

APPENDIX 4: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONNAIRE



HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONNAIRE

In questions 1-10, please CIRCLE the letter corresponding to the ONE answer which you consider to be the most accurate (i.e. a, b, c or d).

Q1: The prohibition against inhuman and degrading treatment:

- (a) is an absolute right.
- (b) is a qualified right that can be restricted so long as the qualification is necessary and proportionate.
- (c) is a right that can be restricted if there are sound reasons for doing so.
- (d) is no different to other rights under the European Convention on Human Rights.

Q2: In the course of their duties, police officers should treat people differently on grounds such as race, colour, gender, religion, political or other opinion:

- (a) as they see fit.
- (b) where there is a public demand in doing so.
- (c) where such different treatment can be reasonably and objectively justified.
- (d) never.

Q3: Police officers can use lethal force where:

- (a) they feel threatened.
- (b) they fear political instability.
- (c) the force is necessary and proportionate.
- (d) it is absolutely necessary to do so.

Q4: Members of the public:

- (a) have an absolute right to protest, march and hold meetings.
- (b) have a right to protest, march and hold meetings, but that right can be restricted if the restriction is necessary and proportionate.
- (c) have a right to protest, march and hold meetings, but not if that right offends others.
- (d) have no right to protest, march and hold meetings.

Q5: Police surveillance is an interference with privacy and therefore:

- (a) is suitable in public places, but never in private places, such as the home.
- (b) can be justified so long as it is recorded.
- (c) must be lawfully authorised, necessary and proportionate.
- (d) can never be justified.

Q6: Police officers can arrest individuals where:

- (a) the arrest may assist a police investigation.
- (b) they have reasonable grounds to suspect that an individual has committed an offence.
- (c) the arrest is properly documented.
- (d) the arrest might reveal useful information about another individual.

Q7: Police officers are under a duty to take steps to protect life:

- (a) if resources permit.
- (b) if someone could possibly be killed.
- (c) if there is a real and imminent risk that someone will lose his or her life.
- (d) unless the risk to life is self-imposed (e.g. suicide).

Q8: Firearms can be used only:

- (a) to protect property.
- (b) where necessary and proportionate.
- (c) where absolutely necessary.
- (d) in exceptional circumstances, such as political instability.

Q9: Informants/covert human intelligence sources:

- (a) can be used, even where they incite criminal offences, so long as they further the police investigation.
- (b) can be used, but only if they do not incite criminal offences.
- (c) should only be used as a last resort.
- (d) should never be used.

Q10: Access to a lawyer:

- (a) should never be delayed in any circumstances.
- (b) can be delayed until after questioning.
- (c) can be delayed if waiting for a lawyer will inconvenience an investigation.
- (d) can be delayed, but only in exceptional circumstances, such as where access to a lawyer would frustrate the arrest of another.

In Questions 11-15 we are seeking police officers' attitudes. There are therefore no right or wrong answers. For Questions 11-13, please CIRCLE the letter corresponding to the answer which most accurately reflects your own view.

Q11: I would say my knowledge of human rights is:

- (a) good.
- (b) adequate.
- (c) poor.
- (d) good in some respects but poor in others.

Q12: The training I have received in human rights

- (a) has greatly assisted me in answering questions 1-10.
- (b) has partly assisted me in part in answering questions 1-10.
- (c) has not helped me at all in answering questions 1-10.
- (d) I have not received any human rights training.

Q13: Human rights issues crop up in my work:

- (a) most days.
- (b) only when I am involved in serious investigations.
- (c) very seldom.
- (d) not at all.

For Questions 14 and 15, please CIRCLE the letter corresponding to ALL those answers which you consider apply to you.

Q14: When I have a difficult human rights question to deal with, I refer to:

- (a) the PSNI intranet.
- (b) PSNI service documents, such as general orders and policy documents.
- (c) my PSNI training material.
- (d) other colleagues who are usually able to assist me.
- (e) the PSNI legal department.
- (f) the PSNI human rights legal adviser.
- (g) external resources, including the internet.
- (h) Other, please specify _____
- (i) I do not know who to refer to.

Q15: As a police officer, I believe:

- (a) I have a duty to respect and protect the human rights of all persons.
- (b) respecting and protecting human rights is not as important as criminal investigations.
- (c) I can breach the human rights of those suspected of serious offences.
- (d) there is too much emphasis placed on respecting and protecting human rights in the PSNI.
- (e) there is too little emphasis placed on respecting and protecting human rights in the PSNI.
- (f) not enough emphasis is placed on respecting and protecting the human rights of victims.

I would like the PSNI/Policing Board to take into account the following comments when monitoring how well police officers comply with human rights:

NB. The PSNI/Policing Board is anxious to monitor examples of good practice of PSNI officers complying with human rights so please include any positive examples that you know of.

Q16: Rank:

- (a) Constable
- (b) Sergeant
- (c) Inspector
- (d) Chief Inspector or above

Q17: What is your length of service?

years

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please place it in the envelope provided and return.