



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Please note the text of this request has been reproduced exactly as received.

FOI Reference number: FOI 77/2024

Date: 13 September 2024

Request:

1. What steps do you take to ensure that the Human Rights Act is upheld?

Answer:

1. Over the last five years the following specific reports have been produced by the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Board's Human Rights Advisor;
 - Policing response to COVID19
 - Spit and Bite Guards
 - Use of force
 - Human Rights of Police officers
 - Professional standards (not restricted to human rights)
 - Privacy and policing
 - Strip search of Children and Young People in Custody

In addition, there were three Annual Reports 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and a Five-Year Review were published, the last of which incorporates an extended annual report for the period from April 2022 to March 24.

The Human Rights Advisor consulted with representatives, a range of staff association groups and individuals within the PSNI. These included:

- The Police Federation for Northern Ireland (PFNI);
- The Police Officer Disability Network;
- The Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA);
- The Christian Police Association;
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT)+ Staff Association;
- The Women's Police Association;
- The Ethnic Minority Police Association;

- The Catholic Guild of Police Officers;
- Children's Youth, Support and Charities;
- JSA Independent reviewer.

The following areas were examined:

- The Right to Life/Protection from Harm;
- Prohibition of Ill-Treatment;
- Right to Fair Trial, Due Process/Minimise Delay;
- The Right to Privacy;
- Freedom of Expression/Association; and
- Freedom from Discrimination.

Published reports have resulted in a total of 119 recommendations made over the last five years in the Board's Human Rights reports, the Human Rights Advisor has assessed that 24 recommendations have been accepted and implemented by the PSNI. 12 recommendations have been superseded and 71 are currently work in progress. 8 recommendations have been rejected by PSNI and 4 are for other government bodies.

The Board and Advisor continue to monitor the implementation of these recommendations.

Please find links below to the reports published by the Board and Human Rights Advisor;

July 2024 - [Human Rights 5 Year Review - Final.pdf \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](https://nipolicingboard.org.uk)

July 2023 - [Human Rights Review of Privacy and Policing \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](https://nipolicingboard.org.uk)

June 2023 - [Human Rights Review | Children and Young People: Strip Searching in Police Custody \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](https://nipolicingboard.org.uk)

January 2023 - [Human Rights Review of PSNI's Use Of Force \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](https://nipolicingboard.org.uk)

January 2023 - [Human Rights Annual Report 2021/22 \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](https://nipolicingboard.org.uk)

December 2022 - [Review of the Human Rights of Police Officers and Staff \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](https://nipolicingboard.org.uk)

February 2022 - [A Review of PSNI's Use of Spit and Bite Guards by the NI Policing Board's Human Rights Advisor](https://nipolicingboard.org.uk)

December 2021 - [Human Rights Annual Report 2020/21 \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](https://nipolicingboard.org.uk)

September 2021 - [Human Rights Monitoring Framework \(nipolicingboard.org.uk\)](https://nipolicingboard.org.uk)

November 2020 - [report-on-the-thematic-review-of-the-policing-responser-to-covid-19.PDF](#)
(nipolicingboard.org.uk)

October 2020 - [human-rights-annual-report-2019-2020.pdf](#) (nipolicingboard.org.uk)

October 2019 - [Human Rights Assurance Report \(September 17 - August 19\) | Northern Ireland Policing Board](#) (nipolicingboard.org.uk)

2. What steps do you take to ensure that the Belfast Agreement is adhered to?

Answer:

Stemming from the 1998 Belfast Agreement, a programme of policing reform was progressed to ensure that the police service in Northern Ireland was professional, effective, efficient, fair and impartial, free from partisan control, accountable both under the law for its actions and to the community it serves, representative of the society it polices and operates within a coherent and co-operative criminal justice system that complies with human rights standards.

Legislation was enacted to give effect to the reform programme on 4 November 2001 with the establishment of the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

The Board's statutory duties are contained in the Police NI 2000 and reports are regularly published on how the Board discharges its legislative duties.

If you have queries about this request or the decision, please contact the Board quoting the reference number above. If you are unhappy with the service you have received and wish to make a complaint or request a review you should contact the Board's Chief Executive -

Via Email: foi@nipolicingboard.org.uk

Or in writing at the following address:

Northern Ireland Policing Board
James House
Block D
2 – 4 Cromac Avenue
The Gasworks
Belfast
BT7 2JA

You should contact the Board within 40 working days of this response.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot investigate or make a decision on a case unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Board. You should make complaints to the ICO within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at the following web link –

www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

or in writing at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Telephone: - 0303 1231114

Email: - ni@ico.org.uk

Please be advised that Policing Board replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.nipolicingboard.org.uk.

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.