**POLICE OMBUDSMAN’S (PONI) POWERS IN PRIMARY LEGISLATION**

*Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 (Westminster, 24 July 1998)*

In time of Mo Mowlam, post-Belfast agreement, but pre-Patten.

Part 7 on ‘police complaints and disciplinary procedures’ (ss 50-65)

Established PONI (corporation sole)

S 58 on criminal proceedings (after investigation)

S58A (added 2000) on mediation (after investigation)

S59 on disciplinary proceedings (after investigation)

Options: disciplining; criminal proceedings; with mediation added later.

**No concept of non-criminal police misconduct.**

In any case, disciplining was related to continuing to be a constable.

*Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 (Westminster, 23 November 2000)*

Part 8 on ‘the Police Ombudsman’ (ss 62-66).

S 62 added mediation to 1998 Act.

S 65 is ‘limits on complaints and references to ombudsman’.

Empowered SoS to make regulations providing for a prescribed period.

**Nothing on non-criminal police misconduct: the statute is all the other way.**

*Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 (Westminster, 8 April 2003)*

S 13 ‘investigations into current police practices and policies’.

Only reference to PONI: another amendment, but covers only current etc.

*Conclusion*

**No concept of non-criminal police misconduct in legislation.**

All part of PONI mission creep, including the concept of historical investigations.

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