributory factor to the cause of death. Whether or not the police use of a Taser was a factor in the person's subsequent death is a matter to be determined formally at an inquest.

Between 2011/12 and 2020/21 there were **22** deaths during or following police contact that involved the use of Taser and which were subject to independent investigation. The breakdown of these deaths by financial year is in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Financial year	Number of deaths
2011/12	2
2012/13	1
2013/14	2
2014/15	3
2015/16	1
2016/17	8
2017/18	2
2018/19	0
2019/20	2
2020/21	1
Total	22

The demographic breakdown of the **22** deaths during or following police contact between 2011/12 and 2020/21 that involved the use of Taser and which were subject to independent investigation is as follows:

- All **22** individuals were male
- **14** individuals were White, **7** were Black and **1** was Asian
- **Six** were aged between 21 and 30 years, **8** were aged between 31 and 40 years, **7** were aged between 41 and 50 years and **one** person was aged between 51 and 60 years old.

Based on the work involved in producing the data for annual report on deaths during or following contact we know that providing data under parts c-e of your request for these 22 deaths would involve several days of manual searching with the result that we would not be obliged to carry out this work under FOIA.

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5023464

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Allegations of sexual misconduct

Request

- 1) *Please could you share with me data on the number of complaint cases from 2017/18 to 2020/21 (inclusive) that included at least one allegation of 'other sexual conduct' or 'sexual assault' (and for the year 2020/21, 'other sexual conduct', 'sexual assault', or 'sexual harassment'), broken down by police force.*

Response

Number of complaint cases from 2017/18 to 2020/21 (inclusive) that included at least one allegation of a sexual nature
2017/18 to 2019/20 - Categories of sexual assault and other sexual conduct
2020/21 - The above categories and sexual harassment

Appropriate authority	Complaint cases logged and including at least one allegation of a sexual nature			
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Avon And Somerset	4	4	4	9
Bedfordshire	0	1	1	0
British Transport	1	5	2	2
Cambridgeshire	2	4	1	2
Cheshire	1	2	0	1
City of London	0	0	0	2
Cleveland	6	1	2	0
Cumbria	1	3	3	1
Derbyshire	0	2	4	2
Devon And Cornwall	8	3	2	2
Dorset	0	1	2	1
Durham	1	2	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	5	3	2	0
Essex	6	3	5	6
Gloucestershire	0	1	2	2
Greater Manchester Police	13	15	19	16
Gwent	2	1	0	1
Hampshire	3	8	7	8
Hertfordshire	4	9	3	4
Humberside	4	4	2	1
Kent	2	3	4	2
Lancashire	7	3	1	6
Leicestershire	4	1	1	5

Notes:

An allegation can be made at any time during an active complaint case. The allegations relevant to the complaint may have been made outside of this period.

2019/20 data includes only complaints made up to and including 31 January 2020 due to a change in legislation.

As the first period of reporting under a new legislative regime,

Lincolnshire	3	3	2	0
Merseyside	3	5	0	2
Metropolitan	36	30	29	31
Norfolk	1	2	2	1
North Wales	4	0	2	3
North Yorkshire	0	0	2	0
Northamptonshire	3	1	0	1
Northumbria	2	3	3	16
Nottinghamshire	7	3	2	2
South Wales	5	4	6	9
South Yorkshire	1	1	0	2
Staffordshire	4	6	2	2
Suffolk	5	3	4	1
Surrey	2	4	2	3
Sussex	5	8	3	6
Thames Valley	3	9	6	3
Warwickshire	3	5	2	0
West Mercia	4	5	3	1
West Midlands	4	7	1	10
West Yorkshire	5	4	5	16
Wiltshire	3	3	2	1
Grand Total	177	185	145	183

Ref
5023455

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Training in autism and other learning difficulties

Request

1a. How many staff (including officers & PCSOs, detectives and civilian staff) have undertaken training in relation to Autism, Autism-Spectrum conditions and learning disabilities/difficulties? (Please breakdown the number by rank.)

1b. Is the training mandatory?

	<p>2a. Referring to those mentioned in Q1a, has anyone refused to undertake or not undertaken this training? (Please breakdown the number into the two categories by rank.)</p> <p>2b. If so, is any disciplinary action taken against staff?</p> <p>3a. How often is training supposed to be undertaken by staff?</p> <p>3b. Are these guidelines followed?</p> <p>4. What does the training entail?</p>																								
<p><u>Response</u></p>	<p>1a There is no course on this specific subject matter and therefore we do not hold the information you have requested. However learning about Autism and Autism Spectrum is covered in three IOPC e-learning courses. These are listed below together with the course summary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neurodiversity - Language and communications • Neurodiversity at the IOPC: In this module you'll find out about the benefits of a neurodiverse workplace, listen to the lived experiences of neurodivergent colleagues at the IOPC and reflect on your understanding of 'disability' and 'difference'. The module will help build awareness • Neurotypes: This module describes some of the more common neurotypes along with the assumptions and challenges they face in day-to-day society and the workplace. The module will also highlight the benefits of different neurotypes in the workplace. <p>There are also ad-hoc awareness events and communications covering these topics. These are hosted by our staff networks. Numbers of employees who have taken these courses:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="416 1393 1434 1955"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="background-color: #FFD700;">Neurodiversity at the IOPC – launched June 21</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Completed</td> <td>72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td> <td>32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>104</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="background-color: #00B0F0;">Neurotypes – launched June 21</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Completed</td> <td>72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>92</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="background-color: #90EE90;">Neurodiversity – Language & Communication – launched July 21</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Completed</td> <td>67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>85</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Neurodiversity at the IOPC – launched June 21		Completed	72	In Progress	32	Total	104	Neurotypes – launched June 21		Completed	72	In Progress	20	Total	92	Neurodiversity – Language & Communication – launched July 21		Completed	67	In Progress	18	Total	85
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	<p>Please note that IOPC is not a police force and we do not employ police officers or use a system based on police ranks.</p> <p>1b_The training listed above is not mandatory.</p> <p><i>2a. Referring to those mentioned in Q1a, has anyone refused to undertake or not undertaken this training? (Please breakdown the number into the two categories by rank.)</i> Not applicable – see response to question 1b.</p> <p><i>2b. If so, is any disciplinary action taken against staff?</i> Not applicable - see response to question 1b.</p> <p><i>3a. How often is training supposed to be undertaken by staff?</i> Not applicable as the training described above is self-directed learning product.</p> <p><i>3b. Are these guidelines followed?</i> Not applicable - see response to question 3a</p> <p><i>4. What does the training entail?</i> See summary above at point 1a</p>
<p><u>Ref</u> <u>5023509</u> Back to top</p>	<p><u>Recommendations made to MPS</u></p>
<p><u>Request</u></p>	<p><i>Please provide the following information, specifically regarding the Metropolitan Police, specifically for data recorded under the new system that came into effect from 1 February 2020 up until March 2022:</i></p> <p><i>1.The number of recommendations, and the type of recommendation, following appeal, each year.</i></p> <p><i>2.If it is retrievable, please break this down by whether they were in MO or SO, as the request has now been heavily refined to include significantly less data to go through.</i></p>
<p><u>Response</u></p>	<p>As you may be aware, changes introduced by the Policing and Crime Act 2017 replaced the former right of appeal with a new right of review, which applies to complaints made on or after 1 February 2020. The right of appeal applies to complaints made before 1 February 2020.</p> <p>Depending on the circumstances of the complaint the application for review will be considered either by the local policing body or the IOPC. The right of review applies to the outcome of complaints that have been investigated (investigation reviews) and to complaints dealt with other than by investigation (other handling reviews). Different outcomes are available to the relevant review body according to the type of review.</p> <p>For further information about the right of review please see Chapter 18 of our Statutory Guidance.</p> <p>Applications for review against the MPS completed by the IOPC</p>

· Between 1 February 2020 and 31 March 2022, the IOPC completed 358 applications for review against the MPS (214 investigation reviews and 144 other handling reviews).

· 35% (126) were upheld (81 investigation reviews and 45 other handling).

Recommendations

· The IOPC has access to a range of recommendation powers that enable us to make recommendations to different organisations falling under our jurisdiction or other organisations working nationally, both within and outside of policing.

· If the IOPC finds that the outcome of the complaint is not reasonable and proportionate it may make certain recommendations, depending on whether the complaint has been investigated or handled other than by investigation (see IOPC Statutory Guidance chapter 18, para.18.41, page 142).

· Of the 126 MPS reviews upheld between 1 February 2020 and 31 March 2022, we made recommendations on five under paragraph 25(4C), Schedule 3, Police Reform Act 2002 . All five were reviews of complaints that had been investigated by the MPS. · Under paragraph 25(4C), Schedule 3, Police Reform Act 2002 the IOPC can make a recommendation (and, if necessary, a direction) to the appropriate authority in respect of any person serving with the police:

- that the person has a case to answer in respect of misconduct or gross misconduct, or has no case to answer in relation to the person's conduct to which the investigation related

- that the person's performance is, or is not, satisfactory

- that disciplinary proceedings of the form specified in the recommendation are brought against the person in respect of the person's conduct, efficiency or effectiveness to which the investigation related

- that any disciplinary proceedings brought against that person are modified so as to deal with such aspects of that conduct, efficiency or effectiveness as may be so specified. · The IOPC made recommendations under paragraph 28ZA, Schedule 3, Police Reform Act 2002 (recommendation with a view to remedying the dissatisfaction of a complainant) on a further 18 reviews (14 investigation and 4 other handling).

· Further information about recommendations with a view to remedying the dissatisfaction of a complainant is available at paragraphs 17.15 – 17.20 on pages 115-116 of our Statutory Guidance)

Notes about data used

· This information is taken from data recorded in our case management system as at 22 Apr 2022. It is based on MPS reviews completed in the period 1 Feb 2020 to 31 Mar 2022.

· Multiple recommendations can be made on a single review.

	<p>· The data does not include paragraph 28A or PRA section 10 learning recommendations.</p> <p>2. We have searched the five cases on which the IOPC made recommendations under paragraph 24(4C) and have not found any confirmation of the operational branch or division to which any of these subject officers was posted at the relevant time. This</p> <p>includes searches of MPS reports, officer statements and misconduct notices where these documents were available on the file.</p> <p>While we are unable to provide a definite answer to this request from the information on these five cases, we have found no suggestion that officers from any Specialist Operations (SO) directorates were involved in these matters. Based on the nature of the incidents these appear to us to be officers engaged in routine operational work, including community policing and response duties.</p> <p>If we were to continue our searches, therefore, we would be unlikely to be able to confirm the division or branch for each officer in all but a small minority of cases, if any, and it is probable that these would not include officers from a 'SO' directorate. Taking into account the time that it has taken us to search these five cases and the time we have committed to extracting the data required under part 1 we would be very likely to apply the FOIA cost limit to the task of carrying out similar searches.</p>
<p>Ref 5023515 Back to top</p>	<p><u>Costs incurred by Operation Amherst</u></p>
<p><u>Request</u></p>	<p><i>Please provide, in terms of costs incurred by the IOPC and IPCC in responding to and dealing with Police Scotland and the MPS in the Operation Amherst Investigation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>A total sum of costs incurred;</i> b) <i>A breakdown in terms of costs spent each year;</i> c) <i>A breakdown of who met these costs, and if more than one individual/organization, the amount each incurred.</i> <p><i>Please include any legal costs paid in respect of advising and assisting members of staff in your calculations.</i></p>
<p><u>Response</u></p>	<p>We can confirm that we hold information relevant to your request. However, the information we hold on the costs incurred, and relevant to requests a) and b), cannot be separated from other information which is not relevant to your request. We confirm that we do not hold the specific information you have requested in respect of requests a) and b) and we cannot provide it to you.</p> <p>In relation to request c), we can confirm that all costs incurred by the IOPC and IPCC in responding to and dealing with Police Scotland and the MPS in the Operation Amherst Investigation were met by the IOPC. For the reasons provided above, for requests a) and b), we are unable to provide you with a breakdown of those costs.</p>

The final part of your request is that requests a), b) and c) should, "...include any legal costs paid in respect of advising and assisting members of staff..." We can confirm that we do hold information in relation to those legal costs. However, you have requested that the legal costs are factored in to our responses to a), b) and c). As we have explained above, we are unable to provide the information on costs you have requested so it is not possible to factor in the specific legal costs you have requested.

However, and for the sake of completeness, our view is that if your request related solely to those legal costs we would not provide them. We consider that the information is exempt by virtue of section 40(2) of the FOIA.

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5023532

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Complaints involving racial discrimination

Request

In the period 2016-2021 and addressing each year in turn:

1. How many complaints did the IPCC/IOPC receive about MPS officers or members of MPS staff involving allegations of racial discrimination?

2. Of these complaints [qu1 above] received by the IPCC/IOPC, how many:

- a. Were the subject of a managed investigation?*
- b. Were the subject of a supervised investigation?*
- c. Were independently investigated by the IPCC/IOPC?*
- d. Were dealt with in some other way?*

3. For those complaints that fall into the category 'were dealt with in some other way' [i.e., 2d above], please confirm what that 'some other way' was by category and how many resulted in:

- a. A prosecution?*
- b. A dismissal?*
- c. Some lesser sanction?*
- d. No further action?*

4. Of the complaints identified at qu 2 above and which were the subject of a managed investigation, how many of these investigations resulted in:

- a. A prosecution?*
- b. A dismissal?*
- c. Some lesser sanction?*
- d. No further action?*

5. Of the complaints identified at qu2 above and which were the subject of a supervised investigation, how many of these investigations resulted in:

- a. A prosecution?*
- b. A dismissal?*

	<p><i>c. Some lesser sanction?</i> <i>d. No further action?</i></p> <p><i>6. Of the complaints identified at qu2 above and which were the subject of an independent investigation, how many of these investigations resulted in:</i></p> <p><i>a. A prosecution?</i> <i>b. A dismissal?</i> <i>c. Some lesser sanction?</i> <i>d. No further action?</i></p>
<p><u>Response</u></p>	<p>You have asked about complaints received by the IOPC about racial discrimination. You may not be aware that the majority of police complaint and misconduct cases are dealt with by police forces without any IOPC involvement. Most complaints are made directly to police forces and any complaints we receive from members of the public are passed to the police force for a decision on recording, as required by the legislation. We do not extract data about the subject matter of these 'direct' complaints before passing them on meaning that we cannot provide data about the types of complaints received by the IOPC.</p> <p>Forces are required to refer certain incidents to the IOPC regardless of whether there has been a complaint. These referrals originate from one of three possible sources: a complaint, a death or serious injury (DSI) or a recordable conduct matter (RCM). On receipt of valid referral the IOPC must determine whether or not the matter should be investigated and, if so, the mode of investigation.</p> <p>We do not routinely extract data about the nature of any complaints that may have been made at the time when a complaint matter is first referred to the IOPC, or about any allegations, concerns or types of misconduct that may be identified during the course of an investigation. We have not carried out any targeted research involving the extraction of data that would assist with your request. This means that we would have to carry out manual searches of the many hundreds of files from this 5 year period to identify the cases in which an allegation of racial discrimination may be present.</p> <p>As the time that it would take to complete these searches would exceed the 18 hour cost limit by a very significant margin, our FOIA disclosure duties would not apply to your request if it was interpreted as relating only to allegations received by way of a referral. Given the high numbers of referrals we received from MPS we estimate a search of the relevant files created in a single year would exceed the cost limit.</p> <p>A search of cases received in a much shorter period could probably be completed within the cost limit but would be very unlikely to produce any significant data, especially in regard to seemingly relevant cases that were investigated <i>and</i> led to outcomes that could clearly be linked back to allegations that were received or identified when the case was in its earlier stages. Our experience of carrying out this type of search suggests that in</p>

many cases it may not be straightforward to draw a definitive link between a specific allegation and any criminal or misconduct charge. We would therefore have to carry out a properly resourced research project to produce the type of data you require.

You may be aware that we publish information about the [outcomes of our independent investigations](#) on our web site. This does not include information about managed or supervised investigations or about the allegations that may have preceded the criminal or misconduct outcomes on which we report.