

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF THE 27<sup>th</sup> MEETING IN PUBLIC OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2004 AT 12:00 NOON IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

Professor Desmond Rea (Chairman)  
Mr Denis Bradley (Vice Chairman)  
Mr Alex Attwood  
Viscount Brookeborough  
Mr Joe Byrne  
Mr Fred Cobain  
Mr Sam Foster  
Mr Barry Gilligan  
Mr Tom Kelly  
Mrs Pauline McCabe  
Mr Alan McFarland  
Mr Eddie McGrady  
Mrs Rosaleen Moore  
Mr Ian Paisley Jnr  
Mr Sammy Wilson

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

Mr Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)  
Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief  
Constable)  
Mrs Judith Gillespie, (Assistant Chief  
Constable, Criminal Justice)  
Mr Sam Kinkaid (Assistant Chief  
Constable, Crime Operations)  
Ms Sinead McSweeney (Head of Media)  
Chief Inspector, Command Secretariat

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

Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)  
Director of Community Affairs  
Director of Communications  
Director of Corporate Services  
Director of Policy  
Director of Planning  
One Board Official

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mr Dougherty and Mr Hay.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

Could I first of all welcome members of the public to this public session meeting. I have explained in the past, but for members of the public who have not been at a meeting before, questions come from different sources. One source is that they come through the Committees of the Board and another source is they could well come from an interest group, for example, some little time ago, we met with a group representing the elderly. This Chairman suggested to them that they should provide questions, if they wished to provide questions then those questions would be put at the Board meeting. Equally, the same applies to a member of the public, that if they can give the questions to the Secretariat or to a Member then we will facilitate it in that particular way.

First question today, question 1, Tom Kelly.

My apologies, we will take the Chief Constable's presentation first.

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

Thank you Chairman. We thought it would be helpful to update the Board in terms of crime performance over the current year to see how we are going in relation to our targets set by the Board. It is a short presentation. I will deliver it from here and I may ask a couple of my colleagues to make specific points in relation to some particular issues.

If we go to the first slide, what we have done is try to compare overall crime in Northern Ireland with other Forces in the United Kingdom, partly to deal with the concern being raised in the press of this being a high crime area. Hopefully this may put it into some sort of context. The point of this slide really is that these are the figures for one year. The slide shows that the Police Service of Northern Ireland, in terms of overall crime per population of

our size compared to other Police Services with a similar population in size and a variety of different geographies, shows that actually we are one of the safest places to live. Basically, it is safer to live here than Devon or Cornwall, Sussex, Kent or Hampshire, all of which could be described as affluent parts of the south of England. That may be of some value in terms of setting the context.

Some of the Forces judged as high performing by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in the recent baseline reviews, have levels of crime far above those we currently have in Northern Ireland. I think part of that overall crime figure reflects our crime reduction over the last 2 years.

In terms of specific matters, I will refer to the next slide, our burglary and vehicle crime in particular. It is a slightly complicated slide so let me explain it. Our target this year was to reduce domestic burglary by 2% by March 2005. Currently burglary rates per 1000 households in Northern Ireland is quite substantially below the national average. The range of burglaries, again taken from Her Majesty's baseline review, shows that a Police Service in Wales has the lowest number of burglaries at just under 5 per 1000, the highest is Nottinghamshire at 37 per 1000. In Northern Ireland currently, the rate is 13.7, which is down from last year and the trend continues downward. It is down from 16.2. What that equates to in terms of percentage is burglaries down by 15.4% per 1000 households in Northern Ireland. Again I will give some examples of the sort of police work that has been going on to achieve that. It is a good trend. It shows that the reductions we achieved last year are continuing into this year.

The same applies to vehicle crime. Again you are about half as likely to be a victim of vehicle crime in Northern Ireland as you are anywhere else in the United Kingdom overall. Our vehicle crime rate is now down to 7.6 per 1000,

down from 9.2 against a national average of just under 17 vehicle crimes per 1000 population. Again the spectrum is showing so you can put it into context. Again Wales, Dyfed-Powys is the lowest number compared to Nottinghamshire at 27.7 again the highest and overall crime again is shown at the bottom. We were unable to get a comparative figure for England and Wales in the time available to us.

We will move on again, in particular to burglaries. What we have done here is compared the domestic burglary rating in the Urban region, our most built-up area, with built-up areas elsewhere in the United Kingdom. You will see that the burglary rate here per 1000 is lower in our city of Belfast than any other places in England and Wales. In fact, our burglary rate is similar to Cheltenham which is a spa town in England. If you were in Manchester, you would be three times more likely to be a victim of burglary than you are, if you lived in Northern Ireland.

In terms of what we have been doing to achieve this, I think in the style of policing we have adopted, by empowering our District Commanders to get on with the business locally, by driving the National Intelligence Model of policing what we have achieved is a far more focused approach at the district level, where my officers know the problems far better than we do centrally. By working with District Policing Partnerships and other agencies and interested parties, I think that has contributed substantially to our reductions.

In Down DCU for example, burglaries are down by 27% compared to last year. That is down from 156 to 114 for the year to date, that is January to yesterday's date. What they have done is they have focused very much on what they call their top 10 criminals. They have gathered intelligence and targeted those who are on bail and they get visited at home to make sure they are complying with curfews. In other words, it is a highly focused response.

We now have analysts in every district which we have achieved over the last 2 years, to identify the crime hotspots and to continue to refine those hotspots. The officers know where to patrol, they know who they are looking for, they work with the neighbourhood watches and surprise surprise burglary comes down by 27% which is a real and substantial decrease.

Again in Strabane, an interesting example of the power of analysis. They identified a trend in burglars attacking houses that were empty and then identified that these people were on holiday. Working with the travel agents, putting posters and leaflets up in libraries so that people were fully aware of the problem, had a number of effects. One was the burglary rate was reduced, two was a large number of householders contacted their local police before they went on holiday so we were able to keep a watch on their houses and what was interesting is, that out of all the people who bothered to do that not one of them became a victim of burglary when they were on holiday. Again, it shows the importance of partnership in dealing with domestic burglary. There are examples like that, that mirror across the whole of Northern Ireland and I think shows and explains why the burglary rate continues to fall year on year.

If we could move onto the next slide. Road traffic is an area of great concern to us. The number of fatal accidents is increasing and from April to September this year we have had 70 collisions which led to 80 people dying. Compared to the same time last year, 63 accidents leading to 76 people dying. One of the things that stands out for us is, the number of one car fatal accidents, certainly in the border regions, as highlighted by the large red circles. Often late at night and often young people, no other vehicles involved, vehicles leaving the road, speed and drink play a major part in those figures. Our response in terms of the enforcement side, because only one

strand of our strategy has to be around education has to be around engineering work. In terms of enforcement you will see from the drive drinking detections, perhaps one of the most worrying figures shows that drink driving here is on the increase or we are detecting more. It shows we are more focused but it does show it would appear culturally, that drink driving is still acceptable in large parts of Northern Ireland which is against the trend in the United Kingdom generally, where there has been a continuing year on year fall up until actually last year when it increased slightly if I remember correctly.

In terms of the work we are doing in the hotspot areas, Newry and Mourne has a major initiative with schools. Our school liaison officers are delivering a package called "slow down boys and slow down girls". I suppose it should be called "slow down everyone". Across the district we have a proactive press strategy to ensure public awareness remains high. That district has invested in 2 laser speed detection devices purchased to enhance the speed enforcement across the district. We have trained 60 officers in the use of that. In addition to our service wide Operation Scorpion, Newry and Mourne also operate a local version of that. What it clearly shows is that there is much more work to do in that area. It is truly one of the areas where police can only be part of the equation. It is the responsibility of many other organisations as well.

In terms of tackling road deaths at the more centralised level, Urban Regional Command Unit has mounted 32 operations in Lisburn and West Belfast which we have identified as the hotspots over this period. This has resulted in 522 detections of which 69% were for the main causation factors, those being drink driving, speed and driving without due care and attention. In addition we have used territorial support groups to carry out what we call Operation Viper which is our national force wide speeding initiative. During that last operation on the weekend of the 10 / 11 September, over 2000 motoring offences were detected of which 42 were for drink driving. That is a substantially high number, so it is an area where there is much work to do.

Moving quickly onto drugs, which is on the next slide, the performance indicators here are quite complex. What we have done is, we have aggregated the key issues that we have identified. The type of drugs seized are shown. The major drug still coming to our attention is cannabis. It is a slightly different drugs picture to the rest of the UK. Our recreational drug use around Class C drugs cannabis is more prevalent here. The good news is there is less use of Class A. Heroin for example has been remarkably stable and no particular signs of increase. Last year was the highest seizure of drugs ever. £15.1 million of drugs were seized by Police Service Drugs Squad officers in 2003 / 04.

My major concern is around the cocaine market. We have seen a substantial increase as indicated by the graph and we are doing a lot of work to see just what that drug market is. It seems quite mixed. There is some suggestion that it is a reflection of the increasing wealth of Northern Ireland and it is middle classes, for the want of a better description, using it for recreational use. There are other suggestions to say that it is actually getting into working class communities. That would be of great concern to us as well, but it is a major recreational drug, we are still far behind for example, the large cities in the United Kingdom. It is a trend we have identified and we are carrying out some analysis which we will bring back to the Board when it has been completed. What we have not found currently is any evidence of crack cocaine which I have substantial experience of. Not personally I hasten to add, in my previous life, which would be a very worrying trend. What we are seeing at the moment is just the powder but we are keeping an eye on that.

In terms of violent crime, it is down 5.9% on last year. The main district areas of Lisburn, Down, Foyle and Fermanagh being some examples as well as Belfast, obviously, in the Safer Cities campaign have and are operating initiatives which we think have contributed to that reduction in crime.

I would just ask Judith to comment very briefly on crime against the elderly because you will note robbery is down 31% and sexual offences are down 16%. There are some important points just to make on those which I will ask Judith to cover.

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

The Chairman has already referred to work with older people and it is important to note that for this period compared to the same period last year, personal robbery against people aged 65 or over has dropped by 26 incidents. That is, from 58 incidents last year to 32 this year. In terms of violent crime where the victim was 65 or older that again has dropped by 25 incidents from 231 to 206 this year for the same period last year. Finally, in terms of burglary, where the victim is 65 years or older, that again has dropped substantially by 145 incidents from 628 to 483 incidents. We have already provided some information around the initiatives that are ongoing against crimes against older people and those initiatives continue.

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

Thank you, if we could move on to race and homophobic crime which is a major concern for us and the communities. We have just put the definitions up so that people are aware of what we are actually talking about.

What we have been doing is operating a number of major initiatives at a local level because much of this race crime has been identified in very local parts of Northern Ireland. It is not something that transcends the whole area in terms of volume. Just by way of some examples, West Belfast DCU has implemented a strategy in relation to the Phillipino nurses working at the RVH. Our Community Safety Departments had "open days". We got points of contact. We got protocols to encourage reporting and increase

competence in the police. To some extent increased reporting in this area is something that does not concern me. It shows that communities are trusting us to deal with them, so if you look at the graphs you will see it is a bit of an up and down situation at the moment. The volumes remain low but we take them extremely seriously.

In East Belfast DCU we have similar provisions in place for the management of the restaurants at the Odyssey and indeed many of the Chinese community work or live within that DCU. We have formal and informal meetings with them to deal with their concerns.

South Belfast DCU has a vulnerable persons strategy to deal with the same issues. The strategy has 9 elements which is quite interesting. It is about the first actions at the scene, how we investigate them, how we keep the victim informed and advised of how to look after themselves, instant monitoring at the strategic level, looking at the intelligence to identify trends although actually because the numbers are quite small trends are quite hard to identify currently, and the proactive media strategy as well as the review panel. I think that hopefully shows just how seriously we are taking this issue.

So I think overall, in terms of crime, Chairman, the trends are looking positive. That does not mean we are complacent. It means currently due to highly focused work at the district levels, supported by our new Crimes Operation group which is currently being inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, we have a structure in place which is fit for purpose. It just reinforces the point that Northern Ireland actually is quite a safe place to live in.

One of the performance indicators we are not delivering on is the custody and bail figures. There is a requirement on us to get the majority of our cases to court in a certain amount of time. Judith will cover a couple of initiatives we

are running but the trend is getting better. We are still not getting enough cases to the Director of Public Prosecutions in time, be those in custody cases or bail cases. That is very important, we do take it seriously. There is much good news on the way with our new Causeway Project which will speed up file transfer.

I will ask Judith to touch on a couple of issues and initiatives we are doing to deal with that.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

Could I just ask Judith to explain to the public what the Causeway Project is.

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

Causeway is a means by which information can be shared among the main criminal justice agencies, that is the Police, Prison Service, Probation Service, Court Service, Northern Ireland Office and the Public Prosecution Service. It is really an IT system whereby information can go onto the system once at source and be shared across the 6 main criminal justice agencies. Of course, there are confidentiality protocols involved in that and access levels but it is a much more efficient way of sharing information than us all duplicating information within our own databases. That basically is what Causeway is about.

In relation to the file processing figures, we acknowledge that there is a lot of work still to be done here but the good news is, that in those areas where we have been working with the new Public Prosecution Service, we are actually meeting our targets. That is in the Belfast pilot and in the Fermanagh and Tyrone pilot. We are actually meeting all of our targets both in custody and bail in those areas. I will have validated figures for the next Policing Board meeting in relation to those areas.

A further piece of good news is that the next stage of the public prosecution service rollout will take place in February 2005. That will take in East Belfast, West Belfast, North Belfast, Carrickfergus and Newtownabbey so again we would expect to see a substantial increase in performance once those districts come on board with the new pilot.

In relation to what we are doing with our current cases, I know that this is a subject of accountability meetings with the regional ACCs and with their District Commanders. They do look in particular at the performance in custody and bail cases and they do look at those cases in particular which have not met the targets. We are working on a strategy to reduce unnecessary delay but it has to be said that some delay is necessary and unavoidable.

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

That is as far as I would like to go today Chairman, just to give you a broad overview. The bottom line I think and the figure that stands out for me, if you look at the total crime figures across the 43 Forces of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, we are the fourth lowest total crime per 1000 head of population, that is 75 per 1000, the lowest is again Dyfed Powys which has 63 per 1000.

Overall, the amount of work going on in the work of District Policing Partnerships and the organisation of the Police Service of Northern Ireland has come together to actually deliver what is a fairly safe community. That is not to say there is not more work to do. We fully understand there is much more work to do.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

On behalf of the Board I would congratulate you on the progress you are making.

There are 4 questions that I have on performance monitoring. I am going to take 2 other questions on the presentation so Members can be thinking about those questions.

Question 1 Tom Kelly, a question relating to the clearance rates for violent offences.

**Mr Tom Kelly:**

Chief Constable, while we welcome the overall downward trend in crime and the reassurance that gives to the public and at last you are telling them that, we are concerned about the clearance rates for violent offences and Judith referred to them in her answer that you are working with other agencies to try and speed that up. Could you give some more reassurance to the Board in terms of timescales and improvement?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

In terms of clear up rates, our primary objection is to have less victims rather than increased clear up rates but you have to hit from both sides. You cannot just do one or the other. We do have less victims and we need to improve our clear up rate. I will ask Judith to cover in a moment, specifically, the issues around domestic violence which is an area of key concern for us.

In terms of overall clear up rates, this organisation is about midway in overall performance in terms of the Police Services of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In terms of violent crimes specifically, we have seen a dip in our clear up rates this year. That is partly explained by a change in Home Office rules that means one of the classifications to clear a crime can no longer be used. This is where we know who the offender is but the person is not

prosecuted because the complainant does not want to prosecute that person. The reason is, that was taken out of the figures nationally so we will see a decline in clear up figures nationally. It is around the Data Protection Act because you cannot record someone being responsible for a crime who were not being made aware of that fact because of the inflammatory consequences.

We are looking at other ways of ensuring our clear up rate is as good as it can be. We also have to be very victim focused and where people decline to prosecute we have to support that person through that process. I will ask Judith to cover that in more detail because it is a relevant point.

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

In our experience approximately 30% of all violent crime is attributable to domestic incidents. We feel if we can tackle domestic violence properly we will have a significant impact on violent crime generally.

We launched a new Domestic Violence Policy recently which involves domestic violence officers within districts becoming fully investigative. There is a substantial training package that has been designed especially for them in the Northern Ireland context and that training package is ongoing at the moment. It is not just that domestic violence officers will act as a support to the victim, albeit that that is extremely important but they will also become professional investigators in this area. It is about ownership of what is a critical problem and about delivery of a professional service to victims.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

Mrs Moore wishes to push the Chief Constable a little more on the processing of custody in bail cases within time limits.

**Mrs Rosaleen Moore:**

Judith has referred to this in her presentation as well, it is again in relation to custody in bail cases. Although there has been an improvement in the current year in terms of this, performance remains well below the target of 85%. Would the Chief Constable like to comment on the ongoing work and initiatives aimed at improving performance in this area.

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

It is one that has been irritating me for some time as well and I have raised it with my regional ACCs and have undertaken to review every district on my next Section 78 efficiency meeting which will take place within the next 2 months. In fact we take it so seriously, that myself and my Deputy are also going to attend every single one of those meetings to form our own view.

I am confident it will get better because we are becoming more focused at it. My concern when we started was to make sure the front end of the business was working right that we were delivering effective policing and crime reductions. Those systems seem to be working well as I have just evidenced in our figures and we are now looking at our internal processes. There are big issues around the size of district command units quite frankly and having to have so many Criminal Justice Units does not make sense. It is inefficient and it means we have to deploy too many officers inside the police station rather than outside the police station. We are looking at bringing together a number of districts within the criminal justice skill area to try and form bigger units which can be more efficient at processing that paper and learning from the best practice of the pilots which are showing that we can do it. Different business processes are making a big difference. We intend to roll that out, it is simply a question of timing. I am confident that in 6 months time we can report a substantial increase in efficiency to the Board.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

A question relating to racist and homophobic incidents to which the Chief Constable has already referred, question 3, Alan Brookeborough.

**Viscount Alan Brookeborough:**

Chief Constable, thank you very much for your presentation. You have largely answered my question which was about the strategies and initiatives which have been undertaken, bearing in mind the continued increase in numbers of crimes. Could you please tell us something about the training that police officers are getting generally in this area and secondly, whether you have officers dedicated to liaison with particular communities, how this is working and do ethnic minorities groups in general know how to get in touch with you.

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

I will ask Judith to answer that in detail. In terms of initiatives, I did highlight 3 or 4. I have actually got 2 pages of things that are going on from different districts which I will not trouble the Board with now. I am happy to circulate and I think it has been dealt with at every level. In terms of raising awareness for example, recently we had a very successful melee in the middle of Belfast in Botanic Gardens. Sadly it was not well reported in the press, I suspect because it was 5,000 having a positive experience. It was a truly multi cultural event. It was well attended by the police service working very closely with the Indian community. I even borrowed some Asian police officers from my colleague Colin Cramphorn in West Yorkshire, who patrolled Botanic Gardens in full uniform. Very much the purpose of that being to raise awareness, we had our officers there to give advice and guidance and to talk to people. We had our Domestic Violence Unit there. That shows how committed we are to dealing with the bigger picture but I will hand over to Judith to deal with the detail.

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

One of the training initiatives which we have covered recently is a new guide to culture and diversity. I have brought some extra copies along for each of the Board Members to have their own copy. That was done in relation to providing some practical guidance to police officers and a copy has gone to every officer in the organisation. The document was produced in partnership with the Northern Ireland Interface Forum and we are very grateful for their assistance in terms of the graphics and illustrations. Aside from that, you asked about liaison officers. Each district has their own minority liaison officers, is not just with relation to minority ethnic communities it is also in relation to all minority communities. They liaise with lesbian and gay communities as well and also with older people so vulnerable groups of all descriptions are covered by the minority liaison officer.

In some districts where race crime has been a particular issue, minority liaison units have been increased. Their strength has been increased and I know certainly in South Belfast, there has been a substantial increase in the minority liaison officers there.

The Chief Constable has already referred to a number of initiatives that we are doing. I am happy to provide a written report of all of those for the information of the Board. In terms of the homophobic issues which were also covered in the question but which were not so much covered in the briefing, there are quite a few initiatives going on there. In particular in Belfast, where we have briefings in relation to recognised gay nights in pubs where there is the potential for the gay community to be targeted. Police patrols would undertake targeted patrols there for reassurance as much as for preventing and detecting crime.

In relation to the Foyle area, we have particularly good relationships with Radio Foyle. We have been pushing the message that to address this type of crime we really need the support of the community. The police cannot always be there obviously. We do need the community to come forward and give us information and evidence that will lead to the arrest of these offenders.

One final point is in relation to anti social behaviour orders because we now have that facility. We are starting to build up evidential pictures for Anti Social Behaviour Orders against people who might be guilty of hate crime.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

Thank you very much, a question relating to the levels of public satisfaction with the PSNI, Joe Byrne.

**Mr Joe Byrne:**

Chairman, again I would thank the Chief Constable for the figures he has outlined at the start of his report. Can the Chief Constable inform the Board about any further work that is going on, which would hopefully increase the public satisfaction in relation to how the PSNI are carrying out their work, as evidenced by their targets in the Policing Plan. If I could get local, Chairman, the Strabane district has suffered some serious crimes over the last 2 years. In December 2002, £100,000 taken from a Safeway store, July of this year, 2 families held hostage and a ransom had to be paid by the Ulster Bank somewhere between £100,000 and £500,000. Two weeks ago we had a family in the Castlederg area apprehended and the manageress of the Iceland store had to go in on Monday and open the safe. Can we get an update on how those crimes are being tackled.

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

If I could deal with strategic issues, in terms of specific cases I would happily speak to you outside the meeting, as I have not got the details to hand.

A number of things. One is hopefully the fact that Northern Ireland is a safe place to live and the crime reductions that my officers are achieving by working in partnership with the community will start to feed confidence in communities. We know what we are doing and we will deliver a confident community that is confident with its Police Service. Everything we do feeds into public confidence. Every interaction any of my officers have with any of the community will feed that process. It is not something that should be simply left to the Police Service. The Policing Board has its responsibilities as well, as does everyone in the community and indeed the media, to tell the facts as they are. This is not an area of rising crime and it is incumbent on all of us to make that point I think. We will continue to do all we can to reassure communities that we are determined to make them feel safer and to be safer.

At another level, as to how we can communicate that more efficiently. One of the issues is, how effective are we at selling the good news story. My new head of media is looking at ways of doing that. I only hope my old head of media will listen when we tell him what the stories are.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

Two questions arising from the presentation, firstly Ian Paisley Jnr.

**Mr Ian Paisley Jnr:**

Thank you Chairman and indeed like you, I am very pleased to see a public gallery today. I know that most of these people are in from loyalist west and north Belfast and are most welcome here today. I think the fact that they have come from that part of the city they might actually respond to the presentation that we have heard today. Who on earth do you think you are kidding? They live in inner city Belfast, they suffer violence on a daily basis, they see crime on our streets on a daily basis and they wonder whenever you produce a report like this who do the police think they are kidding when they tell us that Northern Ireland is safer than Cheltenham and Devon. People do not live their lives on the basis of a comparative with Cheltenham, Devon and Cornwall. People live their lives on the basis of relative experience and the

relative experience of people in Northern Ireland today is, that they see crime. A new house buyer in Northern Ireland is going to pay £600 because of paramilitary racketeering. We have got figures in the paper that show 130 shootings in the last year. We have a resident magistrate who said 3 weeks ago in court that Belfast is now more dangerous than it was at the height of the troubles. It just proves that statistics can prove anything, Mr Chairman. If we do a comparison with Iraq and Colombia, we do not have a drugs or terrorists problem here in Northern Ireland but there is an issue. Can we challenge the Chief Constable? If we are in a crime reducing Northern Ireland, can we challenge him and his officers? Will we see crime reduced to below 100,000 crimes per annum over his tenure as Chief Constable? Does he think that is a serious prospect ....(tape unclear) to combat crime on that basis.

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

There are a number of issues and one is that the figures speak for themselves. They are not made up, they are clear figures and validated statistics.

Certainly, when I go around speaking to my officers I do not experience the feeling of (a) lack of confidence or that they are doing a bad job or (b) a conviction that they are determined not to do even better. I am visiting Lisburn this afternoon and I am confident that the new commander there will tell me a similar story. There is a huge amount of commitment going on by my officers. It does require co-operation and co-ordination of communities and district policing partnerships because together we are far more effective.

In terms of crime rates, where I used to come from to here, this is a low crime area. Of course there are issues and hotspots and there are big issues and big demands on my Service, be it the 3,000 marches a year through to the paramilitary violence that still persists despite the best efforts of my officers in Crime Operations Group. I think you can talk it down or up. I am

talking it up because I believe we have a plan, we have confidence in what we are doing. You are talking it down which is the other way of looking at the same figures I guess but the figures stand for themselves. I do not seek to defend them.

In terms of the overall crime reduction year on year, if we can continue to maintain this trend then it is not unimaginable to get to that over my tenure. I would not be confident we can do because there are so many other pressures and demands upon us. In terms of the level of officers we have here, you are as aware as I am, that we have over 2 times the number of regular officers deployed here to any other Police Service in the United Kingdom. The Full-Time Reserve issue, I have retained nearly 700 officers that I should not have under the terms of Patten, based on our clear security assessment, to enable my 7,500 officers to go about their daily business and protect the communities. That is where we are.

Just to remind you all that not one full-time officer has gone anywhere yet. Every officer has a job until April 2005 guaranteed achieved very early on in my tenure between my senior team and the Members of the Board, so we got them certainty. The recent decision gives me 2 years from now to make sure that the communities at the front end of this policing operation do not suffer by the loss of security posts and they will not suffer. We have 200 more civilians approved by the Northern Ireland Office that we can now recruit which will free up 200 more officers. The local boundary review is up and coming and we will look at becoming more efficient on the back of that. It is recognised and acknowledged that 29 districts is not an efficient way of delivering policing in a community of this size with police stations of that size. That again will enable us to free up more resources for the front end. I will get as many officers as I can onto the front end of policing be they full-time or part-time. We will get them out there and we will do our level best to protect communities.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

Can I discourage Members from speeches because we are likely to cover more questions. Pauline McCabe has a question arising from the presentation.

**Mrs Pauline McCabe:**

I was just interested to note in the information that you gave us, the fairly significant difference in performance delivered by different district command units. Obviously there are specific reasons why a particular indicator in a particular district may not, but it is interesting to note those who under-perform across a range of factors and perhaps more importantly, those who are consistently delivering a high level of performance across almost all of the performance indicators. I just wondered in general terms, what do you think are the main factors contributing to that? It follows on from that, what are the main opportunities there for actually improving the performance of the ones who are trailing?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

That is a very interesting question. There are many factors and I think one thing about Northern Ireland, while it is not unique, it is very different. The spectrum of environments our officers have to operate in range from quiet very law abiding peaceful rural communities to some very challenging inner city areas. In terms of the spectrum of policing environments my people have to work in, they are very different and that does to some extent explain the difficulty of enforcing law in some places over others.

In terms of what we can learn from it, the whole purpose of our performance reviews which I have mentioned earlier and which I intend to be on in the next round, are to identify what is going right and what is going wrong. But more importantly to share the best practice, so if a district (a) has identified a good way of dealing with burglary the Assistant Chief Constables by covering all the districts make sure that that is communicated at a very personal and challenging level. Performance Reviews are not cosy chats. They are very

focused on the performance targets set by this Board and fed by the District Policing Partnerships at the bottom end and that is what the District Commanders are judged against. It challenges their policing style. It looks at, for example, patrol style, community policing and I think that by continuing that process we will get round to identifying the areas. Some of it is also around leadership. We have very high quality officers in the main but some people are more competent than others at leading difficult territories. We are looking at that and how to support the District Commanders and the senior staff in leading their people through what are difficult and challenging times. All of this, of course, is being achieved against a backdrop of a massive change programme which again is unique to Northern Ireland. I think my officers delivering this level of service against that backdrop have achieved quite a lot.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

A question relating to the attendance of your officers at minor accidents, Sam Foster.

**Mr Sam Foster:**

One that there is great concern about and that is your officers not to attend minor road accidents, the motivation for this decision and how the same has been communicated to the public. There is a real fear in the community at the moment, Chief Constable, about that, because there is the fear that if you have the bully who meets the innocent person or the mild person, the bully will win every time. Will justice then prevail or will the mild person be left very much isolated? It is of great concern in the community at this particular time.

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

The policy about attendance at minor road accidents actually came out of the Anti Bureaucracy Task Force examination of our bureaucracy and our over reliance on forms and paperwork earlier in the year. It puts us in line with most other Police Services who do not attend minor bumps in traffic, damage to a wing or bumper that sort of thing. It reclassified our attendance policy in

terms of non-attendance, from very minor damages where 2 wing mirrors have struck or a bumper has been touched, to minor collision which is damage only or slight injury and insufficient evidence for a prosecution when police would attend and help take details but would not prepare a full prosecution file, and major collision where obviously there is serious injury or fatality or extensive damage, evidence of hit and run or other offences.

We will always attend if members of the public are intimidated or frightened or fear for their life through another offence. That is not what the policy is designed to do. The policy is designed to take out of the 26,500 accidents that we attend every year, those which really do not require the police to do anything other than produce a report, that at the present time only goes to insurance companies and is of no value to us whatsoever. We are actually doing the insurance companies work for them. We are preparing documentation and we have prepared some already that will help motorists to very quickly exchange details, know exactly what needs to be done and move on from that. Many of the commercial companies are producing collision packs which give motorists a little pack they can carry in their car that will give them everything they need to do to satisfy insurance companies to move on.

What I must stress is, that where other offences or where any motoring offence is disclosed or any intimidation offence is disclosed, the police will still attend those. If there is any evidence of drink driving or anything like that, the police will still attend. It is only in very minor incidents, wing mirrors clashing, that sort of thing where the police in the past have been called and we have attended, really we cannot afford that time any more. We have got to move on from that and that is not just in Northern Ireland alone, it is not a Northern Ireland specific issue. This is in line with policing practice all around the world now. There are so many more cars on the road, there are so many more minor bumps, that it is a huge time constraint on everyone.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

Question relating to unsolved murders, question 9 Barry Gilligan.

**Mr Barry Gilligan:**

Thank you Chairman. Chief Constable, the Board notes from a statement by the Secretary of State to the Labour Party Conference that Government proposes to allocate a sum of money to the PSNI over a 3 to 4 year period in order to fund the Serious Crime Review team in reviewing unsolved murders, the number of which we know is very considerable and still a cause of great hurt in this community. Can you clarify for us how you propose to go about this work and how you propose to staff the team to do it.

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

I have a number of points to make on this. First, it is our initiative. It was driven by the chief officer team and has been for the last 2 years in negotiation with the Northern Ireland Office and the Secretary of State because we saw it as being extremely important. It is back to you cannot move on until we deal with history sort of debate. We are very pleased to see as a result of our efforts the Northern Ireland Office is looking to supply us with additional funding to deal with this business so we do not have to draw from the current police budget which is clearly necessary to deal with current policing issues.

This is not any sort of replacement for the wider debate around truth and reconciliation issues and all those sorts of things which are being led by the Secretary of State and are outwith our responsibility. This is simply to get sufficient funding to put another unit in place, in addition to our Serious Crime Review team, to assess all the unsolved crimes, including all our unsolved murders of police officers, to see where we have evidential opportunities that we can then pursue. Currently I have not been made aware of the sum of money available. I am told it will be sufficient for the task. The way of structuring it will be to second a small number of officers from other Police Services, if I can find them. I think there will need to be an independent

element to this and to staff this with retired high quality detectives to review all the cases we have, to look at the forensic exhibits available and to take advantage of the advances in science specifically, that may well give us evidence we can now pursue through a legal process, which we did not have available to us at the time.

Sam Kinkaid will lead on the day to day running of this unit. It is very important and we are very pleased we have got this far, this quickly. I would hope to be able to come to the Board very soon and tell you exactly what the numbers are but Sam may want to explain further, if that is useful.

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

Clearly, Chairman, there are issues in relation to finance that go beyond the recruitment of a number of retired detectives. Once we go down this road over a 3 or 4 year period whatever the agreed period will be, there will clearly be implications for the resourcing of agencies like the Forensic Science Laboratory and other places who would be getting an additional amount of work put into them that currently would not be part of their budgets for this year. Consequently, this is not a simple matter of the police coming to the NIO and saying we want to do this, this is the implications for us, they have to talk to the other agencies to see how much it will cost.

I support what the Chief Constable has said, that currently out of the Crime Ops budget a considerable amount of time and effort is quite properly being spent on the large number of unsolved murders and other deaths. Clearly it would be very useful for the whole community, for policing in particular and for the relatives of the people concerned who have died. If over a short period of years, we are able to look at all these in a consistent way and there was no issue about resourcing or the fact that we have to take people off doing reviews, as we currently sometimes have to do and put them onto live murders that are happening. This will allow us to deal with this group of unsolved murders over a set period of time.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

Question relating to the new staff performance management system, question 7 Mrs McCabe.

**Mrs Pauline McCabe:**

The Board welcomed the introduction of the new staff performance management system and as it was sometime ago, we wondered if you could advise us firstly on what percentage of officers had their performance appraisal in the last 12 months but also how well you feel it is contributing to the development of individual and therefore organisational performance.

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

So far 65% of this year's appraisals have been completed in roughly 70% of the year so we are not too far adrift from the year's totals. The impact of the annual performance review system on performance, it is difficult to get an exact correlation between the impact of any APR system on performance but we are looking at how we can improve that correlation.

The system focuses clearly on each officer's contribution towards district policing objectives and plans and we intend to sharpen that up. I know that the Section 78 reviews do look very closely at DCU commanders and they in turn then look at their staff with a view to saying, what have you attributed to achieving that goal. So, we are sharpening the whole process as it goes along. We are satisfied that it makes an effective contribution. I think the health warning has to be that no large organisations have got 100% effective appraisal systems as far as I am aware, and certainly we have looked at many other places. It is linked directly to Patten. It is only in its second year. It is very difficult to get a trend from this or real objective data. We need to run it for longer before we can say objectively this has had this impact.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

Question relating to efficiency reviews, question 12 Mrs Moore.

**Mrs Rosaleen Moore:**

Chief Constable, could you explain how the district efficiency reviews will work and whether there will be any external reviewers involved?

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

The efficiency reviews that we are conducting came out of an observation that although we had a number of staff in DCUs we were not 100% sure that they were all being effectively and efficiently used, so that is where it came from. They will be conducted essentially on a business improvement approach on a systematic basis so the Business Improvement Unit in HR department will support the two territorial ACCs, who will lead on this matter. They have established already an inspection team of 8 inspectors who will be trained by the Business Improvement Unit to conduct these reviews and be supported by the Business Improvement Unit.

Your question asks about external support, yes, we have made provision for that. We made provision to bring in 4 external business people who will assist the team on a temporary basis to look at these efficiency reviews and to assist with them. At the end of each review, the DCU Commander will receive a list of recommendations which he will be required to implement. The ACCs will build that into their Section 78 review in future visits to make sure that it is being done. We are going to do 8 districts before the end of this financial year, that is the start.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

Question 11, Mr Attwood.

**Mr Alex Attwood:**

Just before that, Chair, in an earlier conversation with Sam Kinkaid I had asked Sam to confirm and I certainly want to acknowledge that both at today's Board meeting and a previous Board meeting, that detailed answers have been given in relation to questions concerning ongoing criminal investigations and criminal prosecutions. In order to guarantee the rights of any individual and to protect the due process and the possibility of successful prosecutions, it is entirely proper that that which was conveyed to the Board earlier is not made more generally known. I would ask Sam Kinkaid to confirm that that is the case.

In respect of plastic bullets, I am mindful that there has been a significant reduction in the use of live fire and the use of batons. Noting the serious concerns that sections of the community have about plastic bullets, I would ask the Chief Constable to confirm the last occasion in which plastic bullets were discharged and to advise of current PSNI intentions in respect of the deployment and use of plastic bullets. Is the Chief Constable prepared to consider conducting a review in relation to plastic bullets that would include reduction in both the number of officers trained to use plastic bullets and the current stock of plastic bullets and to confirm that PSNI will continue to support the research initiated for the Patten report to identify an alternative to the plastic bullet itself?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

The last time a baton round was fired in Northern Ireland was on 11 September 2002, over 2 years ago. Patten was clear in finding an alternative and an alternative has yet to be found in the world as mentioned by the Oversight Commissioner in his most recent report of 11th of last month. We continue to need to have that capacity that having been said the important point is that they have not been used. The fact that they have not

been used for 2 years, it makes absolute sense that we review our policy and procedures around how many we need, the number of baton guns we keep and the number of officers we train. That review has already begun. I can confirm that and I will report back to the Board when it is finished what our findings are.

In terms of the Steering Group, we are an active member of the Northern Ireland Steering Group that are looking at the alternatives in relation to Section 69 and 70 of the Patten report and that work continues. I think the important point perhaps to recognise, as a result of that work, was the introduction of 6 water cannon, 2 of which were used on the 12 July 2004 to deal with that particular problem. That in a way negated the need for even any of my senior officers to request the use of deployment of the next stage up which would have been a baton round. That is work in progress, we will continue to look at less lethal options and when they become available we will present them to the Board. Currently my plan is to review how many we have, where we keep them, how many officers we need to train and how many guns we need to keep. Sadly, the fact remains at the moment we are not in a position to say we do not need to have them available for use should they be needed. Currently the good news is, they are not needed and not even asked for.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

The first part of the question, ACC Kinkaid.

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

I can confirm that there was a number of questions in the private session in relation to a number of criminal issues before the courts that have been covered in the media and that we did give full on answers in relation to those.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

My memory is you gave a cautious answer in respect of a recent heist but Ian Paisley Jnr has a question on that.

**Mr Ian Paisley Jnr:**

I wonder if it is possible for the Chief Constable or the ACC to confirm details of the reported £2 million heist at a Gallaher warehouse within the last 7 days. Can you give us details of who you believe or suspect was behind this crime and can you confirm if it was in fact driven by a paramilitary group or otherwise or a republican group or otherwise? Can you confirm if you understand how the proceeds will end up or where those proceeds could actually end up? Will you arrange for special security measures to be introduced to protect industries and businesses going about their lawful business, so that they are not hindered in a way that has actually occurred with this company. Given the background of other serious crimes, we have regularly millions of pounds stolen from companies like Securicor in Northern Ireland, yet I understand in the Republic, special protection on the movement of monies, special commodities is covered by police and army cover. Could you let us know if you are considering such special measures in Northern Ireland.

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

In relation to this, the initial investigation into the robbery of the cigarettes belonging to Gallaher indicates that it was clearly a well organised crime. The assessment of the police at this stage is that it was carried out by a paramilitary group associated with a republican background.

May I say to the Board in addition to that, that all paramilitary groups in the last 5 to 6 months have been involved in serious robberies in Northern Ireland and that is from both sides of the community. We currently are reviewing, as we always do, as part of the National Intelligence Model, our approaches to these particular crimes. Obviously I am not going to state publicly what we may be thinking about, but in addition to the investigations that we carry out

and the tactics that we use, we are also examining the systems in place with the relevant companies who are suffering these robberies. I will say in particular and in addition to this one, at an early date, we will be sitting down and advising Gallaher and the relevant storage company of changes we would recommend to their procedures.

At this stage I would not be prepared to comment on where the proceeds end up but you can imagine that part of them will go into a paramilitary organisation.

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

Just to add to that, what we will of course do is provide all this information to the Independent Monitoring Commission and it is also worth reflecting on the fact that armed robberies are actually down 24% in Northern Ireland directly as a result, to a large extent, of our armed robbery investigation teams.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

Mr Attwood has a question on the management of critical incidents.

**Mr Alex Attwood:**

Thank you Chair and could I first of all just acknowledge that this review in relation to plastic bullets has been commenced, though we would hope that that would have the outcome sooner or later of the withdrawal of plastic bullets.

In respect of critical incidents and I know that the Chief Constable is again unable to comment on certain matters which are ongoing issues, could I ask the Chief Constable, to confirm that he would be in a position to, as soon as proper and practical, to respond to the Police Ombudsman's report in respect of issues around the arrest of Liam Clarke. Could I ask generally, in relation to a number of critical incidents that there have been over a long period of time, does the Chief Constable believe that further training is required in respect of critical incidents, further management in respect of such incidents

and if a review is appropriate now in respect of those matters generally? If so, over what timeframe might that review be conducted?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

There are a number of things, in terms of critical incident training, that is currently being looked at by HMIC as part of the Crompton, Blakey and Stevens reports recommendations. We have trained a number of our officers in critical incident training. It is so important, in my view, that we have actually invested in a complete new training suite so we can deal with it in-house without having to send our officers elsewhere or bring critical incident training teams over here to do the training. The money has been ring-fenced, but unfortunately we have to go through a tendering process because of the amount involved. We are confident we will have the system in place by Easter 2005. In the meantime, I have put additional money aside to bring in additional training courses here as a matter of urgency so we can start to give our officers the additional training they will benefit from.

We are also part of a national training scheme. The problem with that is, that it is in such demand, we would only get about one place per course so it is simply not quick enough for what we want to do. In terms of our commitment to it, it is 100%. We found the money out of this year's budget or Joe Stewart found the money out of his budget. The tendering system is going ahead and we will have our own system in Easter 2005. In terms of that training, the Board will very much be part of that and be invited to attend as they did in the last ones we have run.

**Mr Alex Attwood:**

In respect of a proper and practical timeframe for response to the Police Ombudsman's report in respect of Mr Clarke?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

The report is large and in 2 binders and I am only half way through it as is my Deputy. When I have read it I will be in a position to comment on it fully but as ever, we always take the Ombudsman's recommendations very seriously and we always act on them. I think our records show that.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

Sammy Wilson has a question on defortification.

**Mr Sammy Wilson:**

Chairman, first of all I welcome the assurance from the Chief Constable that he will bring a report back to the Board on plastic bullets and I trust the Board will be the first to be notified.

Yesterday, we had an important policing announcement made by the SDLP on the whole question of defortification, which first of all has significant impact I suppose on police stations and some people would believe on the safety of police officers. Secondly, it has significant financial consequences which, as far as I am aware, have never been conveyed to the Board and certainly never conveyed to the Finance Committee or the Committee that deal with property services. Could the Chief Constable first of all, confirm that the information contained in the SDLP press release was correct? Secondly, in light of the attack on the police station at Strand Road and the almost monthly reports that we obtain from the Chief Constable regarding republican activity and the continued attempts to kill police officers, is it wise to reduce defences on police stations at this particular time? Thirdly, would the Chief Constable explain to the Board, is it now police policy to give private briefings to political parties knowing full well that they will then make announcements on what are significant policing issues before the Board has ever been informed of those decisions?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

I know your question is on plastic baton rounds and we will come back to the Board on that.

This is work in progress on the back of Patten. This is not something that suddenly happened. I do not know if colleagues around the table have passed Castlereagh police station recently, they will see a new fence going up. These things go on in the routine. They are driven from the bottom up. There has been no central policy on this. When District Commanders feel they are in a position to change the image of their police station and by that, it could be that those business cases will range no doubt from painting and decorating, front office refurbishment to new fences around the police station that look slightly more presentable than the old ones. Nothing goes ahead without a District Commander deciding it is appropriate in the circumstances and against the threat. No-one is telling them to do it, they are doing it because they think they can do it and think it will make their police station look better, improve the working conditions for their own officers, as well as making them more accessible to the public. The fiscal consequences of that is all Patten non-severance. The business cases go to the Treasury and is money that is outwith our current budget. There are currently 2 business cases in, to my outstanding which sum to about 17 requests which I am told have been or are in the process of being approved.

In terms of Strand Road, there are no plans to take any walls down but quite frankly, an unoccupied Sanger in some police stations would not have stopped or prevented or helped that particular event. We are very clear, as are my District Commanders. They are far better positioned than I am working with colleagues in Special Branch to form an assessment of when it is appropriate or not and what level of amelioration can take place. This is not some knocking down of our defences in any way, shape or form, this is simply a review of what we can do in keeping with Patten but being very mindful of the security situation in Northern Ireland.

In terms of briefings, you will be aware I believe, that the Chief Constable is available to be spoken to by any political party. In the last 2 months I have met senior representatives and leaders from DUP, UUP and the SDLP. Sinn Fein have not bothered to come and see me. I will continue to do that. I will answer the questions they ask me as honestly and as frankly as I can together with my senior team and I have done that on all 3 occasions. I think that all 3 parties I have spoken to have chosen to make public statements after the meeting. That is their responsibility not mine.

There is nothing secret or political about Patten recommendations around the image of police stations. I think in terms of successes we can reflect that nearly every police station now has a better front office facility for members of the public to come into, bearing in mind many of those people will be victims. That is all the result of this policy, this is no different.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

Earlier I said I would take questions from Members when they had succeeded in digesting your presentation on performance and Mr McGrady tells me he has only now succeeded in digesting your report and he has a question.

**Mr Eddie McGrady:**

That is not surprising, it was a very indigestible series of statistics. Could I ask the Chief Constable in respect of the drugs scene generally. The statistics you have given and statistics generally are not very helpful in this respect, because the number of people at the end of the line who are using drugs or the facility and availability of obtaining drugs is the important issue. Is it possible you could do some review as to the availability of drugs or the number of users and the types of drugs? Secondly, slightly divorced from that, there appears to be a tendency in policing the drugs scene, that police are standing back to try and catch the big fellow and in the process of

standing back the drugs are at the school gate on a day to day basis. I would personally, as a lay person, much prefer you pick up the runner or the carrier to prevent the drugs getting to the school gate rather than wait for hard evidence of the big boy at the end of the line, who usually has a defensive mechanism and a clean cut void between him and the supplier.

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

I will ask Sam to deal with some of that but you are right, you have got to hit it at both ends is the bottom line and I think the district responsibility is to deal with the local dealers...(tape unclear).

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

In relation to the comments made by the Chief Constable earlier about cocaine, we have given a commitment here that we are actually trying to work out why this really significant increase in cocaine has happened in the last few years. Part of the issue we are trying to find is where the market is, which not only helps us in our investigations but also helps us in terms of those people who are dealing with trying to prevent people using the particular drugs. You need more information to educate your policies. The Government are running a various number of joint committees to try and increase our knowledge in these areas. I accept the point that has been made, we have a highly active Drugs Squad who have had some great successes over the last few years but you must not forget, that continuing large number of drug detections are made at districts and some of the larger districts have small standing teams that handle those. They are dealing with the stuff that is below the level of the drugs squad and if you are in a particular community, I accept your point, that if you have somebody who is selling drugs, for example cannabis, to people leaving schools, it is irrelevant what the kilo amount is. That is a significant issue for parents who live in that area and I think the police has to be mindful of this.

At the same time we are trying to drive performance in these areas. We are not trying to concentrate at the top end all the time. A problem for example in Limavady, in terms of the amount of drugs that are being dealt and sold would not rate in some of the larger cities across the water and even parts of Belfast. But it is something significant to the people of Limavady and we must pay attention to that.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

A member of the public has sought my permission as Chairman to put a question today as they are required to do so by Standing Orders, Mrs Dodds MLA we have had sight of the question and I know it has been explained to you Mrs Dodds that you may not get a full a reply but if there is some additional information to be provided then it will be sent to you. I am happy that you put your question.

**Mrs Dodds MLA:**

Chairman, I want to thank you for an opportunity to address the Policing Board today. I understand that this is the first time in the 3 year history of the Board that a member of the public has come to ask a question, so on behalf of vulnerable protestant and unionist communities in North and West Belfast we appreciate the opportunity to do this. We understand fully that you have had no prior notice of this question so we are quite content with the general comment on the broad issue and further detail at a later stage that will not be a problem.

My question refers to the very serious rioting that took place in Ardoyne following the lawful procession of the Orange brethren on the evening of the 12 July and it is as follows.

At the last Board meeting, the Chief Constable indicated that the police had identified 21 republicans involved in serious disorder which in his view constituted riotous common law. To date, how many of those have been arrested and how many cases have been prepared and forwarded to the

Director of Public Prosecution? If none of those identified have been arrested or have still to be arrested, can the Chief Constable explain the delay in proceedings.

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

I stand by the comments I made at the time as I was actually on duty that day. I was in the control room when that particular serious disorder broke out and in my judgement that was riotous common law. It was extremely serious rioting and many of our officers were injured on the back of it. I cannot tell you how many have been arrested to date. I will certainly get back to you very quickly on that and likewise, I will be able to tell you how many we are still pursuing.

In terms of delay, if there is a delay it will be around finding them and identification evidence I expect. That is my professional judgement today, but we will pursue them, we will build cases. The files would have been put together, the evidence would have been taken, the officers statements would have been taken. This will be, I suspect, identification and location rather than anything else. There is no lack of will on the part of my officers not to bring those people to justice and I will certainly make sure you get that information as soon as I can possibly get it to you. I do not know if Sam wants to give any more observations on that.

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

The only point to realise is there has been a series of incidents that have happened over the years at this particular parade and the district concerned are very experience at drawing together the evidence and bringing prosecutions to court. Clearly ACC McCausland will be able to provide those details to the Chief Constable to supply to you.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

I know one or two Members have been denied questions today, I apologise for that, we have overrun our time. Could I just mention two things, ACC Stephen White retired from the PSNI in recent days and on behalf of the Board and I am sure, of the wider community, we wish to say a thank you to him for his service with the PSNI.

Mrs Dodd made reference to the third year, in fact this public session and this meeting over all of the Board today, will be the last in the third year of the life of this Board.