

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE 6TH PUBLIC MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND
POLICING BOARD HELD ON 3 JULY 2002 AT 12 NOON IN WATERSIDE
TOWER, CLARENDON DOCK, BELFAST**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Professor Desmond Rea
(Chairman)
Mr Denis Bradley (Vice-Chairman)
Mr Alex Attwood
Viscount Brookeborough
Mr Brian Dougherty
Mr Sam Foster
Mr Barry Gilligan
Mr William Hay
Lord Kilclooney
Mrs Pauline McCabe
Mr Alan McFarland
Mr Eddie McGrady
Mrs Rosaleen Moore
Mr Ian Paisley, Jnr
Mr Suneil Sharma
Mr Sammy Wilson

**POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN
IRELAND:**

Mr Colin Cramphorn (Acting Chief
Constable)
Superintendent, Command
Secretariat
Director of Media & Public Relations

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr I Wilson (Interim Chief
Executive)
Six Board Officials

IN ATTENDANCE:

Representatives from the Police
Staff Associations

Apologies:

Mr Byrne, Mr Cobain and Mr Kelly.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Good afternoon and welcome everyone, particularly to the many young people in the public gallery. A number of questions to you Acting Chief Constable Colin Cramphorn. You and your colleagues are welcome to this meeting of course. There are some questions that are bread and butter to the Board. I call on Barry Gilligan, a question that relates to the management development programme.

Mr Barry Gilligan:

Thank you Chairman for a moment when you referred to young people I thought you looked at me, but then I caught myself on. Acting Chief Constable you are very welcome. Could you please give the Board an update on how the management development programme within the Police Service is being implemented?

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

Well good morning ladies and gentlemen. There are two aspects to the management development programme. The first is essentially work on a leadership development programme. The programme is due to commence in September of this year and it will run for twelve months before it is completed. It is expected to operate at three levels, a series of core or mandatory modules and then elected modules and then, where appropriate, academic placements beyond that. The programme is designed to be role focused and will be linked to annual performance reviews and will consist as I indicated earlier, of three levels, some of that will be pure training if I can use that term traditional didactic teaching if you like, some of it will be work placements and exchanges and then of course the academic element as I have already referred to, where that is appropriate.

The leadership training will use as its basic model the action centred leadership model of Adairs - not that Adair. The programme's three levels will

be level one training, level two training for operational commanders and level three training for executive ranks, the most senior ranks of the service.

On a twin track with that leadership development, also rolling out from September onwards is a programme to provide training for District Command Unit commanders and their command teams. This of course includes the leadership I have referred to and also problem solving, mediation skills, negotiation skills and media training. The training will be elective dependant on need. In other words, if an officer has already had a good part of that training or experience elsewhere to give them those competencies then we do not insist they go through the same training loop again, because that would clearly be inefficient.

In addition to first line managers, there is also from September and October onwards a newly promoted Sergeant and Executive Officer II's training package in this area, and also a management level 2 programme for Inspectors and Executive Officer Is, the equivalent civilian staff grades and staff officer grade in there as well. So the whole approach is modular and is dependent on obviously the links to the appraisal system, that I have already mentioned, ensuring that that is used to identify what are the appropriate modules to develop that individual to have the full suite of competences required for the role they are in. Ultimately of course, the whole thing should all fit together seamlessly, but we have a lot of work to do before we can be sure that we have achieved that end gain.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Mrs Pauline McCabe on devolution of financial budgets.

Mrs Pauline McCabe:

Thank you. In line with the delegation of responsibility to the District Command Units could you give us a progress report on the devolving of

financial budgets to district commanders, and also could you tell us what will be included and what will be retained centrally?

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

Chairman, the local financial management system (LFM) involves the decentralisation of responsibility for budgets from headquarters as the question indicates. LFM is a system of financial management that obviously is worth doing because it puts decision making to the most appropriate level and aligns financial decision making with operational decision making, and having rehearsed that rationale for doing it to the meat of the question of what is happening when and how.

We have been implementing LFM on a phased basis in the Police Service of Northern Ireland and indeed we have made some considerable progress already. In fact police and civilian overtime, travel and subsistence has been devolved to commanders some considerable time ago, although not in cash terms, it was in hours terms, in terms of overtime. That is now supported by financial awareness reports showing total staff costs across the whole organisation. The latest version of the Integra software package is now online and accessible from all the District Command Units and they can drill down into as much detail as they require through that, and that is far more advanced access than in many forces in other parts of the United Kingdom.

During the current financial year the budgets for police and civilian salaries, which is of course the lion's share of the police budget as you are well aware 80 odd percent of our costs are in our people, will be delegated that is a considerable delegation that is taking place there.

There will be a limited virement power to transfer savings between budget heads but at this stage that will still require consultation and authorisation from budget control at the centre. Put simply, commanders have to learn to manage these budgets gradually and to just throw it out without those sorts of safety nets, experience elsewhere has shown tends to have rather the

opposite effect to the one intended. So the delegation of those salary budgets commenced in April when the urban region, the greater Belfast region if you prefer went live. We are in the process of recruiting and appointing the staff necessary to allow this in the District Command Units at the present time. Subject to that caveat it is intended that the other two regions North and South should start at the mid year point in October with the same devolution to them at that point and indeed headquarters departments should have that same devolution at that point.

Clearly this requires training to prepare people for that and a comprehensive training programme, with support from consultants, has taken place and is continuing as these new staffs are appointed. In the subsequent financial year we would anticipate further opportunities for delegation, then as the whole system settles in and beds down, building running costs, utilities, telephone revenue, IT consumables, transport running costs and supplies are all budgets that we are looking at in that vein, but have not made final decisions about at the moment. It is all dependent on having the necessary IT support but we have made good progress with that as I have already indicated. There is no plan currently to devolve any capital budgets. For the size of organisation we are, our capital budgets are relatively small and because of the usual sorts of in-year pressures, stop-starts of programmes, delays etc. there is a need to co-ordinate that centrally to ensure that we spend the allocation in the year and do not end the year with large capital under-spends, which has been a feature of many organisations in the public sector in the past as I know you are aware.

So in conclusion, just one further thing to flag up which is not strictly in your question but finance department and our corporate development branch have been working closely together on the kind of integrated planning that is necessary to underpin all of this. You will know there are a number of planning requirements that fall upon us by statute, the policing plan and so forth and there are other planning requirements which fall upon the office of Chief Constable as a sub-accounting officer under Treasury rules. Put

simply, these planning cycles do not line up with one another at this point in time, and until we find ways of making them line up with one another we will never actually achieve the fully integrated operational and financial planning that was recommended by Patten and indeed is recommended by as best practice by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC).

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Mr Eddie McGrady has a question; Mr Sam Foster has a supplementary on discharge of baton rounds. Mr McGrady.

Mr Eddie McGrady:

Thank you Chairman, I am sure the Acting Chief Constable is very much aware of the recent publicity, public interest, indeed in many circumstances public concern about the increased discharge of baton rounds. Could you give us some indication or some report or detail of the number and the circumstances over say the past two months?

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

Chairman, certainly I can comment on that. We have actually a couple of tables which I am happy to share with officials so that they can distribute them, which not only deal with the current year to date from January 1st, the current calendar year but also the previous two years. It is a matter of fact that over that period there has been a steady increase in the number of baton rounds that have had to have been discharged, but of course as other meetings of this board and conversations in those meetings has more than covered, we have seen a deteriorating public order situation over that two and a half year time scale, so it is not entirely surprising.

In the year to date, police have discharged, this is up to the end of June, have discharged about 179 baton rounds. I am afraid I was only able to get details up to the 23 June from military colleagues so there is a week's disparity in the figures but that shows there were 31 discharged by the army in the first six

months of this year. That compares with full year figures for the year 2000, 22 by police and 4 by army, and for the year 2001, 91 by police, 17 by army. As far as May and June specifically are concerned the last two months, May saw 48 fired by police and June 67, and by military colleagues May saw 11 fired and 17 in June to the 23rd. I should say about the figure in May that all but 1 or 2 of those were involved in a single incident in the Short Strand, which I have reported to this Board on in the past.

Mr Eddie McGrady:

A quick supplementary to that Chair because the figures are slightly different from the figures I have, I am not saying they are incompatible but they are different. The reason I pursue the question in the last two months alone of April, May of this year in respect of the army fired 14 rounds in the two months, in the whole of the previous year they fired 15, so its an enormous increase, a potential increase. Now one of my concerns is that of the public is that while there is accountability and openness and transparency in respect of the police firing baton rounds through the Ombudsman's Office, there is not the same transparency, investigation or reportage in terms of those discharged by the army. This gives the public concern and also the accusation warranted or unwarranted likely to address this that there is a transfer of responsibility if you like for baton rounds. I would like you to address those issues.

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

Perception of course is very powerful and as you say, and as the figures I have already given show that there has been an increasing trend over three years now, regrettably, because public order has been deteriorating steadily over those three years. But in terms of April and May as you point out there, I will come back to the point that the vast majority of the baton rounds fired by the army in that two month period related to one specific incident. Going from memory I think it was the 11th or the 14th of May when searches had to be conducted in part of the Short Strand, as a result of a shooting that occurred a couple of days previously. You will perhaps recall that I reported to this body

on that occasion, that there was an orchestrated attack on the police detectives who were carrying out those searches, that the searches had to be cut short because of that orchestrated attack which included acid bombs and ammonia bombs and so forth. And that the severity of the rioting was such that the extraction route for the police officers and the army units that were supporting them, you know absolutely had to be held until those officers could be withdrawn, and that necessitated regrettably the discharge of a number of baton rounds. I do not think we should let one incident cloud a picture of the overall picture and there is clearly, if one extracts that one incident then actually the numbers look very different.

Mr Eddie McGrady:

I would like to thank the Acting Chief Constable for that response and I do put it in context of his own report which indicates 316 attacks on the police in that same period, and 110 of our officers were injured, so I want to put it in that context, but thank him for his comprehensive answer.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Mr Sam Foster.

Mr Sam Foster:

Thank you Chairman. I have a supplementary to that; I have a separate question as well.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

I will call you later for that.

Mr Sam Foster:

Thank you. Subsequent to that Acting Chief Constable, on what is the situation when the order or the command is given to fire baton rounds as it were, how critical is the situation? Is it critical to keep people and save them

from viciousness, to save the lives of police personnel who may even be battered into oblivion, who gives the order?

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

It may be Chairman, that the easiest way of addressing this for Mr Foster is actually to share with him the guidelines which are joint guidelines published by Home Office and Scottish Department of Justice and the Northern Ireland Office, because it is an all UK set of guidelines that we now operate under. Essentially, boiling it down to its most simple, the issue is one of threat to life. Now that threat may come in a number of ways of course, whether it is from petrol bombs or a more crude physical attack of whatever nature, but threat to life is essentially the trigger for using baton rounds in public disorder situations.

You will also be aware of course Chairman, that baton rounds have now been authorised and used on two occasions in Great Britain as a less than lethal option for responders to incidents. As officers in Great Britain do not carry firearms as a matter of routine, they have to have special response units to provide an armed response and those units now carry baton guns. If in circumstances, for instance one of those two I have referred to was a gentleman running amok with a samurai sword and a baton round was used to disable that officer long enough to allow officers to approach the individual and overpower him and affect an arrest. So the baton gun is used in those sorts of situations wherever it is in the United Kingdom.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Mr Ian Paisley Jnr you have a question.

Mr Sam Foster:

Thank you to the Acting Chief Constable for his reply. I take it then it is quite obvious that these baton rounds are not fired willy-nilly and that there is a real reason behind it?

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

Yes, absolutely happy to confirm that Chairman. A very detailed system of authorities that have to be gone through and detailed record keeping that then has to be kept and has already been alluded to by Mr McGrady. The Chief Constable then, in Northern Ireland, voluntarily refers each one of those incidents to the Ombudsman for independent investigation.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Mr Ian Paisley Jnr you have a question on the general level of threat and I will come back to you about your other question later.

Mr Ian Paisley Jnr:

Thank you Chairman, again you are most welcome Acting Chief Constable. Given that last night a number of politicians were formally warned by the police, not only last night but also this morning, of the serious republican threat to carry out either a political assassination or a spectacular, is the Acting Chief Constable able to comment on the general level of threat at present, and the serious nature of the republican threat to peace and stability here?

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

I am not able to comment on the specifics that Mr Paisley refers to, but in the generality I think it is quite appropriate that I should comment that there are a number of serious threats that have emerged in recent weeks from dissident republican groups. Those threats have by and large here to fore been to security force members or premises, or patrols. But not surprisingly threats of another type have emerged. They are serious; they are involving us in a great deal of time and activity to ensure that we respond to them appropriately. I have to say, regrettably, it is yet further resources diverted

from conventional day-to-day regular policing that I know is what I want and what you all want. It is yet a further pressure on those resources but threats of that nature cannot be treated lightly and must be given the seriousness that they deserve.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Mr Foster again if you could take up Roslea, you have got a question there.

Mr Sam Foster:

Thank you Chairman, the question is what police action will be taken to bring before the courts those that regularly attack police personnel, police property and police vehicles. There are many cases in recent times but I especially think of Roslea Station in Fermanagh last weekend.

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

Perhaps I could start in reverse order and just touch on Roslea initially.

Clearly you are familiar with the details of what went on there, I am pleased to say that whilst damage was caused no injury was caused to any of the police officers. Protection measures in the design and build of the facility saw to that. The circumstances of that particular incident were rather unfortunate. Our ability to respond was limited by the weather conditions and the restrictions that that posed on the ability of military colleagues to fly additional resources into Roslea to respond to the circumstances. I am afraid none of us can legislate for those weather conditions.

In terms of the more general thrust of your question as to investigation, I think you have heard me say in this forum before, that in terms of investigating public order in particular it is somewhat of a long game that we play. We gather our evidence at the time using video and similar facilities. That then has to be processed in accordance with the legal protocols and requirements that are set down and that leads us to then have the evidence to arrest and charge people as we do. But it is a time consuming process and it is person power intensive, takes a lot of hours of work to ensure that the evidential

standards required in respect of video evidence are observed in order that a successful prosecution can be brought at the end of the day. So the numbers are not perhaps as great or as fast in coming to fruition as any of us would have liked, but that has to be offset against the risks of taking shortcuts and thereby not meeting the evidential standards and losing prosecutions as a result.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Mr Attwood has a question relating to the Chilcott Report.

Mr Alex Attwood:

Yes, could I first of all ask a supplementary question to Mr McGrady's point and before doing so acknowledge that this might be the last session where there is a public engagement with you as Acting Chief Constable and that it has to be acknowledged that you became Acting Chief Constable in difficult circumstances and perhaps it has not got easier for you since. And certainly after my questions it might not be any easier at all.

The supplementary is that given the accountability that now exists in respect of the PSNI use of baton rounds, the reporting requirements, the publication of a report by Nuala O'Loan's office, the reference of all baton rounds been fired to her office, do you not accept that there is an accountability gap in terms of policing in the north. Given that the British army can fire baton rounds, that the terms under which they fire is a classified document, that there is no publication of any investigation into the firing of baton rounds by the British army and that there is therefore no transparency. Would you not accept that as Acting Chief Constable, you as a consequence are put in a invidious position where you, as Acting Chief Constable, account for what your officers do yet those who you call into help you do not have to account in the same way?

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Your first statement was accurate.

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

Thank you Chairman. I do not think it is as black and white as you paint it. I know you have had this discussion with the General Officer Commanding so forgive me if I am repeating things that you have already had said to you in private, but other Members might not have had them said to them. Of course if there is any question of a military member discharging a baton round in circumstances which provides evidence of a crime and actually there is a responsibility on myself and the officers of the police service to investigate that crime. As with any other discharge of a firearm and indeed we would investigate that crime and where the evidence is available, it would be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions. If he was satisfied the evidential burden was established he would no doubt take a prosecution and I need hardly rehearse that there have been such prosecutions in the past. Where the conduct may fall short of a criminal standard but there may be other issues that individuals wish to raise then of course there is a complaint mechanism which is available. It has not been widely used, I would admit, but there is an independent assessor of complaints against the military services deployed here in aid of the civil authorities and a complaint can be pursued through that channel.

Mr Alex Attwood:

I note what you say; I am not convinced by what you say. But moving onto the main question. It is this, and if you are not in a position to answer these questions now, I would appreciate if in due course your office could answer these questions and they are this. Arising from the Steven's One and Steven's Two Reports, are you or are you not aware that what Steven's One and Two recommend in respect of the conduct of the Special Branch was implemented in full? And if it was not implemented in full why was it not implemented in full. Secondly, in relation to the conduct of British army intelligence in the north is it, or is it not the case, that those units account for

their actions to the Chief Constable and thereafter the Secretary of State. And if that is not what happens, what does happen in respect of the intelligence gathering functions of British army units currently operational in Northern Ireland? Is there another means of accounting through the Ministry of Defence to the Cabinet Office in respect of what they do?

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

As members will know from the briefing that they received from Sir Steven Lander, the position in Northern Ireland is that the Chief Constable, unlike Chief Constables in Great Britain, is in the lead on national security matters. That means that intelligence product is primarily processed through the police service and onto other parties in Whitehall and elsewhere. But as with any other military unit deployed in Northern Ireland they are under the command of the General Officer Commanding. We touched on this issue at the last meeting in the context of public order where I was trying to explain perhaps not as subtly as some Members would have liked me to. But we provide the tasking, we do not instruct and would not dream of instructing our military colleagues as to the most appropriate method to deliver that tasking, that is quite rightly a decision for their own line of command. So in the sense that you refer to accountability there is of course accountability for the tasking but not for the way in which that tasking may be discharged, that is quite rightly a matter through the military chain of command. That might seem an artificial distinction and I know some members discussed it with me over lunch after last month's meeting, but that is the constitutional position as relates to the responsibilities in the role of the Chief Constable and the responsibilities in the role of those military units deployed under the General Officer Commanding.

In terms of the first part of your question which related to Steven's One and Two, I am afraid I do not have either encyclopaedia recall of the recommendations of Steven's One and Two or indeed the detail to hand to

allow me to give you an answer on that this morning, I will go away and make some enquiries about that and come back to you.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Mr Ian Paisley Jnr you have a question that relates to the bomb under the car of the young police constable, in Ballymena.

Mr Ian Paisley Jnr:

You will be aware that on the 10th of June there was an attempt to kill one of my constituents, and indeed one of your new recruits to the police. Can you tell the Board what progress you have made in terms of any arrests or pending arrests? Can you confirm that the device used was a republican type device? And can you indicate to us of the suspects, if you have any suspects are they local and have they an IRA pedigree? And generally then you will be aware that the Secretary of State tells us that the ceasefires hold, you tell us that there remains a serious threat, I do not believe the two statements are compatible, can both be correct?

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

Chairman in terms of the attack in County Antrim perhaps I should start with the most obvious statement which is thankfully the officer was not seriously injured. He is still however still on sick leave because quite self evidently there was a nervous shock reaction to what had occurred, however, we would be optimistic that he would be back to work fairly shortly now.

Mr Ian Paisley Jnr:

You will give him our best wishes?

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

I certainly will.

In terms of the device I am certainly able to confirm that it had the same characteristics as a previous under-car bomb that occurred in another part of

the province, and that we would be linking both of those to dissident republican groups. Which takes me to your second part of the question in terms of can the Secretary of State's statement re ceasefires and my own statement as to the level of threat be consistent. You will know that I avoid the use of the term ceasefire I use the term that the groups themselves have used which is a cessation of hostilities. Ceasefire is a political issue for a political judgement to be made about and that is quite rightly the Secretary of State's business as again you have heard me say in this forum before. My job as a police officer is to ensure that he is briefed on the facts on the ground and that is what I do, and I have shared with you the aspect of the device that you have asked me about. The particular organisations that we are talking about here in terms of dissident republicans of course do not, and least one of them does not report to be on ceasefire anyway. So I think the things can add up and I could only suggest that if you wish to explore that issue further it should be explored with the Secretary of State. The third part of your question, in terms of immediate arrests, no I am not but in the longer term its very much a live enquiry, I have already indicated to you of potential link with another incident and obviously that takes us into other avenues for enquiry.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

The supplementary.

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

I beg your pardon. I had kept the three bits in my mind and lost the fourth bit. There have been other threats that we are aware of to trainees joining the police service and obviously we do not discuss those publicly either to identify the individuals or the nature of the threats or any of those details for what I hope are self evident reasons but yes there have been other threats.

Chairman, Professor Desmond:

Mr Brian Dougherty has a question relating to Drumcree with the emphasis on the human resources side. Mr Dougherty.

Mr Brian Dougherty:

Acting Chief Constable we are up now to one of the most volatile weekends on the calendar. Obviously you are aware of implications that Drumcree has on the wider province, particularly in loyalist areas, basically, could you give me some indication on how you see it going this year, particularly due to the resource problem we have?

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

Yes, Chairman this is the moment for the crystal ball and I am always mindful of people who use crystal balls learn to eat ground glass ultimately. It is very difficult to predict. However, I would want to say that we have got through some potentially difficult marches in the last fortnight with a minimum of disruption and disorder and I would want to state in this public forum that I am grateful to all of those in the communities who have helped us to do that. Wise counsels have had an influence, I think it is fair to say, and that is to be applauded, and it is certainly to be hoped that it will continue through the coming ten days or so of the Drumcree Sunday followed by the Eleventh night and the Twelfth parades and so forth. But it is equally true to say that there are a number of contentious parades that remain outstanding and I am not in any sense complacent that we can assume that they will pass as successfully and as peacefully as the recent nights parades and the recent weekends parades have.

In terms of the resource issue, as you indicated in your question of course, and as I have said to this Board at previous meetings, we have fewer resources available to us as a police service to address these problems than we had last year or the year before. That has inevitable implications; one of those implications is that we have to draw perhaps more heavily than we have in the past for support on our military colleagues in respect of public order operations. They have always been heavily committed to the marching

season as you know in recent years and have never failed to provide the support that we have asked for and this year will be no different in that respect. As recent as yesterday afternoon, I had a meeting with the General Officer Commanding to ensure that we were happy that we had got all the linkages and so forth put in place to allow us to cope with the coming ten days or so. The resources are there to be drawn on and we will do so. However, as you have already seen in parts of Belfast, it is a different mix of resources to perhaps what has occurred in previous years because of the reduction in police numbers that I have already referred to and you have alluded to in your question.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Lord Kilclooney has a question that also relates to human resources.

Lord Kilclooney:

Yes indeed, Acting Chief Constable you have a problem, and you have just been talking about it, the decline in resources available to you, and that of course is a result of the implementation of the recommendations of the Patten Report. He recommended a substantial decrease in the resources available, and in fact, leaving aside the full-time reservists, the number of personnel available to you are now indeed less than even Patten recommended. And so the result is that throughout Northern Ireland there is now a less effective policing service in this province. Now this has led to many rumours in my constituency, in Down District, Killyleagh Town, Saintfield Town and in Castlereagh Borough in Strangford, in Carryduff, rumours of the local press that you are going to reduce the number of policemen in these three stations and may even close them down. Could you in any way allay these rumours?

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

The figures speak for themselves and any of you who heard, or saw or read any of the coverage of the launch of the PSNI annual report last week will know that it was a major issue for discussion between myself and the media representatives as to how the figures impact on overall performance. Quite

self evidently when you have a declining in resource, and that declining resource having to be mobilised and addressed towards serious public order problems of which we are all aware in this room, clearly they cannot be doing other things. And those other things therefore tend to show a decline in performance.

In terms of the balance of how resources are dispersed within District Command Units. It is a specific recommendation of the Patten report, I think it's recommendation 54 going from memory, which says that specifically District Command Unit commanders should be granted the discretion to, in consultation with their local communities, work out what is the most appropriate balance between static and mobile resources, and therefore the District Command Unit commanders are all constantly adjusting the balance in line with the other pressures upon them, whether they are seasonal pressures, such as Mr Doherty was alluding to in the last question, or whether they are year round pressures, crime pressures depending on particular threats that may come or go at any given time. So it is a moving feast is what I am saying, it is not a static picture and resources in a given location may go up or down in that way depending on the threat, depending on the circumstances, the time of year and so forth. I am not sure that that fully answers your question but it is the situation that we are in now.

Lord Kilclooney:

I am afraid it does not answer my question, it is not an assurance and people that I represent in places like Killyleagh and Saintfield and Carryduff do need a greater assurance that they are going to have a continued police presence in their police stations, that it is not going to be reduced because of Patten.

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

Of course presence in a police station does not deliver a police service, does not investigate crimes, does not actually necessarily meet the objectives set out in your policing plan. This is a subject we could debate for many hours and days indeed as to what is the most appropriate balance of resources and

indeed whether you need police officers at all to man station counters, or whether civilian staff recruited as counter staff should be in that role as you would find in many other parts, not only of the United Kingdom but in many other parts of Europe and indeed North America. So there is a big picture here that has to be looked at in the round.

What I would be wanting to reassure your constituents, not only in those particular towns that you have highlighted, but across your constituency is that we set out to deliver the objectives in the policing plan. We are in stormy waters as you know, and that means that we cannot navigate a direct line from A to B in delivering on the policing plan, but having agreed that policing plan with you, that is what we set out to achieve. Now how we set out to achieve that we have to constantly assess, reassess and adjust what the best balance of resources is, and that balance will constantly ever flow. Now, if we need to better communicate that to your constituents, if we need to better explain that to your constituents, and I think we probably do, then that is something we must take onboard and indeed we actually have plans. Mr Hunter here is the Director of Media and Information Services, he heads this area of work. We actually have plans for a further major campaign in the Autumn to do precisely that.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Viscount Alan Brookeborough:

Viscount Alan Brookeborough:

Thank you. Acting Chief Constable, on the back of the last question, resources. In the medium term the lack of resources is partly due to the rate at which we can train new recruits. I noticed the other day that the Metropolitan Police are taking up the idea of shift training, training round the clock, are you considering that, and when are you going to implement it?

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

In short I am not considering it, because that means you have to either at least double and more closely triple your training staff. That means further

extractions from front line policing, so that means even fewer police officers in the Killyleaghs or whatever, in order that you can have the trainers in the training establishment, in order to train round the clock if that is what one sets out to achieve.

Viscount Alan Brookeborough:

But in the very short term that is a burden on a number of people which produces a replacement in the medium term of a far greater number, I mean that is why the Metropolitan Police is doing it. They have got specifically the same problem of lack of people on the ground. Admittedly our problem is more serious because of the type of issues we are dealing with. Thank you.

Mr Denis Bradley:

Sorry this is a kind of supplementary response rather to be supportive of my learned friend as he may be called in another place. There is a possibility of civilianisation of training?

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

Yes, yes, indeed you will know that there is a fair element of civilian staff involved in the delivery of training as it is but there are a lot of core functions in police training which I am afraid you cannot put out to non-police trainers, for a whole range of reasons, and we can go into them perhaps over lunch if it would be appropriate. We do not also of course have the accommodation anyway, the Metropolitan Police establishment at Hendon I have certainly been to it on many occasions, and it is a massive, massive site which, you know, Garnerville would fit into one corner of it and they would not even notice.

Viscount Alan Brookeborough:

(Recording unclear)

Acting Chief Constable Colin Cramphorn:

Well indeed we cannot keep our recruits in because we have not got the accommodation, so we are already there and have been for some considerable time. I am sure there are those around this Board who would agree with me that London does not have a monopoly of knowledge in that respect and we have done some of these things already.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Can I move to the last question Acting Chief Constable. Mr Sammy Wilson.

Mr Sammy Wilson:

Acting Chief Constable I just want to come back to East Belfast situation. You may well be aware from the reports from police on the ground that there is increasing disquiet about the inability of the police to prevent some of the attacks which have been emanating from the republican elements in Short Strand.

There are now three streets which have been effectively destroyed, Thistle Court, Madrid Street and Cluan Place, and the latest incident at the weekend when Cluan Place was fire bombed and a number of houses were made uninhabitable. At the last meeting you did give an assurance that despite the public perception on the ground that policing was different on both sides of the divide, and I do welcome the fact that you have been able to give assurances of arrests have occurred, for example on both sides, and etc. Nevertheless on Saturday evening a mob of 150 people at 3 o'clock in the morning were able to assemble in Short Strand armed with petrol bombs and blast bombs and also having stock piled ammunition, handy ammunition for throwing and anyone who witnessed the debris in Cluan Place could confirm that. I have independently travelled around Short Strand and been able to confirm that piles of ammunition have actually been stock piled in the street. How then does that sit with the assurance which you have given that the same kind of policing which occurs on the unionist side, which actually keeps people back from the interface is occurring in Short Strand. Are the police still

relying on the tactic of negotiating with representatives of Sinn Fein to keep order, or some kind of order in the Short Strand area?

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

Chairman, three aspects to that question, the issue about piles of ammunition, you actually raised at the last meeting, did you not Mr Wilson and I answered on that occasion ... (recording unclear) showed an element of orchestration taking place. There was a police presence on the nationalist side of that particular interface which had to withdraw initially, which I know you are aware because of other briefings that we have been at with the local commanders in the recent past, and subsequently when additional resources from military colleagues were to hand we were ready to go back and a local representative was spoken to at that stage and was effectively told either things quieten down or we would go back in strength and that was a non-negotiable issue. As a result the disorder evaporated as quickly as it had commenced.

So that takes me to the third part of your question, of do we negotiate with community representatives, yes of course we do and we do so with community representatives on both sides of that interface, in both communities, and representatives who may come from parts of the community that we may not normally be negotiating with, if I can put it that way. That is one of the arts of public order policing, indeed as way back in 1981 when Lord Scarman was reporting on the troubles that had erupted in Brixton and Toxteth and elsewhere in

Great Britain he made comment on this very issue and talked about the discretion that has to be exercised by police and perhaps taking a short term problem in order to make a long term gain. Because if we pursue that point for a moment, about Saturday morning, had we had to go back in, in numbers with a great deal of military support in depth, I doubt very much whether things would have been as quiet for the rest of the weekend or indeed this week in the Short Strand area as they have actually been. And indeed there are incidents I know you are aware of on the Lower Newtownards Road for

example involving hijacked vehicles, where a similar sort of negotiation was entered into on that occasion. It happened to be with representatives from the other community which secured the return of those vehicles without them being burnt out and without there being road blocks created and so forth. So in short, yes we do negotiate with community representatives from all sides where that is a legitimate and sensible policing tactic, in order in the long game plan to minimise public disorder.

Chairman Professor Desmond Rea:

Acting Chief Constable, Alex Attwood has rightfully sought to acknowledge that this is probably your last appearance before this Board as Acting Chief Constable. Could I say thank you to you on behalf of the Board for your unfailing courtesy in all your dealings with the board for the constructive and helpful partnership that you have succeeded in along with us in forging since you took on the role as Acting Chief Constable and indeed for the judicious way you have sought to keep the Board informed of evolving events and developments. A very sincere thank you on behalf of the Board.

Acting Chief Constable Colin Cramphorn.

Thank you Chairman for those kind words, I wonder may I just impose on you all for just two seconds more before you break for lunch. There are just a couple of things I would like to take this opportunity to draw to Members attention.

The first relates to drug seizures, you may know those of you who have now had a chance to look at the detail of the annual report that on that twelve month snap shot, we actually had showed a slight decline in drug seizures. In fact over the three months that have elapsed now in the new report year there have been some very significant seizures, some very big seizures, and I wanted to just highlight that to you to indicate that these things do not breakdown into nice compact twelve month packages.

One has to look at a longer period of time and just to highlight one or two from the last month, and the geographical spread. Police stopped on the A1 in Hillsborough and seized 150 kilograms of cannabis resin, one person arrested, three quarters of a million pounds in value there. On the A1 bypass at Newry, 50 kilograms of cannabis resin, street value of quarter of a million, again 1 person arrested there. A slightly different scale but equally significant given that this was a seizure at Belfast International Airport, 2 kilograms of herbal cannabis, street value £10,000. At Larne Road at Ballymena, an individual was found in a state of collapse in his car. Officers attended to him and when they searched the car they found 47 grams of cocaine, that ties up with a theme of a growth in cocaine seizures which you would have picked up from the annual report. And then another significant house search on the 20 June, in which secreted in a wheelie bin in the rear garden, we found 22 kilos of cannabis resin, ½ kilo of herbal cannabis, 250 ecstasy tablets and 5 kilos of amphetamine.

So some very significant drug seizures in just that the last month and other ones in the first quarter of this year, so lest any of you were concerned that there was some diminution of our efforts in respect of drugs, I hope that provides some reassurance.

The one final point, I am sure Members will not have had a chance to look at this report yet because I only printed it off the internet myself this morning, but this is the report of the House of Commons Northern Ireland Committee in respect of financing of terrorism in Northern Ireland. Just two of the recommendations that I wanted to highlight to members this morning because I think they are relevant to us in our overall discussion about resources. The Committee actually says, perhaps for brevity if I just paraphrase what is said here, they are saying it is imperative that the police and other agencies engaged in tackling paramilitaries or criminal activity have the resources and the support that they need, to ask them to make a choice between fighting terrorism or organised and other crime which affects people daily in their direct lives is wrong. And that struck a chord with me immediately because of

course we are having to make such choices and indeed the District Command Unit commanders are having to make such choices on a daily basis, in respect of resources diverted to security and public order operations and therefore not being able to deal with ordinary criminal affairs. And the second point is that the Committee then went on to urge the Treasury to recognise that investing not only against organised crime but investing against terrorism would provide a strong financial return to the exchequer. You will know that we are pursuing our arguments under the funding review round at the moment and I felt it appropriate to draw that to your attention because I think that can be prayed in aid of our other submissions, Chairman.

Mr Ian Paisley Jnr:

Acting Chief Constable in terms of what you have said with regards to the drugs issue in particular do you agree that the information you have given us this morning really explodes the myth that there is a certain drugs capital in Northern Ireland, i.e. Ballymena and that actually what we have is a major problem across Northern Ireland, and identifying it with one part of the problem actually underplays the serious nature of the drugs problem that we do have?

Acting Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:

There are certainly drug issues across Northern Ireland, but I think one perhaps has to segment the drugs agenda and there are regrettably, there is a certain aspect to the drugs agenda which does have its focus in your constituency area and that is injected opiates as I know you are well aware, but when one talks of ecstasy and cannabis and so forth, I mean, you are quite right it is an all Northern Ireland, indeed it is an all Ireland, all UK issue.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Can I bring this public session to an end. Thank you everybody.

