

Investigation into complaint against Police Commissioner Richard Chambers concluded

1. The Independent Police Conduct Authority and Police have concluded investigations regarding a complaint made about the Commissioner of Police, Richard Chambers.
2. In December 2025, the Authority received a complaint from a former partner of Commissioner Chambers. The complainant and he had been in a long-term romantic relationship in the 1990s.
3. The complaint related primarily to allegations of stalking and digital surveillance. It also included an allegation of sexual assault dating back to 1999.
4. The Authority decided to carry out an independent investigation. We also referred the complaint to Police for investigation with oversight from the Authority. The Police investigation was assigned to highly experienced detectives from the Police National Integrity Unit (NIU).
5. Our investigation into the alleged recent conduct included making several enquiries and reviewing records and other evidence gathered by the NIU on our behalf. This included examination of exhibits which the complainant believed provided evidence substantiating her concerns. We found no evidence to support any of her concerns about stalking and digital surveillance and found evidence that contradicted many of her claims. Whilst we accept that she genuinely believed what she told us, we conclude that there was no evidential foundation for any of these allegations. We advised her of the outcome of this part of her complaint in July 2026.
6. The investigation of the complainant's allegation of historic sexual assault was led by the NIU with active oversight by the Authority.
7. From the outset, the welfare of the complainant was a critical consideration for the Authority and Police. As far as was possible, the investigation followed standard Adult Sexual Assault investigation protocols. When the complainant agreed to be interviewed by Police, she

formalised a criminal complaint. After the first Police interview, the complainant made further allegations of historic sexual assaults and she was re-interviewed.

8. Throughout the course of the Police investigation, the Authority had regular meetings with the Police investigation team and direct access to the electronic investigation file, allowing us to review evidence, analysis and other material as the investigation progressed. The Authority monitored Police's interview of the Commissioner and independently interviewed him without Police present. The Commissioner cooperated fully throughout.
9. At the conclusion of the Police investigation, the Authority completed a final review of all the material and the Police investigation report. Criminal investigation reports must conclude whether or not there is sufficient evidence to prosecute.
10. The Authority considers that Police have completed a thorough and robust investigation and that all reasonable lines of enquiry have been followed up. We agree with the conclusion reached in the report that the evidential test for prosecution is not met.
11. Whilst the Authority considers that the Police investigation impartially investigated the historic sexual offences, the outcome of the investigation into the allegations of stalking and digital surveillance raised unavoidable reliability issues that Police had to consider as part of their assessment. It is the Authority's view that, when all the evidence is considered in totality, Police reached the only outcome reasonably available.
12. Following the Authority's review, Police sent their investigation report and documents from the Police file to a Crown Solicitor for a further independent review. The Crown Solicitor agreed with the conclusion that the evidential test for prosecution was not met.
13. We commend the professionalism of the Police officers involved in this investigation and the steps taken to ensure its confidentiality and integrity.
14. The Authority will not be commenting further on the nature of the allegations or the reasons for its findings. We appreciate there is a strong public interest in reporting publicly on this investigation. However, we must balance the public interest in this investigation with the needs of all affected parties, especially those of the complainant.



Judge Kenneth Johnston KC

Chair
Independent Police Conduct Authority

11 September 2026

IPCA: 25-30784

About the Authority

WHO IS THE INDEPENDENT POLICE CONDUCT AUTHORITY?

The Independent Police Conduct Authority is an independent body set up by Parliament to provide civilian oversight of Police conduct.

We are not part of the Police – the law requires us to be fully independent. The Authority is overseen by a Board, which is chaired by Judge Kenneth Johnston KC.

Being independent means that the Authority makes its own findings based on the facts and the law. We do not answer to the Police, the Government or anyone else over those findings. In this way, our independence is similar to that of a Court.

The Authority employs highly experienced staff who have worked in a range of law enforcement and related roles in New Zealand and overseas.

WHAT ARE THE AUTHORITY'S FUNCTIONS?

Under the Independent Police Conduct Authority Act 1988, the Authority receives and may choose to investigate:

- complaints alleging misconduct or neglect of duty by Police;
- complaints about Police practices, policies and procedures affecting the complainant in a personal capacity;
- notifications of incidents in which Police actions have caused or appear to have caused death or serious bodily harm; and
- referrals by Police under a Memorandum of Understanding between the Authority and Police, which covers instances of potential reputational risk to Police (including serious offending by a Police officer or Police actions that may have an element of corruption).

The Authority's investigation may include visiting the scene of the incident, interviewing the officers involved and any witnesses, and reviewing evidence from the Police's investigation.

On completion of an investigation, the Authority must form an opinion about the Police conduct, policy, practice or procedure which was the subject of the complaint. The Authority may make recommendations to the Commissioner.

THIS REPORT

This report is the result of the work of a multi-disciplinary team. At significant points in the investigation itself and in the preparation of the report, the Authority conducted audits of both process and content.



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