

POLICE ORDER No. 34

Warning to
subordinate
Police
Officers
against the
use of
offensive or
impertinent
language in
defences,
appeals and
memorials.

The Inspector-General regrets to notice a tendency in the police to attempt to meet charges in departmental proceedings by wild and often impertinent accusations against the officers concerned in taking disciplinary action. While an officer charged with an offence has every right to every fair line of defence, he has no right to attempt to create an atmosphere favourable to himself by making ungrounded imputations, against the motives of the officers who are only doing their duty in enquiring into his conduct and punishing him if he is found guilty. In future severe notice will be taken of such cases. An officer who tries to defend himself by attributing base motives to those who have punished him will be called on either to prove the charge or face dismissal.

The deliberate use of offensive or impertinent language in defences, appeals and memorials will also be severely punished. It should be unnecessary to point out to intelligent persons that abuse is a poor substitute for argument and that such language does not help the defence.

(Previous Police Order Reference No. 7 of 1944)