

What people with a learning disability think about the Police in Northern Ireland



Easy read

About us



We are called

- the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland
- the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

About this report



We wanted to know what people with a learning disability think about

- the Police in Northern Ireland
- other groups to do with the Police.



This is because all Police groups want to do the right things for people with a learning disability.



We asked lots of people with a learning disability what they thought of the Police.



Now you can find out what people said.

What we found out



Most people we asked know about the Police.



But not many people know about us or the other groups to do with the Police.

So we just asked people about the Police.

What people with a learning disability know about the Police



Most people we asked know who the Police are.



Many people know they can phone 999 to get the Police.



Not everyone knows that 999 is only for when you need the Police very quickly.



Most people said they would go to the Police if they were in trouble.



Not many people know what to do if they have a problem with the Police.

They do not know you can make a complaint about the Police.

What people think about the Police



Most people think good things about the Police.

For example, they think the Police help people and keep them safe.



Some people think bad things about the Police.



Some people are scared of the Police.



Some people think the Police should know more about learning disability.

Telling the Police about a crime



Many people went to the Police because someone hurt them or treated them badly.



But people with a learning disability may not tell the Police if something like this happens to them.

People may not tell Police because



- they do not know that a crime has happened to them
- they do not know it is wrong for someone to treat them like that.

What people think about the Police



Most people say the Police have been good to them.



This is good. But we know things could be better.



How many people with a learning disability are in touch with the Police

There is no good information about this.

People having their say



There are not many chances for people with a learning disability to have their say about the Police.

What should happen next

We think these things should happen next



Helping more people know about the Police.

Helping more people know



- when to use 999 to call the Police
- what to do if they are not happy with the Police
- what other Police groups do.



Helping more people feel OK about the Police.

These things should also happen next

Making it easier for people to

- know when a crime has happened to them
- keep safe
- tell the Police if bad things happen to them.



Training for staff to help them know more about learning disability and how to support people.



Groups in local areas working together more to support people with a learning disability.



These things should also happen next



Information with easy words and pictures for people who want it.



Better information about the number of people with a learning disability in touch with the Police.



Making sure more people with a learning disability can have their say.

What we will do now



We want to work with other groups to make a plan about how to do all these things.