

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 2 APRIL 2009 AT 12:00 NOON IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)  
Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)  
Ms Martina Anderson  
Mr Leslie Cree  
Mr Alex Maskey  
Mr Basil McCrea  
Mr Daithí McKay  
Ms Mary McKee  
Mr Gearóid Ó hEára  
Mr Ian Paisley Jnr  
Mr Trevor Ringland  
Mr David Rose  
Mr Jimmy Spratt

#### **POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:**

Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)  
Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)  
Mr Alistair Finlay (ACC Urban Region)  
Mrs Judith Gillespie (ACC Rural Region)  
Mr Drew Harris (ACC Crime Operations)  
Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Criminal  
Justice)  
Mr David Best (Director of Finance &  
Support Services)  
Ms Liz Young , Head of Media & PR  
A/Chief Inspector, Command Secretariat

#### **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Adrian Donaldson (Chief Executive)  
Dr Debbie Donnelly (D/Chief Executive)  
Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate  
Services)  
Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)  
Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)  
2 Board Officials

#### **APOLOGIES:**

Mrs Dolores Kelly  
Mrs Rosaleen Moore  
Mr Brian Rea

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Good morning Chief Constable, Senior Officers, members of the public and media and to the staff and pupils of Friends School, Lisburn, you are very welcome today.

Before we begin, can I record that a minute silence was held earlier in our meeting in memory of Constable Carroll and Sappers Azimkar and Quinsey, who were callously murdered by dissidents.

Chief Constable, these events have had a major impact locally, nationally and internationally and they are testament to the challenging environment in which the PSNI must currently operate. The murders were cold and cowardly acts which have been roundly condemned across Northern Ireland and further afield. Responses to these events show that this small minority will not be allowed to thwart the political and policing progress that has been made in recent times.

As a community we should be encouraged by the unity of purpose and the strengthening of resolve to move forward and to continue to provide policing in a way which the public want and indeed, deserve. Community confidence in the police services continues to grow and this evidences the community's desire to have access to a fully accountable and representative policing service.

Figures published this week show that compositional levels are on target for 2010. That Catholics/nationalist representation has risen from 8% in 2001 to the figure of 26% today.

Secondly, that the percentage of female officers has increased from 12% to 23.43% and the Board is also pleased to see that there are now 31 officers from ethnic minority background.

Fourteen recruitment campaigns have now been held and continue to attract a high number of applicants. The PSNI continues to be an attractive career choice right across the community. The PSNI is a service for all of the people of Northern Ireland and community is at the focus of the latest Policing Plan published last week.

The 2009 – 2012 Plan contains 4 objectives with performance indicators and targets all set in the context of safety in the community, confidence in policing, policing with the community and effectiveness and efficiency. The Plan acts as a framework for the PSNI to operate within, in addition to being a mechanism for the Board to hold the PSNI to account on behalf of the community.

There are also new targets in this Policing Plan, including handling of emergency and non-emergency calls, and around the implementation of the principles of policing with the community across all departments within the PSNI.

The Board also published the first of our Thematic Inquiries focusing on how effectively the PSNI deals with incidents of domestic abuse. The report details the PSNI compliance with the Human Rights Act 1998 in this area and makes 14 recommendations for the police to consider as a means of further improving their service to victims of domestic abuse.

The police alone cannot tackle domestic abuse independently, and it is hoped that this Thematic Inquiry will contribute to the discussion between stakeholders who share a common purpose to combat this area in all its forms. The Board will monitor the PSNI to ensure that all the recommendations are implemented within the agreed timescales, and today we will receive a presentation on this very issue of domestic abuse.

This week has seen some shocking incidents of violence and disruption on our streets. The hoax bomb scares across Belfast on Monday evening achieved nothing but disruption to ordinary people going about their lives and in addition, used up precious police resources which could be used elsewhere. The disturbances in the Holylands over St Patrick's Day and prior to a football match at Windsor Park are to be condemned. The attacks on homes of foreign nationals who are settled members of our society, and no way related to the disturbances was disgraceful. A number of officers suffered injuries as a result of these activities,

Many of you will be aware that a delegation from the Board made a visit to Washington and New York last month during the St Patrick's Day celebrations. The Chief Constable and I met briefly with the President and the First Lady prior to the Whitehouse reception and his words of encouragement for policing and the work of the

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Board were very welcome, particularly given the events of recent times. His message to us was that *'the United States will always stand with those who work towards peace'*.

In turn, Members of the Board sent a clear message that the progress made on policing will continue; as will the commitment to deliver the final piece of the political jigsaw through the process now in place to facilitate the devolution of policing and justice.

Chief Constable, I invite you to make your remarks.

**Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:**

Thank you Chairman, and I will ensure that the messages of support from the Board are conveyed to the families of the murdered soldiers, and indeed my officer, Stephen Carroll.

Chairman, since the last Board when we did update you on the rising threat from dissident republican terrorist groups, there have been those 3 brutal murders. The murders of Sappers Quinsey, Azimkar outside Massereene Barracks in Antrim, and the murder of Constable Stephen Carroll in Craigavon who was responding to a call from a member of that particular community.

Those who try to describe or attempt to describe these murders as regrettable are truly beneath contempt. The clear and unequivocal message is from the communities who we are speaking to and my investigating officers are speaking to across Northern Ireland, is very clear. The message is, they want nothing to do with this sort of gratuitous violence, or indeed, the street disorder which we saw on Monday, albeit in very small numbers.

I remain with my Senior Management Team and my officers, very grateful to the community leaders, the politicians and other elected representatives and indeed, ordinary members of the community who are working very hard to make sure that behaviour is discouraged while we go about running, what are challenging and labour intensive police investigations.

This organisation remains determined to bring to justice all of those responsible for those 3 particular crimes. I have visited my investigating teams and I can assure the Board that the progress is relentless, the determination is absolute and we will do everything we can to build a case to put in front of a court in keeping with the criminal justice procedures we are obliged to comply properly with. At this point in time, 4 people have been charged and the investigation continues.

In terms of routine policing Chairman, the officers I have met in the last few weeks remain determined to continue to deliver an effective policing service, and that indeed includes the colleagues of Constable Stephen Carroll who were with him on the night he was killed. They are all out there delivering the service we are paid to deliver. I think that is important. I think the best way of remembering Stephen is to continue to provide that normal policing service in abnormal policing conditions. We have been doing that successfully and it is worth reflecting, that not one call in the Lurgan area has gone unanswered post those awful events, and we continue to drive forward the concept of neighbourhood policing, in conjunction with the support from the Board.

My District Commanders remain responsible for deciding on the appropriate policing response in the current circumstances and, therefore, you will see somewhat different styles of policing in different parts of Northern Ireland. The overriding principle is to deliver a normal policing service that looks as normal as it possibly can, mindful of the threat, and my District Commanders together with their Assistant Chief Constables, remain responsible for determining what that style is.

I touched on the widespread condemnation of the murders in my opening paragraph. I think it is increasingly evident that we are getting support from communities, that has been very heartening for my officers as they carry out these investigations, and indeed, information and evidence is coming forward from those who are able to give it. For those who saw nothing, my officers have been welcomed into their houses and are being shown that there is no widespread support and we do not have some huge estates where police are not welcome. We have estates where people want policing and do feel intimidated and are worried by those tiny groups of people who are out to disrupt their normal life. I think it is worth reflecting on the disorder on Monday. There are very few people on the streets. The normal communities just got on with their normal lives leaving a small number of people to be dealt with by my officers. I do think that support

is important to Stephen's family and, indeed, the families of the 2 soldiers, to know there is support and solidarity for them at this difficult time.

It is also important to remember Chairman, that our officers are still out there and will still continue to deliver that service, mindful of that particular threat and I admire them for their continued determination to deliver that and I am grateful to them on behalf of the public for that particular effort.

Chairman, you will be aware that we have submitted an additional claim for resources to the Treasury via our Secretary of State with your support. I spoke to the Secretary of State this morning and I know he is working tirelessly on our behalf to secure the funding we think we need to maintain a normal style of policing in the current circumstances.

Chairman, in addition to those particular and high profile crimes, the routine of policing in Northern Ireland continues. Looking at my Crime Operations Department this week, indeed only this morning, I think some significant arrests have been made in relation to armed criminality. We have been running a major drugs operation which has led to an uncovering of a cannabis factory in Co Down, seizing plants worth over £1m. This was a sophisticated operation that had been running for some time.

Last week, 2 men had been charged with the murder of the teenager Thomas Devlin in Belfast. We never gave up on that case, that goes back to 2005 and whilst it is cold comfort, I am sure the family will receive some comfort from the fact that people now stand charged with that particularly awful offence.

There have been 2 other murder investigations that reached conclusions in the last couple of weeks. In the North West, Terence Whiting pleaded guilty to the murder of teenager Wendy McAteer in Limavady in November 2007 and Victor Kennedy was sentenced to 14 years after admitting the murder of Michael McGinnis in Limavady, this was the gentleman murdered simply to commit a theft or robbery of his mobile phone in July 2007.

Also this week Chairman, an Algerian national was jailed for 4½ years for money laundering offences at an ATM reversal fraud. This is when they convince the machine it has not paid out the money so they benefit in that sense. That crime is now an

international investigation stretching as far as Germany and we are working with other agencies to investigate further crimes in that series.

At a lower but very important level in terms of burglary, Operation Heartbreak ran again with a second phase. Seventy two people were charged with 94 offences in the Greater Belfast area, that includes 38 people charged with burglary and that is for a total of 59 charges of burglary, some people being repeat offenders, 23 people charged with offences such as hijacking, driving whilst unfit and whilst under the influence of alcohol and driving whilst disqualified, which is quite often a precursor offence to more serious crimes. Seven people were charged with taking and driving away and in addition, 392 bail checks were carried out and 13 people were arrested for breach of their bail conditions. Operation Heartbreak does consist of a team of dedicated people who target our burglary hotspots, it is also about disruption of criminal gangs and preventing burglaries from occurring in the first place, and we know that is a signal crime to many communities in Northern Ireland.

Much partnership work continues Chairman, and in the light of recent events, I think it is important to stress the absolutely vital role that partnership working plays in policing, certainly in encouraging and preventing the next generation of people who are on the margins of society, becoming tied up in what is a zero sum game of serious criminal offences. Much work is going on in certain areas and we again, my DCC and I, together with ACC Drew Harris met the Secretary of State to see if more work can be driven through the authorities and the agencies to encourage more activity in this area. I happen to think the most effective work here is done within the communities, by the communities, and we will do all we can indeed to support that activity.

Partnership work continues in terms of underage drinking and buying alcohol whilst a minor, and we will continue to drive that forward and we are working with the business community to make sure they are fully aware of the issues around Tiger kidnaps and how to prevent them and how to protect their people in those cases.

Chairman, the Rape Crime Conference was covered last week. I think I will describe that conference as groundbreaking. It was hosted jointly by your Policing Board and our Service and it had a very high take-up rate and was very well received. It came just

after a training day for our rape investigators and we had drawn on all the expertise on the United Kingdom and it was a first for our Service.

I think the conference exposed many myths around rape and the experience of victims here and the challenges we face in investigating it. Members will be aware, due to a very powerful presentation here, on our commitment to deal with these particularly harrowing crimes.

Today's presentation Chairman is on domestic violence and will also highlight some of that work because it is worth noting, that domestic rape is probably one of the most insidious yet under recognised crimes in the spectrum of domestic abuse and I will not steal the thunder of that particular presentation which is important.

Chairman, finally on policing the past. We continue to support and provide information to all the public inquiries as requested and the work of the Historic Enquiry Team (HET) continues. A recent survey within that team showed about 90% satisfaction rate in one way or another for the work of that team by people who had benefited from the work of that team and I think that is very important.

Chairman, you will remember that we asked for an additional Assistant Chief Constable which you, the Board, kindly agreed to at the height of that work. We now think we may be in a position shortly as the public inquiries slowly come to a close, to actually reduce the Senior Management Team back to level before and I will bring that discussion to you in the appropriate forum.

Finally Chairman, you talked in your opening on recruiting and the representation of the police service. I think probably the most powerful message that we can send to those who want to disrupt the future is that it is not working. We have recently started a competition, it is fairly early days to date and a month yet to run, but currently over 8,500 people have applied to join this service from across the broad spectrum of communities in Northern Ireland and I think that is a hugely powerful message. My only regret is, I only have 440 places to offer all those people who have expressed a desire to work with communities to provide a safer environment.

Chairman, I will leave my comments there and hand over for the presentation on domestic abuse by Inspector Pauline Mooney, unless you want to do questions first.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Do Members wish to question on the statement by the Chief Constable, if so, I would suggest that you do it now. It would be useful if we stuck to points in the way in which you asked it.

**Mr Ian Paisley Jnr:**

I think it is just important that the Chief Constable in his public forum gets a very strong political message of support for himself and his officers and the Senior Management Team at this time. I am sure one of the worst memories the Chief Constable will take from this service has been the loss of an officer through a callous and cowardly murder. I hope one of the best things he will take from this service will be the fact that the community, its support for one of the finest services in the Western World and I hope that he takes that at all time and recognises the support that the service have and the high regard that it has across the entire community, I think that is important. All I would say is that we hope that the police have the ability to arrest more people, to bring them to justice and see the wheels of justice turning in such a way that people are convicted and are brought to justice and society recognises the way to deal with this threat is to put callous, murdering people behind bars where they belong.

**Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:**

I thank you. I think the universal condemnation across the peace at every level, be it political, community representative or indeed community, has been hugely powerful and hugely positive to my officers investigating these crimes. What I would say in terms of the investigations themselves, I have visited and have absolute confidence in the Senior Investigating Officers and their teams. There is an absolute determination to work tirelessly to bring these to an effective and proper conclusion which is entirely in keeping with the rule of law and indeed, the Human Rights legislation which we are all tied by. I think that is a critical element with it, but the Board can be rest assured we will do our best to bring it to a conclusion. That results in some public hearing of the evidence.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Alex Maskey.

**Mr Alex Maskey:**

Thank you Chairman and thank you Chief Constable for that report. Obviously Chief Constable you are aware that we had a discussion in the private session and covered quite a range of these matters and very importantly that we did and I think it is important that we do restate that we are all on the one message here. That we have a big, big job of work to do to maintain public confidence and continue to develop public confidence out there in respect of policing, and obviously an essential element of that is to make sure that all of our responses, including that of the police, is that we make sure that we deal with all these matters in a very proportionate manner. That requires discipline, it means it requires division which you yourself have signalled your intention to adhere to and give leadership on. Certainly in terms of human rights compliance and making sure that we operate to the highest standards because that is the type of response, and we all are being tested now both politically and the police themselves, it is important that the responses actually do continue to generate the type of public confidence that yourselves have acknowledged is building there, but obviously we cannot take any of these things for granted and I think yourselves have acknowledged that and appreciate that.

I am just looking at a list of names of individuals who were killed in this city and beyond in recent years by some of these organisations. I know that in one of them, certainly if you believe what you hear about it, one of them was to do with a petty localised squabble based more on personalities, it was also alcohol fuelled. Now, there has been a prosecution in that particular case, so I think it is important that we also highlight and I think the police have a reporting role in this, to highlight the nature of some of these incidents which have been carried out, not only by so called republican organisations but also loyalist organisations which Chief Constable, you yourself have just addressed a few minutes ago. So, some of these organisations are involved, not only in targeting police officers and others, but also people within the community here and there have been a number of murders as a result of their activities. As I said, some of them disgracefully alcohol fuelled and more to do with petty squabbles than anything else. So, I think it is just important that we do restate our commitment to make sure that we respond to all of these activities in a responsible and proportionate manner and

in a way which generates developing and growing public confidence rather than switching people off.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

You might wish in the context of those comments Mr Maskey, we could maybe take question 7 since it arises directly out of the opening part of your statement and also out of what Mr Maskey has just said.

***Q7 - Can the Chief Constable detail the facilities available to detainees, their legal team and their families when held for periods longer than 7 days? What advice has the PSNI sought and/or been given in relation to the suitability of these facilities?***

**Mr Alex Maskey:**

Yes Chairman, the backdrop to this question clearly is the recent controversy and everybody around this table would not necessarily agree with that, but there certainly was some controversy, some which I share, concerned on behalf of our party, the whole questions of the conditions which people have been held in. As I said earlier on this goes to the heart of my argument for proportionality and we can have a debate around this, but there are a lot of people out there in this community who view a lot of these things from the prism of the past. Now it is important, that in our response to all these matters today, that we do not create a new past for people who are living today. So, I think as I say, I am just looking to see if the PSNI has sought any particular advice or been given any advice about the conditions in which people are held because again if we do not handle these things properly and appropriately and in a transparent way, we will create further problems for all of ourselves down the road.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Let me read the question. - *Can the Chief Constable detail the facilities available to detainees, their legal team and their families when held for periods longer than 7 days? What advice has the PSNI sought and/or been given in relation to the suitability of these facilities?*

**Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:**

Thank you Chairman. There has been much debate over the last few days and it is now 9 people who have been charged, but I can certainly answer this in the generality.

I think the debate that was going on was 2 pronged. One was concern around the actual investigation and the welfare of certain individuals in custody and there was a wider debate flying around on whether or not the legislation which allows detention up to 28 days was a good thing or a bad thing in a political sense and we were sort of stuck in the middle of it. What I can say is, no-one has been detained for 28 days by this police organisation before charge. The longest anyone was in custody under the legislation was in fact 14 days.

In terms of the specifics, detainees are provided with a number of facilities which are required and indeed described under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act Code of Practice Letter H but they include the following: *“visits and outside contact with outside parties including special provisions for Commonwealth citizens and foreign nationals”*. Of course the Holding Centre is used for a number of reasons. Only terrorist suspects can be detained for over 7 days under that specific legislation and then of course, subject to substantial and judicial oversight in keeping with the legislation.

Terrorist suspects will always be detained in the Serious Crime Suite in Antrim, there is no other facility that is suitable. Reasonable standards of physical comfort, adequate food and drink, access to toilets, washing facilities, clothing, medical attention and exercise when practicable, blankets, mattresses, pillows, bedding and a clean and sanitary condition, replacement clothing when required, reading and writing material. The suitability of a particular facility that is used by the detainees is kept under constant review by this organisation. Our Custody Working Group looks after that and of course, health and safety representation is also examined. The facilities are also open and I know are visited by your Custody Visitor Scheme. In addition, during the time people were detained, the Human Rights Commissioner also asked to and was granted full and unrestricted access within an hour of asking for that and she did visit the facility.

The actual layout of it in terms of specific advice has to comply with the Home Office Police Custody Buildings Design Guide policy document and it does so. It is one of the newer facilities in the United Kingdom, it was built in 2003. It contains solicitors' waiting

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rooms, consultation rooms and should the detainee have a visit from someone else, they are accommodated in the interview rooms.

Chairman in 2008, Lord Carlile published a report on the operation of the Terrorism Act and his report stated at paragraph 110, *“last year I visited by request, police custody suites for terrorist suspects in Northern Ireland, Scotland and London”* and he included in London both the reserve facilities in Belgravia and the main facility, which is well known, in Paddington Green.

At paragraph 111 he says, *“the facilities I saw were all acceptable for up to 14 days detention. In my view it is only acceptable for a prisoner detained after 14 days to be held overnight in conditions equivalent in terms of comfort, food, exercise, to prison conditions. In London this remains a problem. In Scotland and Northern Ireland, changes have been made to render the facilities fit for detention up to 28 days”*.

Chairman, the basic point I would make however, no-one was detained for over 14 days. The legislation as I said when it was being discussed publicly before, no Chief Constable wants to keep anyone in custody more than a day longer than they absolutely have to in keeping with and in full compliance with the law as it currently stands.

Chairman, we will respond to any reports when we receive them, be it from the Custody Visitors which we do routinely and indeed the Human Rights Commissioner when she publishes her report. We will take any recommendations very seriously indeed as we always do.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

There is a supplementary to that, Mr Jimmy Spratt.

**Mr Jimmy Spratt:**

Thank you Chairman and just to reiterate from the community that I come from, there is certainly no complaints in relation to the detentions. I do have to say that the Antrim facilities are probably the most modern in the United Kingdom and in any part of these islands for detaining suspects and was purposely built for that purpose at a fair cost to the Exchequer.

Also, in relation to the Human Rights Commissioner, she did speak to the legal advisors of the prisoners and to the prisoners, but I am not aware that she has spoken at any time to the advisors in relation to the police and I think that her observations certainly do not represent the views within the community that I come from.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Basil McCrea.

**Mr Basil McCrea:**

There is a danger when we concentrate on issues like that that we forget sometimes the good news and I was very heartened to hear you say that your investigations into the murders have received widespread support. Is that a qualitative difference, is that an improvement that has come along and is it different to no longer being policing I suppose in a vacuum that you might have been in the past?

**Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:**

I will ask ACC Harris to cover the detail. I think the trend over the last 7 years has been increasing positive and I think that is a function of good ordinary policing, but ACC Harris can deal with the specifics as he is leading the investigations.

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Drew Harris:**

Specifically when we have called at houses in house to house enquiries, for example particularly in the Craigavon area, police officers in a vast, vast majority of homes and that they have been invited in have been well received and significant information has come from those house to house enquiries. Also, statements have been provided and those who have not felt that they were able to make a statement, have contacted Crimestoppers and very significant information has come into Crimestoppers, so in no way are we investigating these awful crimes in a vacuum. Very significant information and assistance has come from the public, both in terms of information provided but also in terms of actual witness statements which then gives us evidence to produce before the courts. So that has been very significant and really just contradicts the sort of myths there is around these estates and the support there is within them for these dissidents. From our experience there is very little to no support for what has happened in their neighbourhoods and people want to assist the police as best they can with their investigations.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Martina Anderson and then Leslie Cree.

**Ms Martina Anderson:**

The Human Rights Commissioner was doing her job and she expressed concerns and she was right to do so. We as a Board published a Human Rights report in 2007 and we identified gaps at Antrim that we currently are working our way through, so I think it would be wrong of us to present a picture out there that these concerns only emanated from the Human Rights Commissioner's visit to Antrim. We ourselves have said that the level of satisfaction from team to team needs to be taken on board into custody suites itself and for myself, we have identified that whilst the law changed, the facilities did not. The Human Rights Advisor did not complain at all about the treatment that was meted out against anyone during the time of detention, but she did raise concerns about conditions and we ourselves as a Board, have also raised concerns about those conditions and we have a duty and a responsibility given that the oversight was handed over to the Custody Visitors Scheme, and we have a duty and responsibility to make sure that those conditions and the conditions that she has also brought to our attention, are addressed.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

We await, as the Chief Constable has said, a copy of her report. I think you said you had not received a report from her and no doubt we will receive a copy as a Board which will be referred to the Human Rights Committee.

Leslie Cree.

**Mr Leslie Cree:**

Thank you Chairman. The Chief Constable touched on the additional financial bid of £49m and indeed it is question 2 from the Resources and Improvement Committee and I am wondering if he could perhaps expand a little more on that.

***Q2 - The Committee received notification of the PSNI's submission to the NIO in relation to an additional financial bid of £49m relating to the events in early March. Can the Chief Constable update the Board on how this bid is progressing and does he consider that the NIO will give the additional funds?***

**Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:**

I will ask David Best to do the detail. We have had some very helpful and constructive meetings with the Secretary of State and his officials. I spoke to him this morning, he is hoping to drive the debate through with urgency next week with the Prime Minister and indeed the Treasury, so I think all that can be done is being done. In terms of the detail, this bid is specifically to deal with the current situation and its backdrop is to allow us to continue to investigate these crimes as far as we possibly can, but also to provide that level of confidence to allow community policing to continue which I think is an equally vital strand. In very broad terms, David Best will just go through the headings that we have currently under discussion.

**Director of Finance and Support Services, Mr David Best:**

This submission was made about 10 days ago and the main items as the Chief Constable has referred to is in specific response to the security situation. The main elements considered in that was overtime to support operations and service delivery. Just to comment on that. We had planned to reduce our overtime quite considerably over the next 2 years and what we are doing is reinstating that overtime back to the levels on which they have been last year to meet the current threat.

Another area we have put a bid in for is forensics and already considerable cost has been incurred over the last 10 days and may be incurred over the future. We are looking at support for air support. We are acquiring an additional helicopter with the army withdrawal of helicopter support, that will take some time another 18 months and due to current situation we are looking at hiring a facility in the interim period.

We also have looked at our armoured fleet. We had also plans to reduce that and what we have bid for is the ability to retain the armoured fleet at its current level and not reduce as we originally had planned to do.

The firth area that we have looked at or are looking at, is station security to see how that can be improved across the province. The bid stands around £66m, it covers a 2 year period. There are some parameters in there that may change that may drive that cost up or down and so far the NIO have been relatively positive but we have to wait and see and we are hoping within the next week or so to have feedback on the outcome of that bid.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Thank you very much. Any other questions on the Chief Constable's report, if not we proceed to the thematic presentation?

Inspector Mooney you are very welcome.

**Inspector Pauline Mooney:**

Thank you. Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. My name is Pauline Mooney and I have responsibility within the organisation for the development of policy relating to domestic abuse.

So what is domestic abuse? Essentially it is categorised by the exercise of power, systematic isolation and control on the part of the perpetrator. It cuts across all walks of life. It occurs regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender or class.

In 2007, the Association of Chief Police Officers renamed this area, changing it from domestic violence to domestic abuse and that was really to acknowledge the wider range of conduct and behaviours associated with this area. The social deprivation, the financial control, the psychological and sexual abuse that many victims suffer, aside from the violence that they would also suffer as well.

The Northern Ireland Crime Survey in 2007/08, found that there were significant levels of underreporting to the police. It was estimated that 1 in 4 victims went to the police with their worst incident. That is not just any incident of domestic abuse, that is their worst incident.

Domestic abuse is unique among many crimes, in so far as it has got significant levels of repeat victimisation. It was estimated again on the same survey, that 60% of victims were victimised on more than one occasion and 1 in 3 of those people were victimised on 4 or more occasions by the same perpetrator.

So what statistics do the police have in relation to this area? These are the statistics for 2007/08 and for the same period 2008/09. To clarify, an incident refers to any occurrence of domestic abuse whether or not a crime has been committed. I think it is important to emphasize that we do not under-estimate the importance attached to

incidents. Incidents where there has been no crime committed still receives, gets the same response as where crime has been committed and it is vitally important that police go to those incidents, because they provide us with an opportunity to gather information and intelligence in relation to a family. They also allow us to make referrals to support agencies, whether it be to Women's Aid, Men's Advisory Project and even to Social Services where we have children in the household where the incident is taking place. Starting from somewhere this year, our Domestic Abuse Officers, our specialist officers in each District, will be able to risk assess every victim regardless of whether or not a crime has been committed.

In terms of resources, police go to a domestic incident once every 23 minutes and when you consider that the research again would suggest that it takes a victim to endure 35 experiences of domestic abuse before they go to the police, it is absolutely vital that we present a professional and a sensitive approach for victims. It is hard to imagine any other situation in life that we would endure 35 times before we would seek help, and essentially the majority of that is due to the fear of retaliation by the partner or the perpetrator of a family member.

So whenever a victim makes that phone call to the police, what can they expect? Well these are our aims. It is a policy of the Police Service of Northern Ireland to thoroughly investigate every reported incident of domestic abuse in a proactive, robust, effective and consistent approach and it is based on 3 principles, protection, prevention and prosecution. Protection of any further violence or abuse to the victim or any other member of the household. Prevention of it happening again in the future and prosecution to gather evidence from all available sources to hold the perpetrator accountable through the criminal justice system.

Whenever a domestic incident has been reported, the police will take positive action. Where a Power of Arrest exists, it will be exercised where it is necessary and proportionate to ensure an effective investigation or to prevent further offences being committed.

Now this is an overview of the role of a Domestic Abuse Officer. These officers are located in each of our 8 Districts but if I can talk you through a domestic incident from the very start because typically domestic officers will not be the first response. Whenever a call is received to the police from a victim, the person whether it is a police officer or a staff member will provide information and advice as regards their circumstances. If the perpetrator is in the house, they will provide safety advice. Where there is a scene they will provide as much information as they can to preserve that scene pending police arrival and if the person is injured they will provide whatever advice they can in terms of first aid or referred through to the ambulance control.

Pending the police arrival a number of checks will be taken by the uniform officers and that will be in terms of checking our databases, the violent and sexual offender register, any databases in relation to any history of domestic abuse at the household and also to establish whether there are any Civil Orders in place, Non Molestation or Occupation Orders. Upon police arrival they will reassess the situation in terms of the need for medical assistance. They will separate both parties and speak to both parties and the action that will be taken by the officers will be based on the evidence that is presented to them and not based on preconceived stereo types. Where there are children in the household, the police will physically check on their welfare. We have a policy that we will refer children and their details to Social Services where they normally reside in the house or where they are actually there at the time of a domestic incident taking place. The police will then take positive action, as I have said, where there is a power of arrest exists, it will be exercised and where it is not, the police officer should explain to the victim the reasons why and what action they will take to assist the victim in the future and that may be a referral to a support agency.

The police will then, if they make an arrest, convey the individual to the police station and commence an investigation and prior to that individual being released from police custody, every effort will be made to inform the victim of any developments in the investigation. The investigation may be undertaken by a uniform officer or indeed by the Domestic Abuse Officer.

Domestic Abuse Officers are located in Public Protection Units. These are specialist units that were established in April 2008 and the structure is such to prevent any silo approach in investigations, information and intelligence and it is to make the connections there between child abuse, domestic abuse, missing and vulnerable persons and violent and sexual offender management. It is well documented and researched in relation to domestic abuse, the links between domestic abuse and children and sexual abuse. Again, research would suggest that between 30 to 60% of those households where domestic abuse has taken place, the perpetrator is also abusing the children in the household. Whenever you consider that UNICEF estimated that 32,000 children in Northern Ireland were living with domestic abuse in their household, this is going to be a problem that will exist for many, many years to come.

What I would say is, we cannot address this problem on our own. We need the assistance of other agencies and we have recognised this for many years, and this is an overview of a number of agencies that we have worked with and a number of initiatives. The very first point, the first Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences, this is a new development and it is being rolled out throughout the province and it was based on uniform officers going out to an incident and identifying the risk indicators that are present at that incident. A Domestic Abuse Officer will then undertake the risk assessment and for those victims that are classified as being at the greatest risk of future harm, they will be referred to this MARAC. Essentially this is a meeting where the agencies get together and discuss what action they can take to support that victim and/or to reduce the risk of future harm.

The UNICINI underneath the second point refers to understanding the needs of children in Northern Ireland and this is a recent collaboration between the PSNI and Social Services. It is actually out as a pilot at the present time and it is based on uniform officers when they go out to a domestic incident, gathering more information solely in relation to the children in the household and it is providing better information for the uniform officers to submit to the Domestic Abuse Officers and other specialist officers so that they can make better informed referrals to Social Services.

The 'One Stop' shop that I have referred to there, we have got many 'One Stop' shops throughout the province and one in the Belfast area that covers north, south, east and west Belfast. During the one year that they have been established, there have been women from 12 different ethnic minority backgrounds there, so domestic abuse is very much a multi-cultural problem within Northern Ireland.

The final point refers to a joint Women's Aid PSNI response and that is where a Women's Aid worker is located in the Public Protection Unit, sitting alongside and working alongside our Domestic Abuse Officers providing immediate access to victims, should they be on the phone with Domestic Abuse Officers that they can immediately speak to a Women's Aid worker and we are currently expanding that to 'B' District as well.

The final slide provides an overview of our advertising campaign. Again, this is a campaign that we have been running for quite some time and it is based on hotspot areas in Northern Ireland where we have very high incidence of domestic abuse and at key times of the year. We have also more recently assisted in the advertising campaign run by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and the DHSSPS and I think it is important to continue with advertising campaigns and to raise awareness.

As I was saying to you earlier about the Northern Ireland Crime Survey, for those victims that referred to the worst incident, 18% of them thought that this was just something that happened. This is part and parcel of a normal relationship and it is hard to imagine that where a crime was committed to you out on the street, that you would be inclined to ring the police, whereas whenever the perpetrator is a partner or family member, you will put up with it, you will accept that this is normal activity. In addition to that, there was a piece of research commissioned by the Home Office that found almost 20% of the victims that responded thought that it was acceptable or acceptable in certain circumstances, for a man to hit or slap his girlfriend or wife if they were dressed in revealing clothing or in sexy clothing in public. That is shocking statistics especially when the research was only printed 2 months ago in February 2009, so we are not talking 25 or 30 years ago, so it is absolutely vital that we continue with our advertising campaigns.

Could I just say, I hope this has provided some reassurance for people sitting here that the police do take this very seriously and that if there is anybody here that is experiencing domestic abuse or knows of people experiencing domestic abuse, to ask them to come forward to the police and to report the matter to ourselves, because in conjunction with our agencies with whom we work very closely, we can provide a really good service, the best service that is most appropriate to the victims circumstances.

Thank you very much.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Thank you very much indeed. Mr Basil McCrea followed by Ms Martina Anderson.

**Mr Basil McCrea:**

Thank you Chairman. Inspector Mooney can I just say my congratulations to you and to your team. I know that there has been a lot of work ongoing if you like. We, the Policing Board, as you know have been looking at this issue for a year and every time I look at it and every time I talk to you, I learn more and more. You finished with the issue about 'why do people stay in such relationships, why do people not come forward' and it is one of the things that came up from the conference on rape about the psychological issues that are going on. You might say briefly what you have to impart to the rest of us about why people do it, particularly as it refers to the evidential chain.

The other thing, you were giving us so much information but it was shocking and I just want you to confirm for me, the link between domestic violence, domestic abuse and child abuse.

**Inspector Pauline Mooney:**

Certainly, in relation to the link between domestic abuse and child abuse, it is estimated and research has concluded between 30 and 60% where perpetrators are abusing their partners or family members in the household, that children are also being directly affected by that, so it is a shocking statistic.

In relation to rape and the rape conference and the reasons why people do not go forward, certainly whenever it is within a domestic environment and I do not necessarily mean where it is in a household because domestic abuse does not have to take place in a household for it to be a domestic incident. I think it is the fact of the fear of retaliation by the perpetrator, the changes that would happen if the victim went to the police, the change in lifestyle, the impact that it would have on children and other family members. It is important to remember, that the social isolation is such a key factor and such a high risk indicator for victims of domestic abuse and indeed, in relation to domestic rape victims as well, that it is very difficult for people to come forward to agencies and seek assistance.

**Mr Basil McCrea:**

You made significant improvements in terms of reassuring people now that with the specialist officers, with the other facilities, we can tackle that.

**Inspector Pauline Mooney:**

Absolutely, certainly we will be working alongside many, many agencies and through our work I hope that we continually reassure victims and it is through the likes of the Thematic Report as well and raising awareness here and also with the rape conference, that we will continue to encourage victims to come forward and for them to understand that what is happening to them is a crime. Because it is being committed by a family member or partner or indeed an ex partner, it does not make it excusable.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Ms Anderson.

**Ms Martina Anderson:**

Go raibh maith agat. Inspector Mooney thanks for that presentation and I think for those of us who were involved in combining the domestic abuse and the thematic report, we all learned a lot throughout that experience. But it is still alarming every time you hear it, 49 cases of domestic abuse every day here in the North and that is not taking into account all of those cases that go unreported. So, it is something that we all take very serious.

The thing I would like to ask you about are 3 questions and I will group them all together. It is in relation to Non Molestation Orders. When we were engaging with the stakeholders and whilst you have a policy to arrest and prosecute breaches of the Non Molestation Orders, but because they are not recorded separately as a crime statistic it is not possible, and it was not possible for us to discern are many of them, how many of the Non Molestation Orders had been breached and I think that that is something, it was one of the recommendations of the report and it is something that we would like to see actioned.

The other one was in relation to the fact that there is no Memorandum of Understanding between the PSNI and the PPS (Public Prosecution Service) regarding the prosecution of domestic abuse cases, and that would be another case and it was something that was flagged up to us during the stakeholder meetings.

The third question is around the replication of the successful 'One Stop' shops that is referred to, both in our report and you made reference to and the Family Justice Centres. I know coming from Derry, and not just Derry but the North West, there is a real need for a SARK Unit around the North West and of course, standing up for Derry I will actually try to get it located there if such consideration was to be given to the replication of rolling this out. But we need to be looking at that kind of replication of this across the north, particularly where you can see that there is high levels of domestic abuse. The North West because you are so adjacent to a border in terms of the connection that we need to be making and the collaboration in the 26 counties in ensuring that the North West in its totality is looked at, not just within the confines of the 6 counties.

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Duncan McCausland:**

If I could answer the question about Non Molestation Orders, we do now record Non Molestation Orders. If Ms Anderson remembers, I did mention that when the Thematic Report was launched. There have been 1,064 breaches this year of Non Molestation Orders of which we have prosecuted 727 and obviously the rest are in the system. Those will be reported annually in the figures to the Board and that was one of the thematic recommendations. If you remember I said we accepted and had already implemented, so please be reassured that has already been done.

In relation to the 'One Stop' shop in the SARK Unit, we are planning hopefully by April 2011 with the Department of Health and Social Services, funding permitting, and I emphasise funding permitting, to introduce a SARK Unit at Antrim and obviously then on the success of that, we will potentially look to roll that out if there is other support across the province. We already have links with An Garda Siochana in terms of dealing with sex offenders and domestic abuse aspects in terms of sharing best practice, and we will continue to develop those links. But Inspector Mooney, do you want to comment on the issue of the PPS?

**Inspector Pauline Mooney:**

Certainly, we do have a protocol between the PPS and the PSNI. However, I would say and I would reinforce, that the PSNI and the PPS have been working for quite some time very closely through the Regional Steering Sincere Group on domestic violence to provide a better understanding of each other's roles. Just last year during the summer time, the PPS came along and provided a presentation on the Training Workshop for Domestic Abuse Officers and they have been approached by our Training Branch to provide further training for the uniform response crews, so certainly there is ongoing work, but I think it is perhaps to formalise it.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Two further questions on this and I will close on this report. David Rose and Alex Maskey.

**Mr David Rose:**

I would like to start by thanking you for coming back. I believe you were suppose to give this presentation a month ago, and I think everyone on the Board should appreciate that it was cancelled a short notice but you still came today.

I think your comments today shows that there needs to be a shift in culture in Northern Ireland of the type that happened around drink driving, because we are not going to see real results until the public recognise, understand and support the police in trying to deal with it. My question really then relates to the effect on children. Those who have witnessed or being a victim of domestic abuse, could you outline some of the affects that it might have on their life experience and would the view that the perpetrator gets a prison sentence but the child gets a life sentence hold some sway?

**Inspector Pauline Mooney:**

I think it cannot be under-estimated the impact that domestic abuse has on children. Children that are in households where domestic abuse is taking place are 2½ times more likely to suffer social and developmental problems, so to say that at the very outset of their lives they are being affected by this in a negative manner and effectively the parents or the people in the household are providing the foundation for children as to what is acceptable and unacceptable in future relationships. Again, research would also indicate that there is a strong correlation between what children see as normal in a household and what they become then as adults. So, where they see domestic abuse taking place, there is a very high likelihood that children might grow up and become perpetrators or victims of domestic abuse.

What I would say, that does not necessarily correlate to the gender of the perpetrator of the gender of the victim in the household whenever they are a child. Where a father is attacking a mother for sake of argument, you may find that a daughter will grow up to become more aggressive or some may grow up to be more passive, so I think it cannot be under-estimated the impact on children. But I think it is vitally important that we continue to engage with agencies and particularly education in relation to the MARAC because that will be an area that we will be looking to expand to. To meet education, to make teachers aware of the impact of domestic abuse on children and on their behaviours in school so that they can be aware that there is assistance there where they think that children do live in a household where domestic abuse is taking place.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Thank you very much indeed. Alex Maskey for the final question on this thematic report.

**Mr Alex Maskey:**

Thank you Chairman. I am curious to know Inspector Mooney, is there any evaluation because you know nowadays the police can pursue a prosecution even though a victim of abuse might not choose to have a prosecution. That obviously should be a good thing, but in the back of my mind I would worry that if a person who is being abused might have the tendency to ring the police to get help but if that person then believes that there would be a prosecution coming out of that, they might not even make the call to get help. So I am just wondering if there is any evaluation of that because what you

are trying to do is to make sure that you give as much support to a victim of abuse by letting them know or letting the abuser know that if the police are called to a scene there probably will be a prosecution. I am just wondering how that is actually working out, because I know going back to years ago, a lot of people may have rang the police in the knowledge that the police might come out and sort the problem out for the night, but they know it is not going to go anywhere beyond that. So, if they now thought there might be a prosecution they might not even phone for help, so I am just wondering if there is any work done on that yet.

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Duncan McCausland:**

Our policy is very clear that we will arrest as a practice and I think that is something the Board support. The Board has actually asked in the thematic for an analysis to be done as to when we do not arrest, but I accept the point that you make. But the reality is, if you look at the statistics as Inspector Mooney showed them, over 19,000 incidents of which those relate to about 7,500 crimes which are reported, so in the vast majority of cases the matter can be resolved potentially by not a prosecution, but by referring to other agencies. I think it is very important that the 'One Stop' shop where Women's Aid are involved and people can ring up and speak to people who are potentially not police officers to give them support, because the first major step is actually asking for help because that has got to be key, but I take the point on board very much that we do not want to frighten people off by in effect saying they will automatically go into the criminal justice system. Inspector Mooney do you want to comment?

**Inspector Pauline Mooney:**

It is just really to reinforce. In 2007/08 we had over 23,000 incidents and just over 9,200 crimes so there is a substantial amount of that where police went out but there actually was not a crime committed. Certainly, we are well aware that prosecution is not necessarily what the victim wants. Certainly where we can we will take endeavours to hold the perpetrator accountable through the criminal justice system, but I have heard it anecdotally from many victims that whilst they initially may not want a prosecution, the feedback is they are glad that the perpetrator was held accountable. They may not have supported the prosecution or continue with their support for it, but I think it is fair to say that the fact that the PSNI are going ahead with prosecutions show that it is a very, very important area.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Inspector Mooney, our thanks to you for an informative, a clear and a succinct report, so thank you very much indeed.

If I can take Chief Constable you and your colleagues to a related area of abuse, it is on question 1 and it is in Mr McKay's name.

***Q1 - To ask the Chief Constable to outline what powers are available to the PSNI to deal with allegations of abuse of the elderly/vulnerable adults who are currently residing in residential care?***

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Duncan McCausland:**

Thank you Chairman. Police have legislative powers leading to criminal offences which apply to all sections of the community Chairman, irrespective of age, vulnerability or place of residence.

The powers available would include offences such as Offences against the Person, Common Assault and Grievous Bodily Harm. Where the elderly or vulnerable person suffers from a mental disability, there are also powers under the Mental Health Order 1986 and the Sexual Offences Order 2008 that deal with the offences of a sexual nature. Where a criminal abuse may have been committed against a vulnerable or elderly person in a Residential Home, then the police and Social Services investigate the incident through the joint protocol arrangements that we have in existence since 1998, and the Board will be pleased to know that they are currently being reviewed and should be reissued later this year.

Where a decision to prosecute has been made, the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) can also apply to the court to avail of special measures which are statutory provisions introduced to assist vulnerable or intimidated witnesses to give their best possible evidence. These measures include for example, screening or evidence through live link or evidence given in private and obviously the softening down of the court in terms of the fact that it can be intimidating to witnesses. All of that going together and the fact that the Government are reviewing, for example, the Bamford Report in terms of the Mental Health Act, and look to bring forward fresh legislation, the introduction of video reporting and the issues that are constantly reviewed and taken forward in terms of

special measures should reassure the Board and the community that this is taken very seriously.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Supplementary, Mr McKay.

**Mr Daithí McKay:**

I think it would be an understatement to say ACC McCausland, that a lot of families find it extremely frustrating that the police cannot intervene immediately in some of these cases. When I talk about abuse, in a number of cases we have been dealing with, are in connection with the area of extreme neglect. So, I am just wondering, do the police recognise neglect as a form of abuse and do you agree with many players within the political and legal fields, who say that there is a massive gap in terms of legislation to ensure that the police can intervene and go into homes without notice to investigate these complaints, because there has been a lot of criticism of the system as it exists and the way the RQIA (Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority) deal with these complaints?

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Duncan McCausland:**

We would certainly recognise neglect and we would classify it as a crime in effect and the reality is we would work very closely with Social Services. If there are incidents such as that we would encourage people to report them and we would jointly go with Social Services to examine and to see if there has to be a criminal investigation or prosecution or a Social Services investigation is taken forward. I think that it is critically important that people are prepared to come forward and tell us in the first instance and we can then see exactly how we can stop and deal with the situation.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

There are 3 questions that relate to the events on St Patrick's Day in the Holyland, questions 8, 9 and 10 and maybe they could be put on the screen.

***Q8 - In relation to the shocking events witnessed in the Holylands area of South Belfast on 17 March 2009, can the Chief Constable comment on what legislative changes he would welcome that would help prevent and deal with similar occurrences in the future?***

***Q9 - To ask the Chief Constable to identify how many of those arrested in the Holylands area of South Belfast on St Patrick's Day were students, and to ask the Chief Constable if he can identify what institutions they attend?***

***Q10 - To ask the Chief Constable to identify if those involved in the trouble, including those arrested in the Holylands area on St Patrick's Day actually reside in the Holylands area?***

**Vice Chairman, Mr Barry Gilligan:**

Could I just say Chief Constable, the concern here is that we have been here before and I recall this Board discussing, particularly events in the Holyland back I think back in 2005, so that is the context in which I ask about the powers you would like to see at your disposal.

**Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:**

I will let ACC Finlay and if necessary, ACC McCausland comment on the actual events. I think the powers are alright, it is not an issue of powers and we can sort of do the sticking plaster stuff, it is the longer term work to stop this behaviour in the first place that is critical, we will deal with it when it happens. There is a longer term solution to this frankly, ACC do you want to deal with it.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Perhaps you could deal with question 8 and 9 and 10 at the same time and then Members can ask supplementaries.

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Alistair Finlay:**

Thank you Chairman. The issues throughout the Holylands and the disturbances that we saw are fairly complex and range from social and demographic changes to licensing practices and drinking culture over time. Legislative changes are really only one aspect to support a range of interventions that are aimed to bring about tangible changes of

attitudes in this area. Part of the problem is the environment that brings thousands of 18 to 23 year olds into a very tight knit close environment without being guided or vetted by the traditional social structures that some of them have come from, such as parents, guardians, older people and different structures and the current planning legislation has over time permitted the growth of houses of multiple occupancy to proliferate in this concentrated area, allowing a large number of young people who will then invite their friends, relatives and anyone else into this particular area at key times in particular over St Patrick's Day.

So, something of the environment in how we have created a density of young people in that area without the controls necessary around about it, and an environment of private rented sector where, it seems in some cases maybe, perhaps landlords are not necessarily stepping up to plate in terms of their responsibilities in terms of their tenants behaviour is part of the aspect. But ACC McCausland will touch later on some of the legislative aspects which might bring some additional controls to these controls or tools.

One of the things that is surprising, I suppose coming from a background in Scotland for example, is that in Scotland, every Constable has the power to close licensed premises on reasonable grounds. Very broadly cast and have had for many years, so in circumstances where young people are getting prolific alcohol in certain areas, off licenses or public houses end up being closed by the police for a certain period of time, something that does not happen here. But there are a number of different measures which ACC McCausland will touch on which are available currently in England, Wales and in Scotland which might be of assistance.

In terms of the other questions, as of 27 March 2009, 8 of those arrested during disturbances at the Holylands are students and the investigation into the incidents of public disorder are still ongoing. It might be wholly inappropriate to state which institutions they are attached to. We are working closely with the universities and indeed, a number of multi agency groups have been set up in order to seek to address the problems that were identified during that day, but of the 19 arrests 8 have been identified as students, they are students of Belfast. Of the other 11 arrests, it has not be ascertained if they attend other educational establishments or not but they do not appear to be.

Again on the 27 March 2009 and the 19 arrested, 10 of those arrested have supplied home address details which indicate that they reside at least part of the time in the Holylands area. It should be noted these addresses are predominantly temporary addresses and not permanent addresses. The universities do not require students to register their term time address, only their permanent address which tends to be perhaps the family address which would be elsewhere, either across the province or indeed across the UK. Maybe ACC McCausland would touch on the other issues.

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Duncan McCausland:**

Chairman, if I could address briefly then the other issue in relation to any additional legislation we would wish. Obviously the Board are aware we are pursuing actively with the Northern Ireland Office, the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices and Penalty Notices for Disorder. The Fixed Penalty Notices would give us the ability and our supporting agencies such as Belfast City Council, the ability to issue tickets reference environmental offences. But Penalty Notices which specifically allow us to issue an on the spot £80 fine which we feel, in terms of the circumstances we were dealing with, would potentially nip activity in the bud before it got started.

On the wider issue, we are actively seeking legislation similar to the rest of the country in terms of dispersal zones. For example, where we have the power in effect to disperse people for up to 24 hours and prevent them from gathering in the numbers that you saw.

Also, in relation to the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order, we are pursuing with the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) to bring in the articles in relation to dealing with intoxicating liquor in designated public places, and the issue ACC Finlay has raised in relation to the ability for a Constable or Area Commander to in effect have a licensed premises closed. That legislation has not yet commenced but we are looking at it.

The last and final area that I specifically am keen to get in would be alcohol disorder zones, where along with the City Council or any council around Northern Ireland, if the police and the council decided that there was a policing problem caused by the activities of a particular licensed premises, the council and the police could, in effect, impose additional requirements on the licensee to pay for extra policing until the matter had been resolved. We feel if that, and it has been introduced in other parts of the

country, we feel if that was introduced that would have a significant effect in terms of the sale of intoxicating liquor. These go hand in hand with the operation the Chief Constable has already announced in relation to Operation Snapper where we have been trying to address alcohol and young people, and you know there is a major communications strategy about to be launched in relation to that.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Thank you very much indeed. Two supplementaries, the Vice Chairman and Mr Jimmy Spratt.

**Vice Chairman, Mr Barry Gilligan:**

ACC McCausland, it is just on the question of Fixed Penalty Notices. It is something that has been discussed between you and this Board for some considerable time and I think there would be broad support amongst Members of this Board for its introduction.

When do you expect your discussions with the Northern Ireland Office are going to come to some conclusion?

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Duncan McCausland:**

I would expect very shortly. I had a meeting with the Minister on this topic and with the Director and a number of other key officials from the Criminal Justice organisations not least on Monday. We have a Working Group already established and has worked out the requirements and the various offences that would potentially come into the scope of such Penalty Notices. It will require primary legislation, although the Minister is prepared to take that forward rather than having to wait for any developments in relation to devolution.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Mr Jimmy Spratt.

**Mr Jimmy Spratt:**

Thank you Chairman. Can I say firstly in relation to the police operation on the 17 March 2009, that it was a very proportionate and necessary operation and the police have to be congratulated on the way that the whole situation was handled.

I think in relation to the wider issue and I appreciate that you do not want to go into the details or the finer details of the addresses, but there is an issue that I think the majority of those who have been arrested have actually come from another institution, not Queen's University, and Queen's very unfairly sometimes get the blame because of the close proximity of the students living within the Holylands, all of the blame is proportioned to Queen's University. Queen's in fairness, along with the University of Ulster, have put a considerable amount of time and resources and finances into the whole situation there and I think that needs to be encouraged, but I think also the police in relation to and I think there was and let us be frank about the thing, I think there was people who came in from outside and they were hell bent on causing trouble on that particular day.

I think in relation to one of the issues that have arisen is the Warden Scheme there and the council and the rest have supported it. The police supported it at the very start and my understanding at this minute in time is that the police have not put or are not putting in any finance into it. Hold on ACC McCausland, you may have done that within the last few days but you certainly had not done that last week or the week before because I have had conversations, so I will be very pleased to hear that you now have bought into that scheme because it is a scheme.

It is not just about the 17 March, the people are being plagued down there night after night after night and all of us as public representatives down there have been at meetings in relation to that so I am hoping you are going to tell me now that you have bought into the scheme at long last because certainly that was one of the worries of the universities that you were not going to do that.

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Duncan McCausland:**

Chairman, please be reassured and as Mr Spratt knows, we had always supported the scheme. Obviously with the financial restraints that we had as the Board has already discussed today, there was a concern could we continue to buy in next year. I am pleased to report, within the last 24 hours, in fact the last 48 hours, we have been able to buy in due to the end of the financial year.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Two related questions, question 4 and 3. Question 4 is in the name of Mr Gilligan then 3 is in the name of Mr Maskey.

***Q4 - To ask the Chief Constable when night clubs are closing there is often a large visible police presence in the area. Is it necessary, as some people think it has a tendency to aggravate young people to behave in an anti-social manner?***

***Q3 - To ask the Chief Constable what specific targets do the police have for engaging with young people during 2009 - 10?***

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mrs Judith Gillespie:**

I will take question 4 Chairman and then question 3 will pass to ACC McCausland and then we will mention some local initiatives as well.

Multi agency partnerships like 'Get Home Safe' rely on police participating through high visibility patrols being out on the street where there is a high footfall of young people when they are coming out of pubs and clubs. It is certainly our experience, that by adopting that high visibility profile, we can deter and detect offences and very often, de-escalate minor issues that might otherwise escalate if we were not there.

I think it is also important to say that it does help people to feel safe as they are leaving pubs and clubs and in particular, if you bear in mind the recent Rape Crime Conference to which we have already referred, and a lot of serious sexual offences including rape, which are reported at times whenever pubs and clubs are getting out onto the street and young people, male and female, can feel vulnerable so I think it is important to stress that point.

The deployment locations and the times when we deploy are contingent on the local risk assessment and obviously what the local intelligence picture is saying in terms of crime pattern analysis.

We also liaise very closely with nightclubs owners and I have seen that in particular in Foyle District where the local TSGs (Tactical Support Groups) know the nightclub owners, know the licensees very well and work with those licensees to try and reduce aggravation among the young people leaving the clubs.

It is our experience the majority of people reassured by this type of overt policing, and there is a question about engaging with young people. This is another opportunity to engage with young people generally in a non-confrontational way and especially when it is neighbourhood officers that are actually out there on the street, and that type of friendly banter does absolutely no harm to building up a relationship with young people.

Undoubtedly, there is a small number of young people who do see this as aggravation but where that is the case and where they engage in loutish or criminal behaviour, they are dealt with proportionately. I would once again invite Board Members, and I know some of you have taken this opportunity, but I would repeat the invitation to come out on patrol with some of these "Get Home Safe" initiatives across Northern Ireland, not just in Belfast, and see for yourselves this type of policing on the ground.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Thank you very much.

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Duncan McCausland:**

Chairman in question 3 then in relation to the targets for police engagement with young people. There are no specific targets that you know in the Policing Plan, however, we take engagement extremely seriously with young people.

In 2007, we established 4 Youth Independent Advisory Groups in Armagh, Down, Fermanagh and Foyle and we are looking to expand that to other districts across Northern Ireland so that there will be an Independent Advisory Group for young people in every district. We have a very clear youth strategy in terms of engaging with young people and we have actually found the Independent Advisory Groups extremely helpful in terms of helping us to develop our policies overall.

PSNI have introduced a Youth Consultant and Engagement Programme within Foundation Training and this allows young people and student officers, as well as local neighbourhood policing teams to debate and discuss topics which are relevant to young people actually in the Training Centres and to help develop neighbourhood police officers when they are out and about in relation to their communities. ACC Gillespie has earlier mentioned the CASE training which we give both to our officers and lessons that we deliver in schools.

Chairman, it is a fact that today there will be 26 lessons delivered in all our schools across Northern Ireland by our officers who have been trained. We deliver over 5,000 lessons annually on subjects, 64 various topics, and what we do is we ask schools to select what they feel are the best bespoke type of topics to present in their schools.

You have also got Chairman as we have already spoke earlier of, the Knife Awareness presentation and the Knife Awareness play which is going around Northern Ireland in relation to young people and having choices. We have already mentioned Operation Snapper and the dealing with alcohol and alcohol abuse by young people and that is not just enforcement, it is education and health and looking at reoffending. Then the bedrock of all this is, the role of our Neighbourhood Policing Framework and our neighbourhood officers do in regular contact with young people on the ground. I would suggest all of that combined together is a significant amount of activity we put in to building for the future in terms of our young people, but if I could pass back to the Regional colleagues in relation to specific examples.

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Alistair Finlay:**

Chairman, just by having a look at this I got information from all the Districts and rather than go through the list, just taking for random example Lisburn. In Lisburn area there are 14 different outreach projects that are interacting with young people and these range from "Be Safe" week and even work experience which is a valuable opportunity to outreach to young people. But some that have been of particular note in Lisburn is the ADHD programme, where research indicated particularly in the Republic of Ireland, that so many people in prison actually had learning difficulties and or have been diagnosed with ADHD. This is an early intervention programme which does work with young people who suffer from ADHD and positively helps, in partnership with the YMCA, to ensure that they stay out of criminality and they do not get drawn in because

of the challenges around their condition and the influence others can have round about them. They do not get drawn into that cycle of criminality and they are actually helped to use their attributes positively.

There is also an outreach called 'Pizza and Peeler's', where we are sitting down with young people and sharing a bit of food and that is working very well in schools and spreads then into youth clubs. These are just 2 or 3 examples of a range of 14 in one district, one in each area so each area on the ground has a wide range of outreach projects which can of course be detailed in a written answer if the Board would prefer if they would like to know everything that is going on. Perhaps ACC Gillespie would touch on examples in Rural Region.

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mrs Judith Gillespie:**

I would certainly offer that rather than list all of the local examples, that we could detail these in a written answer on them all to the Board and maybe the Community Engagement Committee would be particularly interested in that.

But in Craigavon area for example, 'E' District ran a Multi Agency Alcohol Awareness seminar and there was about 50 young people from Craigavon there. That involved the South Eastern Education & Library Board and Health Awareness folk in attendance and the focus was on alcohol misuse. They also have an initiative there with the Fire Service and the Youth Justice Agency running workshops which will seek to engage with just under 2,000 young people and that was following a particular issue in the People's Park in Lurgan.

I just want to mention a particular initiative in 'H' District because it is relevant to something that Daithí McKay said publicly today. It is Ballynamore and Rasharkin Together, the BART Project and that is aimed at promoting better understanding between young Protestant and Catholic people in that area. I know there was a particular incident yesterday evening which is systematic of, certainly a sectarian issue, in the Rasharkin area, that we are working very hard with local people to get on top of. But you know the police will deal with the symptoms of the problem, the deeper sectarian problem must be dealt with by the community itself, but we are certainly working very hard with local representatives on that one.

Could I just mention also, the real challenge here is young people who have disengaged and we talked about this a little bit earlier in the private session. Young people who have disengaged with both statutory and voluntary sector organisations and that is the real challenge, to bring those young people back on board and provide services to those young people and give them a voice to make sure that they are being heard.

Social networking sites are another challenge to us and we do monitor those, because we know nowadays there are very few young people who read newspapers, but they do certainly communicate in other ways, and that is one way in which we could perhaps increase our profile and get good meaningful information out there.

Finally, I would stress the role of DPPs (District Policing Partnerships) in all of this. Many DPPs have some excellent initiatives to engage with young people and I would encourage other DPPS to look at those initiatives and take them forward in their areas as well.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Thank you very much. Question 15 relates.....

**Mr Daithí McKay:**

Chairman, just to come back on the issue ACC Gillespie did raise there. I think it is important when you are talking about young people that certain incidents are responded to with proportionality.

What happened in Rasharkin last night as ACC Gillespie well knows, there was an incident and the response was that 5 TSG land rovers came into an estate, they deployed police dogs, they deployed people with sub-machine guns and the officers themselves and I am specifically talking about TSG officers who gave me grief and they gave the people in that estate a lot of grief as well. So, I will gladly speak to ACC Gillespie afterwards about that particular incident. But I do recognise there is a lot of good work going on in the Rasharkin area by police officers, but all the good work that has been carried out by community police officers over the past year has just been undone by what happened last night.

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mrs Judith Gillespie:**

Obviously there is a contrary view to that. We were responding to a request from a member of the public, who had reported 15 young people with hurling bats who had been breaking windows of cars and there was actually a car damaged and there is a definite line of enquiry that we are following with regard to that. I would stress that this was a report from a member of the public that police were responding to. The TSG happened to be close by and responded to that report they were tasked to it. I am happy to engage with Daithí McKay after this meeting with regard to that style of response, but bear in mind that the initial report was a group of 15 young people armed with hurling bats. It seems to me that if you were going to deploy anyone to that, you were going to deploy police in numbers to deal with it.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Ian Paisley Jnr, supplementary.

**Mr Ian Paisley Jnr:**

It really just is a supplementary. I am actually glad that the facts of the situation have been clarified there. I know there is good work going on. I think it is important to say there is good work going on between political parties in that area and between community representatives and the police, but incidents that inflame the tension in the area really do not help and I think that there really needs to be some political leadership and there needs to be a reduction in tensions. One of ways that tension could be reduced in that area and Mr McKay will know this, is the reduction in sectarian symbolism in that village. It is a mixed village, it is a village that has 2 communities, one of them is in fear and the other one is potentially in fear and I think that the lowering of some of the sectarian symbolism in that village will go a long way to reducing the tension and to helping the police in the battles that they have with some of the community issues.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Do you want to comment on that ACC Gillespie?

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mrs Judith Gillespie:**

No, not really, other than to certainly support the fact that local community leaders are engaging and that is the way forward. The police alone will not solve this problem in Rasharkin.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Question relating to loyalist paramilitary involvement in human trafficking, question 15, it is in Mr David Rose's name.

***Q15 - Do the police have any evidence/indications of loyalist paramilitary involvement in human trafficking operations in Northern Ireland?***

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Drew Harris:**

Thank you. There is no evidence or indications of any kind of loyalist paramilitary involvement in human trafficking at this time. Investigations are always ongoing to identify criminal groupings responsible for trafficking human beings, but I would point out some of the characteristics of this crime, one of which is the identification of victims in countries in Eastern Europe, Africa and even indeed, the Far East.

Also then, the actual logistics involved in terms of rental property, actual personnel to run the brothels and then the money laundering operation and if there was local involvement in that, I think pretty quickly we would pick up on the whole criminal enterprise such is the extent of it, but the specific question as asked, there are no indications whatsoever at this time of loyalist paramilitary involvement.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

David Rose.

**Mr David Rose:**

The question was set really in relation to a comment I think made by a politician that they thought it was going on. If there is ever any truth, will you inform the Board?

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Drew Harris:**

Of course, but my first duty is to bring the perpetrators to justice and then I will inform the Board of what has happened.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Question 11 is a question that the answer could last an hour, but I am sure Mr McCrea will accept a brief response.

***Q11 - To ask the Chief Constable if he would agree that community based policing is essential for delivering confidence and intelligence to ensure a peaceful future. What plans does he have to raise the profile, regard and status of community policing?***

**Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:**

It will only last an hour if I ask ACC McCausland to do it Chairman, so perhaps I will do it.

I think the basic point is that the whole reason for the PSNI existing is to deliver a community based style of policing, so if the Board is looking for reassurance that that is the style that is going to continue, the answer is yes. If there is a concern around the current issues that we are facing, I think the fact that community policing is still going on is the best evidence you can get. I do not know if ACC McCausland would like to briefly comment on some of his other pages of comment.

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Duncan McCausland:**

Chairman, you will know that we have a Governance Board in relation to neighbourhood policing and that has recently written to the Board in relation to discharging the vast majority of the objectives and recommendations that have been introduced.

The highlights would be that we are looking to define a distinct role for neighbourhood officers which the Board should be reassured about. There has been a training needs analysis and later this year we will be actually introducing accredited training for neighbourhood officers starting in September 2009, thus raising the status which the Board has always had a concern about, of neighbourhood officers in relation to the organisation.

The Board already have a clear target that 80% of neighbourhood officers' time must be spent, and we are complying with that, doing their normal duties in neighbourhoods. There is a Communications and Marketing Strategy which will be clearly and continued to rollout and we will be bringing to the Board to the Community Engagement Committee shortly, the internet updates in relation to the various mapping of neighbourhoods and what we are actually trying to do.

As the Chief Constable has already said, it is our firm commitment in relation to neighbourhood policing and we are, as you know, developing the Policing with the Community Strategy which the Board are working hand in hand with us in terms of relaunching it later this year.

I will conclude at that point.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Thank you very much indeed.

**Mr Basil McCrea:**

Am I under the similar guillotine?

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Yes.

**Mr Basil McCrea:**

The Chief Constable does ask us from time to time to put forward strategic questions. This is a strategic question. There are 2 points to it. One is, there is a concern that community policing are second class citizens in comparison to response and various other people, I think we need to reassure that.

I also think, that in terms of the other issues that we brought forward, there are reports in the press today about lack of equipment, lack of long arms training, lack of land rovers available and the issue is a strategic one about how we actually maintain the protection of our officers, but allow them to actually do community policing because at the end of the day, unless we get the full support of the community as we saw earlier

from the responses about the murders, you will not solve this problem and I am really genuinely interested about how you are going to actually cross that particular circle.

**Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:**

I will certainly give you a strategic answer Mr McCrea. Neighbourhood policing are not second class citizens or anything else, but there is a point. It is one of the things we do. It is a highly important one of the things we do because it is a style, it is not just limited to neighbourhood officers, it is every police officer.

Constable Carroll was delivering neighbourhood policing. He happened to be a TSG officer responding to a call from the community in Lurgan and I think that is the point. People investigating these crimes, the most serious crimes, sickening crimes such as murder, are contributing to community policing. So, I think a mistake is, if we try and put it into a box and say 'the only people who do community policing are the people in neighbourhoods' it is not that, it is far more complicated.

In terms of the equipment, I have got hundreds of land rovers. I do not particularly want to use them for the obvious reason, it is a different style of policing. They are available to District Commanders if they feel the need to protect their officers and I will not step in the way of them being issued on those grounds, but it is a matter for Districts. Mr Best has touched on the need for armoured cars because they look the same. It is a style of policing we are trying to deliver.

In terms of long arms, we have more than adequate resource in terms of training, in terms of capacity if we need them, but again it is a proportionate response which is determined by District Commanders in consultation with their Assistant Chief Constables (ACCs). I think the last thing anyone around this table wants, is to go back to a style of policing which suggests we are in a different place to where we actually are. The reality is, as ACC Harris explained, the communities in Lurgan want us to police Lurgan. The communities in West Belfast want us to police West Belfast likewise in North Belfast, they want ordinary policing.

As I said in my opening, what is incredible is, our men and women out there delivering that level of policing are prepared to do it. My role is to make sure they feel adequately protected, but the bottom line is, policing is a risk business. My officers recognise that and they still go out and do and I think that is the most powerful message we can send, and they will not step back. If there are any particular issues they come up through the Districts and the ACCs deal with them. But I am confident we have got the resource.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Before we conclude the meeting could the Vice Chairman, Ian Paisley Jnr, Alex Maskey and Mr Crea meet with me in one of the sub offices on the next floor at 2:30pm.

Could I say to you Chief Constable and your colleagues a sincere thank you for taking our questions today. Thank you very much indeed and to members of the public, I hope you found this session interesting. Thank you.