



Do you
want to
complain
about the
police?

DEN
UAFHÆNGIGE
POLITIKLAGEMYNDIGHED





Independent Police Complaints Authority



The Police Complaints Authority is independent of both the police and the Prosecution Service.

You can make a complaint about the police to the Police Complaints Authority if you feel the police have acted in a criticisable manner.

For instance, if you think the police

- have spoken rudely or acted inappropriately;
- were too rough when arresting a suspect;
- have abused their powers.

Your complaint may concern an incident involving yourself or an incident where you were a bystander. You may also make a complaint on behalf of somebody else.

If you think that the police have committed an offence in the course of their duties, you can report it to the Police Complaints Authority.

It costs nothing to complain about or report the police.



Who will
deal with
your
complaint?

If your complaint concerns police conduct, the Police Complaints Authority will investigate the complaint and arrive at a decision.


It is therefore up to the Police Complaints Authority to decide whether the complaint should result in criticism of the police.

Decisions made by the Police Complaints Authority on complaints are final and cannot be appealed.

If you want to report the police for a criminal offence, the Police Complaints Authority will also investigate the matter. The police must disclose any material and information requested by the Police Complaints Authority to shed light on the matter.

When the investigation of the matter is completed, the Police Complaints Authority will send the file to the Regional Prosecutor, who determines whether to prosecute the police officer(s) in question.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision of the Regional Prosecutor, for instance, if the Regional Prosecutor finds no basis for prosecuting the police, you may appeal this decision to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The Police Complaints Authority may also appeal the Regional Prosecutor's decision to the Director of Public Prosecutions.





How to
make a
complaint



You can go straight to the Police Complaints Authority with your complaint.

See the address, telephone number, etc., on the Authority's website, www.politiklagemyndigheden.dk. If you make your complaint to the police or the Regional Prosecutor instead, it will promptly be referred to the Police Complaints Authority.

Please note that you have to make your complaint within six months of the relevant incident.

In most cases, a written complaint will provide the best basis for investigating the matter, but you can also complain orally, for instance by telephone. If you choose to complain in writing, you should describe the person(s) you are complaining about and what happened during the incident. You should describe the incident and the persons as accurately as possible and state the names, addresses, etc., of any witnesses, if possible. If you want to, you can contact the Police Complaints Authority for detailed advice before you write your complaint.

You can also report criminal offences committed by the police to the Police Complaints Authority. There is normally no deadline for this, but it is important that offences are reported as soon as possible.



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After you
have made
your
complaint

When the Police Complaints Authority has received your complaint, a copy of it will be forwarded to the police officer you are complaining about. He or she is entitled to comment on your complaint.

If you made your complaint to the police, it may be possible to settle the matter by local resolution. This means that you talk the matter through with a superior police officer to reach a resolution. The outcome of the talk may be an apology for the incident, and the superior officer may reprimand the person complained about. The talk should take place as soon as possible after you have made your complaint. Local resolution is only possible if you agree to it.

If the local resolution process requires a statement from the police officer complained about, no disciplinary action may later be taken against the police officer regarding the matter described in the statement.

If a complaint has been made directly to the Police Complaints Authority, the Authority may send the complaint to the police to try to settle it by local resolution. Also in this case, local resolution is only possible if you agree to it.

If the matter is not settled by local resolution, you may be invited to a meeting with the Police Complaints Authority to add details to your complaint. You are not obliged to attend any meetings with the Police



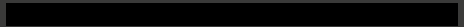
Complaints Authority, and you are not obliged to answer any questions either. You may answer the questions of the Police Complaints Authority by telephone, if you want to. If you do not want to give any information about the incident that you complain about, you should expect that the matter will be decided on the basis of the information otherwise received by the Police Complaints Authority about the incident.

In some cases, you may have to give a statement in court before a judge. In court, you have a duty to give a statement.

In certain cases you may be offered free legal aid by a lawyer assigned to you. The court decides whether you are eligible for free legal aid. The Police Complaints Authority will inform you of your options.



Are you in
doubt about
making a
complaint?



If you are in doubt about whether or not to make a complaint, you may ask for guidance from the Police Complaints Authority.

Such a request to an employee of the Police Complaints Authority does not mean that you automatically start a complaints process.

You can also contact the Commissioner of Police or another superior officer of the police district where the police acted inappropriately in your opinion. The matter may then be settled by local resolution if you agree to it, as described above.

In any circumstance, the Commissioner of Police has to report your complaint to the Police Complaints Authority. If the Police Complaints Authority finds that your complaint should be investigated in detail, an investigation will be started just as if you had contacted the Police Complaints Authority yourself.

Even if you opt to contact the Commissioner of Police, you are not barred from complaining to the Police Complaints Authority as well.



Other complaints options



The police and the Prosecution Service make many different decisions in the course of their work. Who to complain to varies from case to case and from decision to decision.

It is therefore a good idea to contact the Police Complaints Authority, the Commissioner of Police or the Regional Prosecutor if you are in doubt. No matter who you contact, they will guide you on how to proceed with your complaint.



ADDRESSES

**Independent Police
Complaints Authority**
(Den Uafhængige
Politiklagemyndighed)
Banegårdspladsen 1A,
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8000 Aarhus C
Tel.: +45 4178 3500

Regional Prosecutor
(Statsadvokaten)
See the addresses
of all Danish Regional
Prosecutors at
www.rigsadvokaten.dk

Commissioner of Police
(Politidirektøren)
See the addresses of all
Danish police districts
at www.politi.dk