

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF THE 37<sup>th</sup> MEETING IN PUBLIC OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2005 AT 12:00 NOON IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)  
Mr Denis Bradley (Vice- Chairman)  
Mr Alex Attwood  
Viscount Brookeborough  
Mr Joe Byrne  
Mr Fred Cobain  
Mr Brian Dougherty  
Mr Sam Foster  
Mr Barry Gilligan  
Mr William Hay  
Mr Tom Kelly  
Mrs Pauline McCabe  
Mr Alan McFarland  
Mr Eddie McGrady  
Mrs Rosaleen Moore  
Mr Sammy Wilson

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

Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)  
Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief  
Constable)  
Mr Sam Kinkaid (ACC Crime Operations)  
Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Urban  
Region)  
Mr Roy Toner (ACC Operational Support  
and Change Management)  
Mr Peter Sheridan (ACC Rural Region)  
Mr Joe Stewart (Director of Human  
Resources)  
Ms Sinead McSweeney (Head of Media)  
Superintendent, Command Secretariat  
Chief Inspector, Command Secretariat  
Inspector Robin Dempsey, Community  
Safety

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

Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)  
Mr Peter Holt (Director of  
Communications)  
Mr David Jackson (Director of  
Community Affairs)  
Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)  
Mrs Sinead Simpson (Director of Policy)  
Two Board Officials

## **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr Kelly and Mr Paisley.

## **Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Good afternoon and welcome to this 49<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Policing Board.

Chief Constable, welcome to you and your colleagues, to members of the Police Staff Association representatives, to colleagues from partner organisations, to the press and particularly to members of the public.

In a few moments I will invite the Chief Constable to make his opening remarks and before giving a presentation on domestic violence. After that, Board Members will put a number of questions to the Chief Constable on a range of important topics. However, before I invite the Chief Constable to begin let me make a few observations.

First, in respect of the cost of the events surrounding Whiterock. I have one point to make and it is the same not only at those involved in Whiterock and Ardoyne but it applies to every single case. Civil unrest has a number of costs, some are direct others are indirect.

The direct cost for Whiterock have been put by the PSNI at £3 million, including nearly £1 million damage to police vehicles during disorder, not simply at Whiterock but over the summer period. Direct costs include injuries to the public and to the police. Direct costs include the fear to families and to those that are vulnerable, particularly the elderly.

Indirect costs include the diversion of police from normal policing duties and damage to Northern Ireland in the eyes of the world. I picked up some of it on CNN and on BBC World.

The cost to the police is a cost to the whole community. These resources are diverted to cope with what flows from a failure of 2 identities, to talk, to compromise, to find accommodations and peaceful ways of co-existing. Our laws are quite clear when it comes to parades. It is indeed incumbent on the 2 identities to try to do deals. Where those accommodations cannot be made, then it is for the Parades Commission to reach a determination. Once that determination has been made, it is the job of the PSNI to police the determination made by the Parades Commission. Violence as we saw in the summer achieves nothing and as I have illustrated, it costs much and what I should also say on behalf of the Board, that the Board is concerned about the breakdown of community relations in North and West Belfast and we call on all concerned, the police, the District Policing Partnerships and community leaders to re-double their efforts towards constructive dialogue in order to improve matters.

If there are complaints about individual officer's behaviour, we have detailed mechanisms and an independent Ombudsman to investigate them but let any such complaints not distract from where the real responsibility lies, it lies with the 2 identities reaching accommodations. Where there has been proper dialogue, conflict and violence can be avoided and I pay tribute to the leadership that has demonstrated in those places where that dialogue has succeeded.

On a separate issue, one that has also attracted its fair share of headlines, let me set out the current position. A High Court Judge recently raised matters of concern arising from a legal case involving a contract with the PSNI. The Board was concerned, as rightly so where members of the public, about the circumstances surrounding this case. About procurement procedures, about possible inappropriate activities and the use or misuse of public money.

The Board has met with the Chief Constable on 2 occasions since that High Court Judge's statement. We have met to discuss the case and the arrangements for taking forward the criminal investigation and the administrative review recommended. Both the Board and the PSNI are anxious to ensure that the public can be confident that these investigations are conducted in a thorough, objective manner and with appropriate oversight by the Board. To this end, the following approach has been agreed between the Chief Constable and the Board.

The criminal investigation will be run by the PSNI Crime Operations Department under the Assistant Chief Constable in charge as Gold and a suitably experienced senior investigating officer drawn from his staff. An external expert with appropriate fraud investigation experience will be appointed to independently quality sure the process.

- The external person will be available to brief the Board on any issues arising from the investigation.
- Five Members of the Board, one from each political party, together with the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman will form an Independent Advisory Group and receive regular progress reports on the criminal investigation.
- An Administrative Review of current PSNI procurement procedures will be undertaken by independent consultants and finally.
- A Joint Project Board, that is joint between the Board and the PSNI will be established in relation to the administrative review of procurement processes, including 2 Policing Board Members drawn from the Board's Audit Committee.

I hope that I have set out clearly to you today the full, appropriate and transparent processes in place to deal with this matter and I do not propose to comment further whilst these investigations are underway, or to offer a running commentary.

Let me turn now to Restorative Justice. The Policing Board took the unusual step recently of publicly demanding a meeting with Ministers to discuss our concerns over this matter. The Board met the Secretary of State earlier this week. It was a positive and constructive meeting and allowed the Secretary of State to hear these concerns and experiences first hand. We are not satisfied that the Board has not yet had sight of the draft protocols and will not be consulted while the protocols are still at draft stage. The Board has agreed that I should write to the Secretary of State today for a copy, but be assured, that when it is received, the issues around Restorative Justice will be fully addressed by this Board.

Now is also a timely moment as we reach the end of the terms of District Policing Partnerships, to pay tribute to their work. There was a celebration for people towards the North and West of the province earlier in the week and there is one tonight for people from the East of the province. In every district of Northern Ireland, DPP members have been busy engaging with local people, monitoring their local police and working in partnership with their PSNI District Commander. One sad statistic is that in the last 2½ years there have been 52 separate incidents that have been recorded of threatened and actual violence towards DPP members. This has not deterred them from their work, this Board pays tribute to them for all their dedication, commitment and strength of spirit, both to those retiring and to those who will be continuing in office when we finalise the makeup of the new DPPs in the coming weeks.

On such a note, it is entirely appropriate that I should welcome back in public, the Board's Vice-Chairman, Denis Bradley. As you will know, he was the victim of a vicious and unprovoked attack some weeks ago and he is only now beginning to return to work. On behalf of the Board Denis, we make you welcome.

The message to dissidents from this Board is, that we intend to get on with the work, and I hope they will note it and that applies to DPPs.

There has been a new development in policing this week, I hope everyone will have noticed. The Board welcomes and supports the introduction of a new single non-emergency number earlier this week and trusts this will streamline the call centre operation and ultimately the provision of a more efficient service to the public. We also hope that the one stop number will keep the emergency 999 number free for those who urgently need police help.

Finally Chief Constable, let me add my congratulations on a number of policing awards the PSNI and its officers have won, in recognition of charitable work benefiting the NSPCC and other charities. Over to you Chief Constable at this point.

**Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:**

Thank you Chairman, you have covered a number of key issues which I will not repeat. For the benefit of Members, having just asked the Deputy Chairman who does not quite know the new non-emergency number yet, it is 0845 600 8000 which we launched this week, and like you Chairman, we sincerely hope it does relieve pressure on the 999 system but provides a quick response at a local level to all the other calls for assistance which we receive on a yearly basis.

In terms of the key issues since we last met, I think it would be right to mention the 'Love Ulster' rally which took place last weekend. Whilst the attendance was not in our judgement as high as expected, a few thousand people did attend. It was a very well marshalled and well behaved event that caused us no policing difficulties whatsoever and all those who were engaged in the planning are to be congratulated for what they achieved on that occasion.

Could I also just reflect your observations on District Policing Partnerships and the value they have brought to local policing.

In terms of other key issues, Members will be aware of the murder of Jim Gray since we last met and that is an ongoing investigation. Six people have been arrested, 15 houses have been searched, a number of items have been seized and forensic examinations and other enquiries still continue but as yet, no-one has been charged with that particular offence.

Some substantial press coverage on the renewed search for the body of Arlene Arkinson over the last few weeks, that is continuing and we are determined to do our level best to try and bring closure in that case by using the most advanced scientific techniques available to us and that will go on for some time to come, if we get any positive leads whatsoever.

In relation to the LVF feud and the stand-down, we are currently in the 'wait and see what happens next' stage. The statement was fairly clear, we will wait and see and will be monitoring very closely what happens in terms of LVF and indeed UVF activity and will keep the Board and the IMC fully briefed.

In terms of organised crime, since we last met during October 2005, our attack on the counterfeit industry continues. In October alone we have seized a further £120,000 worth of counterfeit goods as a result of our ongoing operation, the vast majority of that being DVDs, compact discs and cigarettes and that operation will continue for some time to come.

Some local success stories for the want of a better description, burglary which continues to drop is still down 8% on last year, substantial success in Ballycastle as a result of a number of schemes including the use of Smart Water, leaflet drops, Citizen Advice in particular as the most vulnerable group is the elderly. A clear policy around all burglaries being attended by scenes of crime and CID officers to maximise forensic opportunities, has reduced burglaries in the Moyle district by 51½%.

In Ballymoney, after a pipe bomb attack on the 29 September 2005, an ongoing investigation into loyalist paramilitary activity in that particular area. 3 people have now been charged, 2 for terrorist offences and one for intimidation. The feedback from the local area is that that had a substantial impact on the fear of crime in that particular area.

Likewise in North Down, some very serious criminal damage, and that is increasing in the province, with £60,000 worth of damage to trains at Helens Bay and a number of burglaries were all solved as a result of a long term, substantial police investment and use of CCTV among other investigative techniques and people now stand charged with those particular offences.

So in terms of the routine crime Chairman, work continues at a local level, again supported by District Policing Partnerships.

I have commented on performance in our full review last month so I do not intend to deal with that in any particular detail this morning.

If it assists the Board, we have Inspector Robin Dempsey from the Community Safety Branch to give a presentation as requested by the Board.

**Inspector Robin Dempsey:**

Chairman, Chief Constable and Members of the Board, what I would like to do over the next 10 minutes is try and give some sense of reality of what domestic violence is about across Northern Ireland and also what the Police Service is doing to tackle it.

**(Tape unclear)**... definition that domestic violence incidents are not just crimes as far as the Police Service is concerned. They are not simply about physical violence, we do receive reports of numerous incidents across Northern Ireland whereby there is emotional, physical, financial and sexual abuse as well, so it is important to note that it is not just about physical attacks. It will also include incidents involving family members and not just intimate partners and only last week we heard about the recent death in Northern Ireland of a mother at the hands of her son.

The Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2003/04 indicated some quite frightening statistics. Of 3,104 respondents, 420 said that they had experienced some form of domestic violence abuse as they understood it. If you look further down and we are under the impression that the myths in domestic violence are being broken down, it is worrying to see that 39% of people who were subjected to domestic violence abuse considered it to be a crime and that 16% accepted it as simply something that happened in a relationship. You will see 18% of those surveyed said that they reported it to the police and that may seem quite low, but in reality is higher than the British Crime survey in England and Wales, in fact, people are more likely to contact the police than they are to contact some of the recognised support organisations.

In a recent survey carried out by NSPCC and Sugar Magazine, 2,000 teenagers were surveyed and 31% of them said they believed it was acceptable in a relationship to abuse their partner if they had been unfaithful or had cheated on them, so it shows the significance of what myths still surround this area. Research

suggests that 1 in 5 women and 1 in 5 men will be subjected to domestic violence or abuse at some stage in their lifetime.

In you look at the recent statistics, we have been recording statistics from 1997 as a Police Service and you will see from that snapshot that the figures continue to rise. You will see last year we had an increase up to 20,000 domestic incidents reported to police. It does appear from the statistics that there was a fall in the number of offences or crimes but in fact those figures rose because we did not include breaches of Non Molestation Orders as recordable crimes, so if you add those in, in fact the number of offences rose as well.

If you look at 2004/05, there were 7 murders, 22 attempted murders, 26 rapes, 114 grievous bodily harms and woundings with intent and so on and so forth. It is recognised that on average, there are 5 people murdered in Northern Ireland in domestic related incidents on average each year over the last 5 years, so it is a significant number.

If you look at the statistics, as well as research we have done in terms of incidents, we know about suggested that 70% of people who are involved in domestic incidents are also involved in other crime, so that is an important area that the Police Service can look at to determine who is involved. How does that average out? We attended last year on average 57 domestic incidents on each day, 40% of the crimes, that was a rise of 23.8% in recorded incidents, up over 4,000 incidents on the same period the previous year. It is about one fifth of all recorded crime that is reported to us and we do get increases on incidents when it comes to times like Christmas, World Cup finals and so on. 18% of the Non Molestation Orders, the domestic orders issued in the family court, were breached and the Police Service are devising a policy that when Orders are breached, we will prosecute and will report with a view to prosecution.

Detection rate is 72.9%, some of you may be thinking why is it not 100%, we know who are carrying out these attacks or these incidents. The simple reason is that because of the dynamics of domestic incidents, it is not always in the public interest to prosecute. Yes, we do know who is responsible but we have to consider the safety of the victim and whether it is in the public interest to prosecute

and where we feel that it is in the interest, obviously, we will prosecute for those offences.

What does it cost us then, as the Police Service - about £1.2 million to attend the incidents and £1.7 million to retain our present Domestic Violence officers and an additional £250,000 administrative costs. So once we make an arrest and we start to prepare prosecution files, it involves a total cost of approximately £3.1 million each year. The costs to Northern Ireland as a whole for domestic incidents is estimated to be £180 million a year and it is estimated, that if you take into account the intangible costs of pain and suffering, it can be as much as £500 million, so a significant amount of money.

How is the Police Service tackling these issues? If you go back 10 or 15 years ago, the Police Services across the United Kingdom were not good at dealing with domestic incidents, that was the reality. It was a typical view of the Northern Ireland public, people thought it was something that was private, not to get involved, turn a blind eye and so on, but in 1990 the Police Service in England and Wales, following Home Office direction, started to look at the whole response and Northern Ireland obviously followed on.

In 1997 we started to look at how we respond to domestic violence. In 1997 we put in place Domestic Violence officers who remain in post to this day in every single district across Northern Ireland.

In September 2004 we launched a new Domestic Violence Policy with a number of key issues that were brought out and which we will talk about in a moment. We also looked at the way we record it and that is one of the reasons why we see a significant rise in the number of incidents up to 20,000. Previously with the manual system, incidents did not sit on the same system as crimes and therefore, we did not have a full and accurate picture. We now have all incidents and crimes sitting on one system and therefore we can look at them in more detail. We can plan on how we can reduce risk and we can obviously target particular perpetrators as well, we have all that information to hand.

We have started training our Domestic Violence officers as specialist investigators. We have trained 61 officers to date and have a further 10 to train early next year and we continue to train them as and when officers are replaced or additional officers are required.

One of the things that is important is the ongoing growing development of partnerships to support victims. In your pack you will see a number of leaflets that we have produced, you will also see a copy of the Northern Ireland Domestic Violence Strategy. That is an important document that brings the police together in partnership with so many other organisations and agencies to work to eradicate domestic violence. On the small information card you will see the many organisations and agencies that we work very closely with. It is not an issue for police alone, it is an issue that requires to be done in partnership and it requires a number of different agencies to work very closely together and the police are very much involved in that.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Thank you very much Inspector Dempsey. Any questions from Board Members?

We now move to the questions, question on involvement of paramilitary groupings in the illegal practice of cross-border transport, Sammy Wilson question 4.

**Mr Sammy Wilson:**

Chief Constable, recently the Department of the Environment indicated that over the last 3 years they had identified 53 sites where there had been waste brought across the border and dumped in Northern Ireland. I would like an update from the police as to the estimate of the groups who might be involved in this and also what action the police have taken and whether or not there have been vehicles or assets seized?

**Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:**

I will ask Assistant Chief Constable Kinkaid to cover that question.

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Sam Kinkaid:**

Chairman, the illegal practice of cross-border transport and disposal of waste has been the subject of a quite detailed investigation over the last year by the Organised Crime Unit attached to Crime Operations Departments. We have been working closely with the Department of the Environment's Heritage Service, An Garda Siochana and the Irish Environmental Protection Agency.

Intelligence has never shown a discernable link between any paramilitary organisation and those carrying out the crimes and this remains true up to the current date. However, it would be correct to say that the persons suspected and who have been interviewed at times for illegal cross-border waste disposal, some have had a significant past in relation to paramilitary organisations and clearly the skills that they would have devised a number of years ago in relation to terrorism, have been put to use in their current endeavours. Most noticeably an awareness of surveillance and avoidance of official attention in relation to the handling of cash.

Examples of the operations to show the significant impact we have had in this area, if you go back to September 2004 along with our HS colleagues, over 100 police officers were used in operations which helped us to stop and examine a whole series of suspect lorries. Seven were seized over a 2 day period and there was quite a lot of press coverage of us returning 5 full loads of illegally smuggled waste back into the Republic of Ireland.

Of the cases currently heading before the courts and I am mindful of what I say, the most significant matter has been the alleged illegal movement of 28,000 tons of waste across the Irish border over a period of 18 months. Twenty seven thousand tons of this was then misrepresented as Northern Ireland waste before being deposited in legal landfill sites in Scotland. That as you can work out means that there is approximately 1,000 tons seems to have been fly-tipped here in Northern Ireland.

Another trend detected by the police during this investigation was that the criminals mixed the Irish waste with Northern Ireland waste to disguise its origin. In one case for example, by covering it with copies by one of our local newspapers. The

bill to cover the cost incurred in smuggling waste into Ireland to Scotland and then paying landfill fees is basically caused by the massive difference between the Irish landfill fees and the GB fees. We believe that the perpetrators of the last operation we were talking about, received somewhere around 2.9 million euros in payment from Irish Waste Stations to convey this rubbish. Disposal costs in Scotland were approximately £30 a ton, giving them a profit of over £1.1 millions in relation to that particular operation and clearly we are working very closely with the other associated agencies and our own powers under the Proceeds of Crime to ensure that none of this money stays in the hands of those who are involved in this operation.

The long term effect of course, environmentally, even to allow for 1,000 tons being fly-tipped in Northern Ireland, is a considerable amount and some of the waste did come from health locations, so it was dangerous waste in itself.

Our intelligence reveals a significant decrease in this crime. I think this can be attributed to the investigation techniques that we have been using. We have asked the Northern Ireland Office to give us additional powers, which I think they are planning to do, to give us powers of confiscation in relation to the lorries. I think the ultimate answer to this is, you are taking £2,000 of waste in a lorry and you lose an £80,000 lorry, I think is the ultimate answer.

It is a good sign too of this investigation to the way we have been able to work, not only is the partnership with non-police agencies but also across border with our sister police force but also the environmental agencies North and South.

**Mr Sammy Wilson:**

Chairman, one supplementary question. The powers of confiscation ACC Kinkaid, when do you expect that those powers will be given to the police?

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Sam Kinkaid:**

I have not been given an exact date but it was mentioned at a cross-border Organised Crime Conference a year ago, and there was a clear indication both from the Southern Minister of Justice and our own Security Minister, that both sets of Civil Servants should be working to try and get a power North and South to give

the power of confiscation. Now I have indicated that those powers will become available to the police, I cannot give a date but it is an intent.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

There are 4 questions relating to the policing of parades, from Alex Attwood questions 9, 12, 18 and 19 and he is going to bring them together.

**Mr Alex Attwood:**

I hope that is suitable to the police. The Chair made some opening remarks about the events of the summer, but in order to give some definition around the events of the summer, I think it is important that the police would answer a number of questions and they are: (1) the number of prosecutions and the nature of the prosecutions that arose from the Ardoyne riots on the 12 July 2005 and (2) the loyalist riots on the 10 September 2005 (3) the number of people who have been charged arising from road blocking, both prior to and after the 10 September 2005. That is an important issue Chief Constable, because whilst there was a high level of understanding in the community as to why, in certain circumstances, the police did not move in to remove protestors, it was understood that those who were protesting would be prosecuted and given that there are some indications that that tact might be again availed of in coming days or weeks, it is important that a very strong message is sent out by the PSNI in that regard. Finally, given what the police said during the week about the cost of policing one of the parades during the summer, could you give an indication, if you are able, about the total cost of policing parades during the summer, not just the parades of marching orders but band parades and indeed any parades that emanate from the so-called republican community?

**Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:**

I will ask my regional colleagues to deal with some of the more specific issues which they are aware of. The overriding comment is, the summer has proved once again that we can deal with the disorder that emanates from parades, but communities can fix this problem by coming to agreement between themselves before things start to go downhill.

In terms of policing, we operate a policy of minimum use of intervention, minimum use of force, proportionality, all things that have been described by communities to perhaps criticise us for policing different marches differently, we do not. We police marches in exactly the same way, we use the same tactics regardless of which community is demonstrating, be it sitting down or be it using violence against our officers who all too frequently find themselves in the middle of these events, but my colleagues will cover specific events and arrests numbers.

In terms of the costings, the Chairman has already given the cost of Whiterock, that was money that could have been well spent on community policing initiatives in protecting communities in a far more constructive way. There were additional costs which were not simply the overtime costs or the damage to the vehicles. Substantial damage was done to police officers protective equipment, much of which has had to be replaced, in fact we spent over £250,000 more this year on protective equipment and replacing protective equipment for officers than we did the year before simply as a result of the disorder. So, we are wasting a lot of money achieving not a lot of good in terms of policing.

In terms of the overall costs for all the parades, I cannot give you that, we can try and pull it together for you, it is a huge task because as you know 3,045 parades last year ranging from the most simple non controversial non-problematic events which requires 2 or 3 local beat officers, through to the deployment of 2,500 police and army at Whiterock to deal with that disorder. Getting a full costing is complicated because it involves capturing and recapturing backfill costs, but we will do our best to provide that for you in the near future.

I will ask my colleague Assistant Chief Constable McCausland to lead on the specifics in Urban region.

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

Thank you Chief Constable. Chairman, if I break down the specifics in relation to the overall situation, there have been 88 persons charged to date with various offences ranging from riotous behaviour, hi-jacking, possession of petrol bombs and disorderly behaviour and there are a further 89 persons identified and pending

prosecution. How that breaks down is, 21 persons have been charged in relation to the riotous assembly at the Ardoyne on the 12 July 2005 and 68 people have been charged with various serious offences relating to the issue around the disturbances from 10 September 2005.

In terms of the obstruction or blocking of roads, both before and after the 10 September 2005 and running through the summer, 76 people have been identified and will be subsequently prosecuted or reported in relation to that particular offence. Some of those persons were arrested at the time and are being dealt with already in the courts but I hope the Board would understand that we are prioritising the more serious offences in terms of riotous behaviour, attacks on police, hi-jacking and aspects like that but we will not and are not ignoring the identification of people in terms of blocking of roads.

This is a changing picture because the Board will have noted that on the 31 October 2005, we announced in the press, that 82 persons had been arrested and have been or will be prosecuted. This is constant ongoing situation as we identify more and more people from the hours and hours of video footage that we have, both in relation to the July and also the September incidents.

**Mr Alex Attwood:**

Briefly Chairman, the sooner the figures about the total cost of policing the summer and policing all elements of the summer is known the better it is because, as people around this table know, the Government announced yesterday cutbacks on the tourist budget, cutbacks in respect of survivors in trauma groups, including survivors in trauma groups on the Shankill Road, so the sooner we wake up to the cost of the summer, never mind the cost in human terms but in financial terms and the consequence that has for funding generally in respect of the North, the better it would be. I welcome the reassurance that ACC McCausland has given, that whilst at the moment the police are investing time in going after the serious breaches of criminal law over the summer, other breaches of the criminal law including that of blocking the road will be pursued.

**Mr Fred Cobain:**

Chairman, a couple of points and I will try and focus on what I think are the more important issues over the summer although the financial issues are important. The 3 questions I would like to ask the Chief Constable, could you give the Board some idea of what you are trying to do to repair relationships between the police and the unionist community in West Belfast which have broken down entirely. The community there feel totally and absolutely decoupled from the police. For the first time in many years, police officers can't shop in these communities so I would like to know and I have asked this question on numerous occasions, what are the police trying to do to repair the damage between the communities and the police in those areas?

The other question is, you have made this remark and the Chairman made it today again, about dialogue being the answer to these difficult parading issues in some of the interface areas. The impression was given that no dialogue was taking place at all. In West Belfast there was a detailed breakdown of notes of dialogue that had taken place between the 2 groups and intense dialogue had taken place over many months between SPRAG and the North and West Parades Forum. The difficulty, of course, was that the Parades Commission changed the rules. You Chairman and the Chief Constable keep asking about dialogue, the Parades Commission has made it absolutely clear that dialogue is not the issue, the issue is outcomes. So you can talk all you want but until the 2 groups agree, dialogue means nothing, while the 'outcomes' remains, the veto remains with nationalist communities who are opposed to parading, what the Parades Commission have done is destroyed any hope of dialogue being the answer because they have said you have a veto. These are very important issues Chairman, this community has suffered over the last couple of months and it is not just about finance and as far as I am concerned, I want to know that the police are held to account in this Board and I want to know about that very important issue.

The other issue and it was raised by Mr Attwood and it raises everything from a nationalist perspective and he was at the parade on the 12 July 2005. There was a mass breach of the Parades Commission determination at Ardoyne, when a number of people with the support of the police broke the law and sat on the road. Now, we are talking of people who have blocked the road and I am not disputing

this, that when people have broken the law, I want to see everyone prosecuted. There were people as I said, with the help of the police, who broke the law on the morning of the 12 July 2005 who sat on the road because negotiations had taken place between Sinn Fein and the police and they were allowed to break the law and sit on the road, so I hope when we are talking of people who are on the road who are going to be prosecuted and that every single person who sat at Ardoyne will be prosecuted.

**Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:**

It is a complicated series of statements and questions but I will do my best to pull the key issues out, but I may need to come back to you.

In broad terms, there has been a breakdown of relations, that is absolutely clear. The level of violence was seen by all on the 10 September 2005 and the people who created and caused that situation, and I think it was universally accepted, it was not the Police Service, they had to police the very difficult situation and extreme levels of violence towards them. That having been said, a lot of work has gone on and just by coincidence, a couple of weeks ago I was speaking to my Community Officers from the Shankill, who described the situation as Mr Cobain described, the difficulty of getting back into a community that currently feels disenfranchised and perceive themselves to be losing out on a number of things which sadly the police cannot influence substantially, but we will do our best.

In terms of what we have done, in West Belfast we have written letters to key players in the community, Diane Dodds, Frank McCoubrey, Elaine McMillan, Hugh Smyth and yourself Mr Cobain, inviting them to meet the Senior Command Team. I have sat down and had conversations with a number of key players and invited them to have further meetings, they have yet to get back to me, to discuss with me and my Senior Management Team and all my District Commanders in Belfast to see how we can move on, but to date my officers have not received responses.

We have requested and continue to request assistance from the unionist community representatives in specific situations as they arise, with a mixed response, sometimes we are successful, sometimes we are not. Our Liaison Officers as I have mentioned, are continuing to engage in dialogue and are continuing to liaise with the schools and the people in those areas and my Senior Command are also in contact with their representatives. A meeting has been arranged with the clergy from the Highfield area and we have correspondence being sent to the Parades Forum requesting various assistance to facilitate a community awareness training package for police officers, so this is not a sterile area, a lot of work is going on but it requires engagement from both sides and hopefully that will continue over time.

In terms of North Belfast, again there has been a review of staffing within the DCU, with an additional posts being allocated to the sectors to try and increase our representation down there. Again a meeting and an 'Away Day' with clergy was arranged, but was sadly cancelled, due to some remarks made by another member of the clergy. Three new Community Police Liaison Committees (CPLCs) have been created in North Belfast and a Task Force meeting has been arranged with Norman Hamilton and 10 principals from schools, which the police will attend and attribute to.

We are determined to get back in and to rebuild those relationships and I am happy to take advice from anyone on how to do that. ACC McCausland met with a number of women from that area for 3 hours the other day to listen to their concerns, this is not a sterile area but it is a difficult area. In terms of and I do not particularly want to get into the debate about how we police sit down X versus sit down Y, the statement I made is very clear, sit down protests we tolerate where we can because the potential outcome of a heavy handed or a more proactive police response can, as everyone knows around this table, lead to far more concerted and more dangerous situations, not just for police officers but also for their communities. Where we can we will prosecute, where it is appropriate to do so, and will send files to the DPP. I do not know if ACC McCausland wants to touch on some other efforts that I may have missed.

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

Just to say that anyone on the 12 July 2005 will be reported, whether that is for the riotous behaviour and activities that happened after the parade passed, or whether it was in terms of obstructive sitting or blocking the road and at no time did the police facilitate anyone to break the law. We policed the events that were before them and tried to facilitate a peaceful outcome which I think we very nearly achieved.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

A questions relating to the level of support the police received during the summer period from the Royal Irish Regiment, question 7 Sammy Wilson.

**Mr Sammy Wilson:**

Chief Constable, over the summer period there was a lot of evidence of the RIR giving support to the police on many occasions. Could you outline to us what duties the Royal Irish Regiment were asked to undertake and are still being asked to undertake, in terms of patrolling, support for the police in public order situations, surveillance and searches?

**Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:**

In broad terms as Members know, the army if I request assistance from the General Officer commanding, he decides which regiment to provide and how that support comes to me but it is right currently and it would be fair to say this year about 45% of all support to policing has come from the Royal Irish Regiment. That having been said at the height of the troubles on the 10 September 2005, we had just under 1200 soldiers deployed in support of policing. Under the normalisation arrangements, the long term plan for Northern Ireland is somewhere in excess of just over 5,000 soldiers would be resident in the province so I am comfortable and the GOC assured me that if we need assistance he will guarantee the assistance I request. So, I am not concerned about getting that support even post the normalisation period for public order which we are entitled to have, a substantial amount currently and the Royal Irish on the 10 September 2005 came under substantial attack and did extremely well in providing valuable, crucial support to the policing operation on that day.

**Mr Sammy Wilson:**

A supplementary question, Chairman. Are the Royal Irish Regiment currently being used by the police, for example, in patrolling certain areas around Northern Ireland and in particular, what areas are you experiencing more support from them?

**Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:**

I do not know if Assistant Chief Constable McCausland or Sheridan can assist on the specifics in terms where we are but at the moment in terms of deployment of soldiers, it is at an all time low in terms of the number of soldiers we have deployed in support of routine policing operations. Perhaps my 2 regional colleagues will update you.

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

I have no patrolling in the Urban region at all.

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Peter Sheridan:**

I still get some support from military in Downpatrick, Castwellan areas, in Newry and Mourne, Armagh, parts of Dungannon and Fermanagh and up in Londonderry.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Question relating to drugs, question 8 Eddie McGrady.

**Mr Eddie McGrady:**

Chief Constable, while it is quite correct that the focus of public attention and concern is on community violence and parades and serious crime, but nonetheless, the most insidious form of crime in my opinion, is the spread of drug availability and drug abuse in our communities, particular to the young people and the young teenagers. It appears to me that we collectively, both policing and community, are not addressing this issue with the seriousness of the consequences which are going to arise from it. I would ask if you could share that opinion and if you do, what additional activities and resources are going to be put into it because it seems to me, at the moment, the policing attitude is to let the 'runners' go free and supply the drugs outside our schools while they wait to catch the 'big fellow'. When you catch the big fellow that is one thing, but in the

meantime, the children are suffering, or young adults are suffering and I think the lesser criminal should be taken off the streets irrespective of the impact that has upon your higher strategy for the balance if you like.

**Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:**

I will ask Assistance Chief Constable Kinkaid to deal with the detail, but we are addressing it. A substantial amount of our resources are deployed into anti-drugs operations and some of the so called 'big fellows' and some serious offenders have been arrested, but not just in Northern Ireland. As a result of police activity that started in Northern Ireland, we are working with colleagues both south of the border, in the UK and in other countries, have taken out consignments coming into Northern Ireland, so we have an international dimension to this which we are fully up to speed. In terms of are we taking the local levels seriously, I think just over 1200 seizures between April and September suggests we are taking it seriously, it is an increase on last year, but ACC Kinkaid may wish to give more detail on this particular issue.

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Sam Kinkaid:**

I will accept the drugs policing issues can be dealt with at 2 levels. The issues to do with dealers and supply and the issues to do with possession. Overall in the police, there has not been a reduction in the resourcing of these operations, despite other demands. There is another political issue, it is not an issue for the police so much but for yourselves which goes to the whole business of the law on possession and the law on the grading of certain types of drugs but clearly, the position that we are currently in is, if you take April to September this year, there was over 1269 incidents of drugs being seized compared 1151 last year. That in itself does not tell the whole story because it depends on which amounts are involved.

Certain things have gone up this year, herbal cannabis, amphetamine powders, the amount of opium powders that are being seized. There have been lower seizure incidents of cocaine powder and cannabis resin this year for the total amounts have reduced and this is what was raised recently for example at the meeting we had with the Policing Board about next year's targets about trying to get targets that show the activity that is going on in the police and **(tape unclear)**

....close and between 1 April and 30 September 2005 there were 498 persons charged, of whom 126 were charged with supply offences, about one quarter.

In relation to the drugs activity that we do in the police, it is important to realise that we do not just go on the enforcement side. Our police officers currently spend a lot of time in relation to community issues around drugs. Drugs are a cultural community issue and not one solely open to enforcement and the Northern Ireland Drugs and Alcohol Strategy is therefore very important for us, as a drugs issue should not be seen as purely an enforcement problem. We currently have officers making a major contribution to that strategy and sitting on the various groups that is shared by the Health Minister.

You mentioned resources, just a general point. Resources vary depending on what stage the operations are involved in, whether that is at district level or at central level. Crucial days inside operations, you will have people attached to Intelligence Branch, Surveillance Units, Drugs Squad, the TSG Units drawn from the districts who do the house searches. I have had a look at several big operations recently and we had over 150 officers on one given day on relation to operations.

The other point I think people in Northern Ireland should appreciate, is that the current targets in the Policing Plan as the Chief Constable says, in no way reflect the work that we do. In many cases in our operations, it suits us because of the nature of the operation and the ability for us to get people arrested and the possession of the drugs, that that arrest takes place in Spain, parts of Europe, England, the Republic of Ireland and here. Those targets are not seizures, they are accounted for us here. We have asked the Board to try and look at some imaginative way of how we can reflect these to you, but currently the reach of Crime Operations and the Drugs Squad is right across Europe in terms of the operations that we run with our other Police Services who we work with and again, that is to prevent the material from coming into the province.

In relation to children taking drugs at schools, that clearly is a problem. I would like to think and certainly in my experience before as a Regional ACC in the Rural region, that that is clearly a key issue for District Commanders and should be one that is referred to them. I know that there has been regular operations run where we have been asked to give specialist help and advice from the centre to District Commanders who really want to deal with this. If young children you saw recently in Antrim and other places are taking drugs, that clearly is a matter of concern and a matter that the Social Services and parents would be concerned with. The key point for the police is to get those people who are dealing and supplying those drugs into that market rather than necessarily having lots of 9 to 13 year old children having a criminal offence for possession. I think it has to be taken as a holistic approach by the police and our responsibility is to prevent and seek out those people who are supplying drugs to that market and is something that we work closely with our 2 regional colleagues in trying to do.

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

I think it is fair to say that no District Commander would look lightly at the issue of anyone dealing drugs outside any school and would certainly direct resources where there is clear evidence to prevent that happening and apprehend people. I think that is a very important area and a very important group of people we would want to protect, namely the vulnerable school children.

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Peter Sheridan:**

Just to reassure you Mr McGrady, we do take seriously the smaller, lower levels of drugs and this year, in my region, we are up about 170 seizures from just over 700 last year and this year it is up to 872 so that emphasis is still placed there.

**Mr Eddie McGrady:**

Chairman, the perception on the ground of the community is, that many of us know who the suppliers are, many of us know the houses and the sites from which they get their supplies and it continues without any intervention from the police, who presumably, must also know the same information and if they do not know it, ask someone in the area and they will tell you, I just want action to be taken on that level.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Question in relation to response times, Willie Hay, question 15.

**Mr Willie Hay:**

Can the Chief Constable indicate that the response time targets will be available and measured? Can he comment on the standard of care being given to callers to PSNI in part of the respect of the follow-up action?

Mr Chairman, just to follow on and I will be brief on why I have the question down, it is an issue that has been raised, certainly within our Human Resources Committee and I have continually raised it along with other Members. I get it more and more from the public. There is a public perception, that on occasions when the public make an initial enquiry there is no response, on other occasions there is a response and no follow-up and I believe it is a huge public issue. I know I am and other Board Members are getting it more and more from the public and I think we need to be looking to see exactly where the problems are, how we resolve the problems because, whether we like it or not, it is the first initial contact the public make with the police and if we get it wrong at the start, we get it wrong right through the situation.

**Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:**

I will ask Assistant Chief Constable Toner to cover the details. In broad terms, it is an area we are concerned with and it was discussed at the Police and Policing Board 'Away Day'. We are certainly looking at targets, but the important thing is, getting the right response to the right person at the right time and there is something behind this about managing expectations, where on occasions, no response may be the right police response and I understand that does cause people some concern. I will ask ACC Toner to cover the detail of our current plan.

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Roy Toner:**

There is currently work ongoing on this. In the Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2005 / 2008 Part 2, there is a target that specifically says, that we will work towards establishing a baseline and we will be reporting to the Board on establishing a baseline around where we are at as an organisation with police response times to emergency calls. The game plan will be for the next financial

year to actually establish a target for emergency calls. We have to be realistic that there will have to be a different target for the rural region as opposed to the urban region because of the geographic spread of location and also the volume in the number of calls but we hope to have that in place for the next financial year. It is an important target to have, we have not set the times on it but we will be bringing that obviously to the Policing Board whenever we get some defined times in place, but work is ongoing and it is already flagged up as a piece of work within the Policing Plan for this year.

In relation to the second point about the care of callers to PSNI, the Chairman has mentioned the single non-emergency number which we launched this week. This is one of the first steps in a major piece of work which I have briefed the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Corporate Policing Committee on in relation to the Call Management Project for PSNI which will be currently running over the next 2-3 years. We have 3 pilot sites up and running in Lisburn, Craigavon and South Belfast where we are testing software and new systems to address the very issues that Mr Hay has flagged up. Call-back to callers, how long a caller has been waiting, a caller history so we know when a caller has rung previously about a matter and particularly sometimes the non-emergency issues that are important to people were they call back on a number of occasions.

In relation to the longer term follow-up aspects and calls being answered quickly, the current single non-emergency number is a more sophisticated system than the multitude of numbers that previously existed. Those numbers are still there, so you still contact your local station but the new number actually has a more sophisticated set of software behind it, where the caller, if it is not answered, will be set off to another operator quicker and the response will be such that if it ends up at a central police exchange, there will be a warmed handover back to the station where the caller is from.

This is not something that we are going to solve in the short term. The HMIC has recently launched the National Thematic on call management and call handling and we have been involved in assisting them in that and there is a lot of good information that we are going to utilise within our call management centres. One of the problems we have is, that we have 22 different call management centres

across Northern Ireland. It is part of history we are dealing with here as well, but I would again throw it open again to the Board Members, that if they want to come and see any of the pilots and we have offered this to the DPP members as well, any of those 3 locations would be very glad to have Board Members there and show them what we are trying to do and what we are trying to achieve.

**Mr Willie Hay:**

I am hearing what ACC Toner is saying but I am still not satisfied that the public will be satisfied. I think it is a major issue, but I wonder can we put it into practice.

**Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Paul Leighton:**

Can I just respond very briefly. The 'Policing with the Community' project that I lead, actually has call handling and our response to people, as one of those projects of work and we agreed yesterday, with the Chief Executive, that we would bring a presentation to the Board about all strands of the work which may give you more reassurance.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

I am going to ask Mrs McCabe to pull together 2 questions. Questions 13 and 14, one relates to current grading structure and advertising and the second relates to the Annual Performance Review date.

**Mrs Pauline McCabe:**

Thank you. These were 2 questions that came out of the Human Resources Committee on Friday, 28 October 2005.

The first was to ask the Chief Constable if he is satisfied that the current support staff grading structures always enable PSNI to advertise key posts at competitive salaries?

The second question was, that we were advised that the Review of the Annual Performance Review (APR) that is planned to be completed by April 2007 and the Committee wondered, given the role of APR in organisational performance management and also in identifying training and development needs, and given also that not only we have expressed concerns, but the Oversight Commissioner

and HMIC has done also, whether or not he thought that was an adequate date in terms of the review process?

**Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:**

I will ask Mr Joe Stewart to cover the details but in terms of the grading structures, the bigger picture is, is it a good system? The answer is no, it is not. It is far too complicated for what we are trying to move on and this is linked to a major piece of work just put out by HMIC on the new workforce management structures which we are very interested in progressing. I will ask Mr Stewart to cover the detail on the other 2 points.

**PSNI Director of Human Resources, Mr Joe Stewart:**

I think the Chief Constable has covered the issue of the grading in terms of the modernising of the police agenda that is coming forward and Members will be aware of that. I would also say, that we have no evidence that there is a connection between the salaries we are able to offer on our grading structures and not being competitive in the labour market, in fact, our external consultants will advise us on what is likely to attract the relevant competition in the market and we seek to address those figures in our advertisements.

As far as the APR is concerned, the predominant feature of our APR is to deal with performance development and we believe it does that very well. The issue we do have, as far as the APR is concerned, is that it is not always executed very well. As Mrs McCabe will know, this is a typical feature of every APR, however designed and however run, whether it be in the private or in the public sector. The system can, we find, be down to the way in which people operate it at supervisory level and recipient level and I think that is what we need to focus on.

There have been some suggestions and modifications to the APR system and that, in particular, relevant to the points advanced by the Board's Human Rights Advisor, should be completed and the alteration made by April 2006. It would be a more fundamental review of the system that will be taking place between this date and April 2007 but I repeat, the real issue for me, is actually the operation of the system as exists, subject to any modification that we can put to it in the interim.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

I will take you to the final question of this session today, question 11 relates to Restorative Justice, Alex Attwood.

**Mr Alex Attwood:**

I know Chief Constable, you will not want to answer this question, because there are private conversations going on between yourselves and the NIO and other people about this draft protocol on Restorative Justice. But given the abysmal failure up until yesterday, for the British Government to respect the views of the Policing Board and the political parties in the North, by consulting with them, I think it is important that, from your point of view, you put into the public domain what you can in respect of issues arising from speculation about what the draft protocol might cover. For that reason, given that there is speculation that the complaints system that has been proposed under this draft protocol is one whereby, somebody would complain to the Community Justice Scheme and if that is not good enough, then the Community Justice Scheme appoints an external person to deal with that complaint. Do you or the police think, that if that what has been proposed is best practice, that it complies with human rights standards, that it is sufficiently independent, that it is sufficient to create public confidence in what is happening and given that Community Justice Schemes are an important feature in the future addressing of offending and in order to make sure that it is done right, are the police satisfied that a complaints system, in that image, is sufficient for what is required when it comes to the future development of these schemes?

**Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:**

Basically I am very clear. People want an ordinary Police Service, you do not have a 2 tier system of policing, you have one.

I always ask myself the question, if a car is being stolen or kids are causing a disturbance, if we lived anywhere else in the United Kingdom, you pick up the phone and call the police and we respond to it. That is a job for the police and I do not see why we should be any different. That is my basic starting point and which is why I have said continually, we will engage with the Restorative Justice Schemes where the police are an integral part. It does not mean as an aside, or as an option, it means if we are looking to keep young people out of court who are

committing offences then what we do is we engage in the way we would engage in Newcastle or London and we would work with other agencies to keep those people out of court through a third way which all the research shows works. I am very interested in that and we are very committed to doing it, it is lead by Judith Gillespie and she is working on that with other people and I have made our position explicit. That is what I see as Community Restorative Justice.

Now, if there are some other schemes being debated by other people, out with the Police Service, that is a matter for them. I know I command the most accountable Police Service in the country which is why people should feel able to call us, to respond to any call where the police have a legitimate role and that is how I see it. I do not think I can be any clearer than that. If you want police engaged or engaged in dealing with young offenders, anything like that, it needs and must have non-negotiable, a police involvement at the official level and any other player who operates in that system must be of a level and a credibility and a standing that stands up to purpose, which is not someone with any substantial previous conviction.

**Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Paul Leighton:**

I will try and answer the question Mr Attwood, it probably will not be as full as you would want.

The Northern Ireland Office is currently developing the draft protocol as you have said, for Community Restorative Justice Schemes and we support the view, that community schemes should establish their own complaints mechanism, but and this is the essential element, they must be subject to regular and random inspection by the Criminal Justice Inspectorate. The complaints mechanism must incorporate access to an independent party, just as there is an independent process for complaints against the police, to whom the complainant may resort if he or she is dissatisfied with any aspect of how the complaint has been handled.

Nothing in that changes the fact, that should any member of the public have cause for complaint against the community scheme, which amounts to a criminal offence, the matter should be reported to the police and we will fully investigate it. I cannot go any further than that at the moment, but I know that there are arrangements

being made with the Board to give further briefings as and when those can be given.

**Mr Alex Attwood:**

I must say Deputy Chief Constable, that I am surprised by your answer. I am surprised that the police are advising the NIO that it is good enough in our society, given where we have come from over the last 30 years, that there can be Community Justice Schemes being run in our society and that an internal complaints system is good enough and that some moderate level of external involvement is good enough. That is not good enough for dealing with complaints against the police, in our view that is not good enough for dealing with complaints against public officials or against the Public Prosecution Service. I am surprised that the police are saying that it is good enough, that there is not a fully independent, external legitimate complaints system when it comes to Community Justice Schemes.

**Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Paul Leighton:**

It is actually quite in line with other complaints systems. In the sense that, the first issue of the complaint might be to the organisation themselves, if the person then feels unsatisfied, they must go to an independent person, just as in a complaint against the police they would go to the Police Ombudsman and then there are other recourses to further the complaints process, so it is very much in line.

**Mr Alex Attwood:**

They are not the highest standards that should be required in the particular context of the North and I am surprised that lesser standards are being endorsed just because it is good enough as you think it is in some other agencies in some other jurisdictions, does not mean it is good enough for public confidence in the North.

**Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Paul Leighton:**

I do not accept it is a lesser standard.

**Mr Sammy Wilson:**

Can I ask one last question on this. The Minister yesterday did publish a statement in which he talked about these protocols and emphasised that the police must be an integral part of Community Restorative Justice Schemes. What detailed consultation has there been with the police to ensure that they are happy or what their input would be, to actually define what is meant by an integral part for the police within these Community Restorative Justice Schemes? Have there been any discussions and what do the police understand by having an integral part in these schemes?

**Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Paul Leighton:**

There have been ongoing negotiations Mr Wilson with ourselves and other bodies in the criminal justice system. One of things that is important here, is that integral means integral to the whole criminal justice system, not just to the police. One of the issues that comes out of the criminological research in UK, USA and other places, is that criminal careers begin at a particular point. It is absolutely daft to suggest that you do not want to capture people and perhaps divert them from a criminal career at the earliest stage possible and the Chief Constable has already referred to that and we are totally supportive of diversionary activity, but not outside the criminal justice system. It has to be engaged and integrated with all elements of the criminal justice system, otherwise we will have people starting criminal careers, not known to any other part of the criminal justice system and all of a sudden we will have a serious offence committed and all our DNA databases and fingerprint databases are worth nothing, because they have not actually been integrated into the criminal justice system, that is why we support integration.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Could I say thank you Chief Constable and through you to your colleagues, in particular to Inspector Dempsey for his presentation. Thank you to members of the public and to the journalists who are present today.

That concludes the public session.