



Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998

1998 CHAPTER 32

PART VII

POLICE COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

[^{F1}50A Complaints relating to conduct forming part of the Troubles

- (1) On and after the day on which section 45 of the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 comes into force, this Part—
 - (a) ceases to apply to a complaint (if made before that day), or
 - (b) does not apply to a complaint (if made on or after that day),insofar as the complaint relates to conduct forming part of the Troubles.
- (2) On and after the day on which section 45 of the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 comes into force, the Chief Constable, the Board, the Director or the Department of Justice is to cease to deal with any complaint referred before that day under section 52(6) insofar as the complaint relates to conduct forming part of the Troubles.
- (3) On and after the day on which section 45 of the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 comes into force, the Ombudsman—
 - (a) is not to begin any formal investigation of a matter, and
 - (b) is to cease any formal investigation of a matter begun before that day,insofar as the matter relates to conduct forming part of the Troubles.
- (4) This section does not prevent the Ombudsman from carrying out a criminal investigation of a Troubles-related offence if—
 - (a) a public prosecution of a person for the offence had been begun before the day on which section 38 of the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 comes into force, and
 - (b) the criminal investigation is carried out for the purposes of that prosecution.
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (4)—
 - (a) “public prosecution” means any prosecution other than a private prosecution;

Changes to legislation: Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, Section 50A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 August 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](#)

(b) a public prosecution of a person for an offence is “begun” when a prosecutor makes the decision to prosecute that person for that offence.

(6) In this section—

“conduct forming part of the Troubles” has the same meaning as in the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 (see section 1 of that Act);

“formal investigation” means an investigation under section 56 (whether resulting from a referral to the Ombudsman, or a decision by the Ombudsman, under section 55).]

Textual Amendments

F1 S. 50A inserted (1.5.2024) by [Northern Ireland Troubles \(Legacy and Reconciliation\) Act 2023 \(c. 41\)](#), [ss. 45\(1\), 63\(3\)](#) (with s. 61)

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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. 66(3A) modified by 2003 c. 6 s. 30(11) (as added) by [S.I. 2007/912 \(N.I.\) Sch. 4 para. 4](#)