

**NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

**MINUTES OF THE 32<sup>nd</sup> MEETING IN PUBLIC OF THE NORTHERN  
IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 7 APRIL 2005  
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 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 Ian Paisley Jnr  
Mr Suneil Sharma  
Mr Sammy Wilson

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

Mr Hugh Order, (Chief Constable)  
Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief  
Constable)  
Mr Sam Kincaid (ACC Crime Operations)  
Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Urban  
Region)  
Mr Peter Sheridan (ACC Rural Region)  
Ms Sinead McSweeney (Head of Media)  
Chief Inspector, Command Secretariat

**OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)  
Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate  
Services)  
Mr Peter Holt (Director of  
Communications)  
Mrs Sinead Simpson (Director of Policy)  
Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)  
One Board Official

## **Apologies**

No apologies were received for the meeting.

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

First of all, a very sincere welcome to this meeting. I know that we have visitors from the University of Bradford and you are very welcome to this meeting. I know we have some other visitors here from the PSNI who are part of a development scheme within the PSNI and you are also very welcome to this public session today.

Chief Constable, also a welcome to you and your colleagues.

Before we go forward into your presentation today, just to say that the Board today publishes its Corporate Plan for the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006. This new Corporate Plan provides a freshly revised focus for the Board in its work. It sets out the strategy direction and work programme for the Board over the next 3 years. It contains 3 key objectives and targets in the areas specifically, of effectiveness, efficiency and public confidence for the Board to meet.

The past 3 years have seen significant changes to the policing architecture of Northern Ireland and the delivery of a major change programme within the Police Service of Northern Ireland. In drawing up the work programme for the next 3 years, considerable thought has been given to the lessons learnt in the early life of the Board which may have bearing on future work, on the many new challenges ahead and the issues likely to have a major impact on policing.

As a public service, the Board is accountable to the wider community. It is the Board's job to deliver an effective service in all that it does. Supporting the police towards the ends of effective and efficient policing and holding the

Chief Constable to account for the delivery of those ends will assist in gaining the confidence of the whole community. Since that is the two fold role of the Board, as I have said, it is therefore appropriate that the strategic focus of the new Plan is centred around the 3 key areas of (a) public confidence, (b) effectiveness and (c) efficiency.

Copies are available for everyone and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the Board, staff of the Board and in particular the Chief Executive of the Board for all the work that has been put into the development of this Corporate Plan for the next 3 years and I commend it to all of you to take up copies before you leave and to read.

Chief Constable, I welcomed you and it is now over to you to introduce the presentation.

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

Thank you Chairman. This Board meeting is where we update colleagues on performance and I will keep my initial comments brief but it is worth updating the Board on a number of arrests we have had since we last met, which record successes against dissident republican groups and people involved in organised crime. In particular, a senior dissident republican has been charged in relation to 2 incidents, that was the discovery of a bomb at Rosslea police station and a bomb attack on Lurgan Golf Club, both those charges relate and are as a result of a forensic investigation by our Crime Operations Department.

Two other suspected republicans have been arrested recently in the last month in an attempt to extort a local businessman and in the follow-up operation, we recovered a substantial amount of firearms and ammunition and relevant charges have been laid in that case.

Two persons from a suspected loyalist background have also been arrested and charged in relation to another attempted extortion of a business in Belfast. You would have heard the Omagh investigation team has also arrested and charged an individual in relation to providing the car used by the dissident republican group to place the bomb in Omagh. Again, much work ongoing which underlines how important the Crimes Operations group and its new structure is.

Very briefly before I go onto the presentation, Members will be aware of a joint protocol that was launched recently in relation to the display of flags which we have been fully involved with. It is led by the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister and as we approach the marching season I think it is an important document. I would seek Board support in any way they can in promulgating that document and supporting us in delivering a sensible and rational and proportionate approach to what has always been a difficult issue in Northern Ireland. I think it is an important step in the right direction but certainly not the final article.

Very briefly, in terms of crime performance, adopting the same format as last time so that we can compare our performance of colleagues, as we get to near the year end. All these figures I talk about relate to the first 11 months of the reporting year. The first slide shows that the total number of crimes in Northern Ireland have reduced by 9% in the first 11 months of this year. I think it was Ian Paisley who gave me a challenge of 100,000 by the time we leave, that is only 11 months so we are not there yet but it does record a substantial reduction and a reduction comparable with Forces of a similar population. I think it does show that we are making a significant difference in terms of reducing the number of victims, which is in my book far more important than increasing the number of clear-ups. I would rather have less

victims than more cleared-up crime, although we fully accept that you have to deal with both ends of that equation. In terms of our clear-up rate, it is slightly above the national average, we stand at 26-27% and the national average is about 24%.

Again, moving on to the second point in terms of crimes per thousand, which perhaps puts it into a better context in terms of comparable Forces, it shows that we operate at 63 crimes per 1000 compared to slightly higher in comparable Forces elsewhere. I guess, if it helps Members, I think Avon and Somerset is quite an important one to look at, not because of the gap but actually because it does have one large conurbation around Bristol and large rural areas with very small populations and the same sort of concerns that our rural communities face, so it is quite an interesting comparator.

Looking at domestic burglary and vehicle crime which are 2 key targets underlined and underpinned by our Policing Plan, those record a 19% reduction in domestic burglary over the first 11 months. That equates to 1500 less victims of burglary. I will touch on some of the more vulnerable groups shortly and 24% reduction in vehicle crime, PSNI having shown the greatest reduction in vehicle crime across the United Kingdom.

Looking at domestic burglary, it is not all a 'good news' picture. Burglaries are one of our biggest challenges and it very much depends on which DCU you look at to see how successful you have been. North Belfast, which has always been a challenge and a major focus for us. I think, if you look at the arrows, it shows that not only is the District Commander and the staff of North Belfast very switched onto the key issue, what they have done is, using their intelligence led system, identified prolific burglars and targeted prolific burglars by using DNA and fingerprint analysis to identify those people and put them before the courts. I will touch on that in a moment and we show that

where we do put those initiatives in we do manage to reduce the underlying level of crime. What is equally interesting, I guess, is the grey line underneath which you see and what that indicates is the percentage of domestic burglaries that occurred in unlocked or unsecured property, i.e people leaving their doors open and making it extremely easy for people to commit the crimes. One of the initiatives there was to distribute flyers to a 1,000 homes in the hotspot areas providing advice and guidance on how to secure their homes and some as basic as 'shut the door and lock it', is what we were aiming to achieve. In that area, the percentage of crime fell by 30% in August and 14% in March simply as a result of reminding people of their responsibilities to help us deliver.

In parallel, some of the other initiatives adopted, the sector and response teams patrolling hotspot areas and conducting an additional 356 patrols in respect of burglary over the 12 month period. In other words, at least almost one every day of the week - an additional patrol to deal with that particular crime.

In terms of the challenges faced from the other side, when we arrest people just to touch on the issues that I know colleagues around the table are interested in. Taking the North Belfast recent increase and which is a substantial increase, from one crime a day to about 2 crimes a day, research has shown a number of things around prolific offenders of crime. All that science tells us is, that people do not commit one burglary, they are serial offenders and it is exactly what has been identified in North Belfast. Just looking at individuals A to D. Individual 'A' has been arrested 9 times between June 2004 and March 2005, he has been charged with a total of 6 burglaries, he has been released on bail with a curfew and has been arrested for breach of bail, in other words they go out and commit more crime. Likewise with 'B', arrested 12 times between June 2004 and January 2005 for

multiple offences, including burglary, bail was objected to but he was released on bail. Individual 'C' arrested 9 times between May 2004 and March 2005, bail conditions set including no association with known offenders and a curfew imposed. We objected to bail per se in that case and in case 'D', arrested 6 times between April 2004 and March 2005 for multiple offences including burglary, we objected to bail, he was released with no bail conditions imposed.

It is a continual problem which we do bring to the attention of the Board. We need an effective criminal justice system where we produce the raw material and other parts of the system form a view of where those people should be and whether they should be in custody or not. But in terms of revolving door justice, it does sometimes frustrate my officers when all that effort means that people just walk out the door to commit more crime and absorb more of my resources which should be doing other things.

Moving on to tackling vehicle crime, which is one of our other key priorities. Again, the slide shows a 29% decrease in thefts from vehicles. A substantial number of initiatives are working across Northern Ireland. Castlereagh between December 2004 and January 2005, has been running an operation throughout all the main car parks in the DCU. Over 700 vehicles were identified because property was left on display by the owners of the car when they left and again people were made aware of that through leaflets and speaking to them. Also, anti-crime patrolling in the hotspot areas has collectively reduced crime by 37% in the Castlereagh District by using those tactics.

Likewise, a very similar system has been operating in Craigavon where they also send letters to owners when they are identifying unidentified cars, they do a check on it and a letter is sent to the owner reminding them that they should keep their belongings out of sight.

In West Belfast and reported on the television recently, 'Operation Cleanup' yet again is proving very successful. High visibility patrols, leaflet drops, support from a number of local community groups have led again to a reduction in crime by 23% in that area, so it is a success story. In terms of the 43 other Forces, we are one of the lowest in the country, I think about the second lowest in terms of theft from motor vehicles.

Moving on and I know that people are interested in crimes against older people. Again in the first 11 months a 24% decrease in crimes against older people and the figures are there, it is a reduction from 2,349 to 1,781 in the first 11 months of this year. That equates to 568 less victims and you see the most important area in terms of impact has been on domestic burglary, there have been 472 less than last year and likewise assaults and robberies. So, what we are showing is a determination to deal with vulnerable groups.

In terms of local initiatives, South Belfast Crime Prevention officers continue to visit older persons who have been victims of crime to provide additional security and crime prevention advice. Banbridge has a 'Safe and Well' day where topics are specifically covered that impact on older people, in terms of bogus calls in particular, this has been an issue for us as well as general crime prevention advice.

In terms of proceeds of crime, people frequently hear about the Asset Recovery Agency who we work very closely with and Alan McQuillan was always kind enough to credit my officers with the initial information that we provide to him, to allow him to progress in a large number of cases which he is responsible for. It is also worth remembering, that in addition to asset recovery we have criminal confiscation. What that slide shows is, that in addition to what Alan is doing we also are quite successful in seizing cash under the new legislation, Restraint Orders which stops suspected criminals

moving their cash whilst we investigate it and confiscation through the courts, that is criminal confiscation rather than asset recovery through Alan's system. It is also worth knowing that we make more referrals to Asset Recovery than any other Police Force to their equivalent organisations in the United Kingdom. I think Alan probably runs the most successful office in terms of outcomes in the United Kingdom so it is, without doubt, a successful operation but it is important not to forget what we do in terms of criminal confiscation as well as what is done by other colleagues in other parts.

In terms of violent crime, very briefly, there have been 33 murders for the year to date, charges have been brought in connection with 27 of those cases, which over the last 2-3 years shows a substantial increase in our clear-up rate. Not all those charges are of course for murder but related charges and the graph shows a small reduction in the offences against a person, a large reduction in sexual offences and a substantial reduction in robbery. That having been said, hidden within the robbery figure, there is a slight increase in cash in transit robberies which is a particular focus of attention, having 20 cash in transit attacks during the first 3 months of this calendar year leading to £340,000 being stolen. This is still very much a cash economy and with banks having their own banknotes, large amounts of cash do continue to move across the province. We work very closely with the security industry to minimise the impact of those, but that is an area where we certainly need to focus.

That is the good news which is important for me in terms of external targets set by the Board. We are delivering against the external targets. Moving on to one where we should continue to improve and where there is still substantial room for improvement and it reflects a question asked earlier in the Board private session around getting people to court on time. The targets set by the Board which are demanding and rightly so, we are still slightly

below in terms of achieving, although it does reflect a substantial improvement from 2 years ago, it is very much work in progress. I think the Causeway Project certainly is a major opportunity for us. Where we have pilot systems in place in Belfast we are now hitting the target month on month so there is a process issue involved in that, but I personally asked for some cases recently to read myself and there is still some work we can do to make sure that does continue to improve. It is an improvement but it is not good enough.

That is a broad overview of where we are Chairman and I am happy to take questions and then move on to the supplementaries.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Pauline McCabe.

**Mrs Pauline McCabe:**

I have a couple of questions and the first is that we have always said that crimes against the elderly are all our problem and I would be interested to hear to what extent you feel that partnership working and community support have been significant in reducing crime against the elderly?

The second one is, that obviously the figures you have given us increasingly depend on the effectiveness of our District Commanders around the country and we have commented before on the fact that there are some differences between the performance of different district commands. Huge progress has obviously been made on delegating responsibility to the District Commanders. Accepting the need for some level of central co-ordination, are you satisfied that we are doing enough to rollout further the capacity for local flexibility and discretion in decision making that really will allow them to do the job that we need them to do?, And in asking that, I am very conscious of the information

that we now have and the controls that our accountability meetings provide. It is just that you do get an impression some of the time, that some of our very good District Commanders feel a little bit frustrated about some of the remaining constraints, particularly in areas like financial matters and HR related issues and I wondered if that was something that we are still prioritising?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

In terms of how we have been successful in crimes against the elderly, I think you have summed it up. I am absolutely clear you do not achieve a 10% crime reduction year on year across all bands and that has been achieved by my officers, it is down 20% in 2 years, without increasing community support. We cannot rightly claim that as a police success, part of it is, without doubt a police success, but it is a success around working in partnership. I think it reflects growing confidence in policing across the communities, including those that historically did not trust us and there is no doubt, that at a local level, using DPPs and other groups, it has been important.

At the strategic level, we have had conferences, sadly Judith could not stay to update or give more detail, but we have had conferences with Age Concern and all those other groups and that is how it has worked. The funding for locks and bolts is also an essential element to reducing crimes against the elderly, so community response or proactive partnership activity is a way forward on that so I think that explains a lot of it.

On the wider question of empowerment, I am not sure what else I can do to tell my Chief Officers who run the districts, they are in charge. They are in charge and empowered to get on with delivering local policing and use the resources they have however they wish. Paul and I have just visited every district and sat in on the performance meetings and Members are most

welcome to invite themselves to those meetings to see how they work. My general feeling is, that we are getting there and a vast majority of Commanders, by simply describing what they are doing, is showing that they are doing different things in different ways. What works in Antrim may not work in Bangor or West Belfast and probably will not work in Strabane, but something else will. I am more than happy to have a situation where we are in command but out of control, in the sense that our District Commanders are driving the front end of the business. I think that also explains the initiatives that I have briefly gone through, they are all different. We have a system for co-ordinating and so we share best practice but in essence I am fairly comfortable with what is there.

All my District Commanders would want more money and more people and I fully understand that. The Board will not let me have them and I fully understand that too, so it is around how they use their resources. I think in terms of finance, we are probably the most empowered Police Service of the United Kingdom, it is about 90% of budget.

In terms of the HR issues, there are some difficulties certainly around support staff and contracts and how people can be asked to do different jobs which are, to some extent, a restriction on what we can do but apart from that I am pretty confident that we are getting there.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

One more question, Willie and then I am moving to question 19.

**Mr Willie Hay:**

It is an issue Chairman that the Chief Constable has raised and highlighted once again today, on the issue of people being arrested on a number of occasions for crimes and then being released on bail. Do you feel Chief Constable and I know you have raised it for quite a while now with ourselves and with criminal justice system, do you feel the system is listening to you as

a Police Service on this issue, which I feel Chairman is probably the most important issue because it can frustrate your own job of work?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

I meet regularly with the Lord Chief Justice which is a very positive thing and we have useful discussions around these concerns. The bottom line is, the job of my officers and I am absolutely clear on this, is to bring people before the courts and to raise objections where we think it is right. It is a matter for the judiciary to decide whether or not they can legally be held in custody, because there are clear restrictions on when bail can be given, so there may be a legal issue which may frustrate the judiciary as much as it frustrates us and then make a decision. I think you will be aware, that I have made comments in the past publicly where I think it is appropriate, where I get frustrated when we think we have done all we can and presented what we think is a case that does support a bail objection in terms of in-custody and we are unsuccessful. But we will continue the battle and if I need to raise the issue again publicly, I will do so, but I think the first stage is by bringing it to the concerns of people who have the right to know about these things. It does impact on our performance, we do know, as do all Forces know, that people who commit burglary are generally prolific offenders, they do not commit one burglary and then stop, they are people who continue to do it.

Members will also be aware that it takes a huge amount of police effort to keep people under surveillance when they are out and about. There are all sorts of initiatives around bail and curfew enforcement which we do. We work with best practice from the UK, we do visits and checks and we do bring people back to court for breach of bail when it is the right thing to do, but we will keep going on at it.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Question 19, Brian Dougherty.

**Mr Brian Dougherty:**

All road traffic targets in the Annual Plan are likely to be met and you are to be commended for that, with except though of an increase in detections for excess speed. Could you explain the reasons for the PSNI not meeting this target, commenting in particular on the significant decrease in excess speed detections in the rural region?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

I will ask Peter to cover Rural and Duncan to cover Urban. In a very broad overview, we have moved very much to an intelligence led style of policing, even for road traffic, so we focus our activities far more on the areas where speeding is a problem and if it is not a problem then we tend to focus on seatbelts and other things we know cause death and injury but Peter and Duncan will give a brief overview.

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

The introduction of the safety camera scheme on the 1 July 2003 has actually contributed to a decrease in excess speed detections, particularly within the rural region. Prior to this, the safety camera was permitted to function on all roads, in other words, police officers would go onto any road in the province and do a speed detection but since the introduction of the scheme, they have to go to specific sites.

We operate in rural region particularly on a mobile site basis, this means that there are no fixed cameras and a limited number of locations where the safety camera may be deployed. These sites are clearly signed as are the camera vehicles and members of the public will see speed cameras on signs and sometimes there is confusion that they do not see any speed vehicles when they are going through those areas. Those signs simply tell you that is the

area we do our speed detection in, so you can see that people are alerted and hence there will be a reduction in the speed. To pick that site, it must fulfil the criteria of having killed and seriously injured collision history where speed has been a contributory factor so our strapline “we want to stop you speeding, not catch you speeding” is integral to that.

The overall aim is to reduce incidents of killed and seriously injured on the identified road by raising awareness which, when heeded, has an impact on our detections. Each site identified requires enforcement and resources are often deployed for long periods of time resulting in nil detections on those sites. The sites, however, must be visited in accordance with the scheme. Significantly, within rural region, careless and dangerous driving supersedes excess speed and all other factors as a causation of killed and seriously injured. Whilst attention is given to all causation factors, there has been a significant increase in detections, over 2,500 additional detections this year for careless driving, dangerous driving and this is congruent with the region’s specific problem.

It is also worthy of note, that during this year, we have seen a significant increase in the number of detections for drink or drug driving, over 750 of an increase this year and in addition, the detection for the non wearing of seatbelts is up by over 1,000.

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

Chairman, briefly in relation to urban region and adding on to what Peter said, we have succeeded in urban region and we feel that this is a good news story, that we have actually moved the deaths by speed to the third causation, relegated to third place below careless driving and pedestrian faults. I think overall as a Service and I think this is important for Board Members to recognise, we are currently sitting this year with 30 people who have sadly

lost their lives on our roads compared to 40 last year and 48 the previous year. Now we are not sitting back on our laurels and what we have done is, we have taken the efficiency savings that both regions have made and we are investing in speed indication devices. So, you will see starting to appear on our roads across all the District Command Units, indication devices where motorists, if they drive into one of these, will see the speed that they are doing and they then can slow down because we want to breathe life into this, we want to stop you speeding and not catch you speeding and that is our clear message that we are delivering. On that, overall last year, we have reduced in my region, 31% collisions which we think is a success story and that is why we are continuing along this vein.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Question 20, Rosaleen Moore.

**Mrs Rosaleen Moore:**

Chief Constable, it would appear that the targets for the number and quantity of drugs seizures is unlikely to be met and also the number of drugs related arrests are also falling. Could you give an explanation as to the failure to meet these targets? As well, is it the case of downgrading of cannabis from Class B to Class C has had an impact on the situation?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

I will ask Sam to cover that.

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

Drug targets are particularly difficult at times to interpret simply because they do not always indicate police activity but they indicate what is happening in the drug market place.

Clearly, the quantity of cannabis seized has fallen considerably during 2004-05 and this reflects our belief that the previous year, 2003-04 was an exceptional year for the police, in terms of their activity in the seizures. It is our assessment that the extent of our success in the previous year 2003-04 against a number of criminal gangs, seriously undermined their ability to sustain their supply operations.

It should also be noted, that whilst seizures for cannabis decreased in quantity, seizures for the powder drugs, amphetamine and cocaine increased by 71 kilos and 9 kilos respectively. Those are serious matters to be considered by the Board and ourselves and the street value for each of these seizures would be about £750,000. The fact that a number of seizures is also down could be a reflection of market conditions, i.e. there is less availability. However, despite the reduction in the quantity of drugs seized, the figures available indicate that the number of actual seizures rather than the quantities is only down by 2%.

Arrest figures for offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act are down however, the number of persons charged/summonsed for supply offences has increased as a proportion of those arrested, so there are more people being charged and processed.

It is difficult to give a more detailed analysis of why arrest figures are down but once again we believe that availability and market conditions will certainly have an impact. Other factors would include, local priorities and demands for local police to focus and deal with other issues that are part of the targets in the Policing Plan. For example, one of the impacts has been that at certain times we have had to use people in the Drugs Squad to help on the Northern Bank investigation and that at times has meant that we have had to delay certain operations that we were running.

It is interesting to see the extent and it is an issue we are looking at where the downgrading of cannabis from B to C in terms of classes, what sort of impact it has had. It certainly had no big impact on our response to the supply of the particular drug but in terms of usage. It certainly would require a little more time and a more detailed analysis of statistics to see to what extent this is happening. What I have asked is that the PSNI Analyst Centre to research this particular issue and particularly to look at the impact of the downgrading now it has been in place for some time. I am happy to report back to a future Board to give a quantitative figure as to whether or not it has made an major impact on the market.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Could I say Chief Constable, on behalf of the Board, that these improving figures are gratifying and we would ask you to pass on our congratulations to your officers.

Question 8, Mr Paisley.

**Mr Ian Paisley Jnr:**

Thank you Chairman. Can the Chief Constable advise Members of the present security threat imposed by terrorist groups in Northern Ireland and police capabilities in the fight against crime and terrorism.

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

Chairman, Chief Constable, I am mindful that the assessment I am giving now could be overtaken by current events on the ground.

If I start with the dissident republicans, in many ways they are the main threat to the Police Service and to the community here in Northern Ireland. It is fair

to say they continue to target security forces and other relevant targets and to threaten attacks against police officers, military and members of DPPs in certain areas. Individuals linked to dissident republican groups also continue to be linked to substantial criminal activity and clearly we are pleased with our recent successes against the dissident republicans and hope to continue in that vein.

In relation to the Provisional IRA, they continue to maintain their organisation's operational capabilities. That would ensure that if they wanted to, a terrorist operation that would be in breach of their terms of the ceasefire could be launched. It is important to note that we continue to assess that such a move is currently unlikely and remains a last resort for the Provisional IRA. The Provisional IRA also continues to conduct various other criminal enterprises, including robberies and various types of civil administration, which in essence means punishment attacks and beatings on members of the public.

The threat from loyalist paramilitary organisations remains, although certain of them have made recent attempts to move to a more formal ceasefire, however, the number of loyalist paramilitary assaults and punishment shootings remains high. Members of paramilitary organisations from the loyalist community continue to commit robberies in order to increase their funds and as we have seen, like other organisations they are heavily involved in extortion.

A major issue for the police and the community is the fact that there are continuing feuds each of the various loyalist groups and as we have seen at times, between aspects and individuals within those loyalist groups - as was recently seen in East Belfast.

All paramilitaries groups across the spectrum continue to recruit and to train new members, we have seen no changes in that.

**Mr Ian Paisley Jnr:**

In terms of a follow-up Chairman, can the Chief Constable indicate answers to the following 2 issues.

Firstly, you will be aware of the statement yesterday by Gerry Adams, the leader of the IRA / Sinn Fein, his statement where he seemed to be speaking to himself that he wanted the IRA to go away, and it would be very nice if Gerry Adams would just go away, are they just words or is there any substance to those words in terms of your intelligence that the IRA is going away and their weapons are being destroyed and their criminality is ending?

Secondly, I am mindful of the baseline assessment, the revised version of October 2004, with the indication in that with regard to fighting crime, where there were concerns expressed about the overall quality of crime investigation about inexperience and inadequacy in terms of training and staffing. I am wondering if there is anything you can do to assure us that those inexperience will be addressed and the fight against crime, whether it is volume crime or serious crime, will be taken on and will be beaten?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

In relation to the statement, I stand by Sam Kinkaid's assessment, in terms of words of substance, it is what I would agree with. I am on record before as saying we will wait and see what that means. Currently it is your observation, it is a statement made by a political party and it would be wrong of me as a Chief Constable, at this particular moment in time, to make any particular observation, but we will wait and see and we obviously do not discuss intelligence in the public forum but we will see where that takes us.

In terms of the baseline assessment, as it only arrived last week, I like you have also read it and having read the whole document it is a very positive document on the state of policing in Northern Ireland.

In terms of inexperience and staffing, I have slightly under double the number of officers than any other Police Service serving a population of this size. The crime record that I have just put up for Members to see, shows a substantial reduction across the key volume crime areas which suggests we are doing something right at the front end of the business. I command some outstanding officers who are more than fit for purpose and I do not agree with the baseline observation. I think it is out of date and Members will be aware we appointed just under 200 new detectives over 2 years ago and they are now detectives of 2 years experience and contributing substantially to reducing crime as you will see on those figures.

In terms of the intelligence side of the organisation, likewise I told Board Members following the Northern Bank robbery, that I was briefed on the 23 December 2004, it was a world class briefing in terms of intelligence handling, gathering and use, that could not be surpassed by any other Police Force in the UK. My organisation is fit for purpose, if we can continue to reduce crime at this level I think that speaks far louder than one line out of a substantial report which broadly speaking, reflects very well on this organisation.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Questions 15 and 16, Alex Attwood.

**Mr Alex Attwood:**

Chief Constable, there is a view that elements in the Orange Order, the marching orders and for that matter elements within the republican tradition,

are trying to flaunt the authority of the Parades Commission and the authority of the police when it comes to parading matters. In that context, there is a view that those elements require a short, sharp shock so that they do not cause any further disruption over the coming months. Given that background, could the Chief Constable advise if now files have been passed and if not when will files be passed to the DPP, in respect of alleged offences arising from Orange Order parades on the 19 and 26 February last, and also indicate what the policing cost was in terms of finance in respect of both those parades?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

I will ask ACC Urban to deal with those questions but in broad terms, Members will be aware that we enforce the Parades Commission's determination that is how the system operates.

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

The cost of the parade for 19 February was £25,750 and the cost of the parade for 26 February was £29,144. In relation to the parade on 19 February, the matter is currently under investigation by East Belfast DCU and a prosecution file is being prepared for submission to the DPP for decision in relation to any resultant prosecutions. This is based on the DPP giving interim directions to proceed to produce a prosecution file. Also, the Parades Commission have sought senior Counsel's opinion on this issue which they will share with the police and the DPP by the end of this week.

In relation to the parade on 26 February 2005 and surrounding events in that area of that weekend, both prosecution files were forwarded to the DPP on 31 March 2005.

**Mr Alex Attwood:**

How many people have you identified that might be subject to prosecution arising from the 26 February 2005 parade?

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

I do not have those figures available at the moment, it has gone to the DPP from that point of view and I have to wait.

**Mr Alex Attwood:**

It would be helpful if you could, in writing, advise the Board how many people are named in that file in respect of whom you are recommending charges.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Question 10, Mr Sammy Wilson.

**Mr Sammy Wilson:**

At the last Board meeting, we were given the police view of what happened at the republican parade in Strabane on the 20 February and were told, at that stage, that a view was being sought from the DPP as to how he would view files being presented to him. Could I just ask, first of all, since then, how many people have been interviewed by the police in respect of the parade? Secondly, has a file been prepared for the DPP and has it been sent to the DPP? Thirdly, have the police made any representations or do they intend to make representations to the Parades Commission, to report the kind of incidents which occurred at the Strabane parade and draw the Parades Commission's attention to that so that restrictions can be made in the future?

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

Chairman, as I said at the last meeting, in order to make sure we had the best opportunities for successful prosecutions for the parade on the 20 February in

Strabane and indeed for a protest earlier on the A5 on the 10 February, we sought the pre-prosecutorial advice from the PPS and this has now been received and as a result of that an investigation is well under way. The A5 has been dealt with first of all. A dedicated team has been set up to lead on it. A number of people have been positively identified and will be interviewed as soon as operational commitments permit.

After the A5 issue is dealt with, the same team will examine the 20 February commemoration parade. The investigation will probably take some time due to the number of outside visitors involved in the parade complicating identification. It is intended to target those where a prosecution is most likely to succeed and thereby tailor the investigation in that way and this will also help demonstrate that this type of behaviour has a consequence.

In so far as representations to the Parades Commission, they will be dealt with on a parade by parade basis as notification is put in and the police then make representations to the Parades Commission.

**Mr Sammy Wilson:**

Chairman, as a follow up to that. I noted that in the last answer to Alex Attwood, that in the case of the East Belfast situation, not only have investigations taken place, a file has been forwarded already to the DPP in relation to an Orange parade where there was a technicality really in relation to the filling in of a form. In the case of the Strabane parade where there was an open flaunting by republicans wearing paramilitary uniform, chanting IRA slogans etc, are you telling me that so far the investigation has not even started? Maybe you could explain why there appears to have been such haste in relation to the technicality in relation to an Orange parade in East Belfast when there has been no file prepared currently for one in which there were open paramilitary displays in Strabane?

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

Chairman, if I could answer the East Belfast question. The file has not been submitted in relation to East Belfast. I made it clear that the file was being prepared after having received interim advice from the DPP and that the Parades Commission are seeking senior counsel's opinion. The file that has been submitted was the file in relation to the 26 February and the incidents around the weekend of the Whitewell / Shore Road on the 27 February, again after DPP interim advice had been given to North Belfast. So, it would be wrong to suggest that the East Belfast has been submitted, it is still currently under investigation and we await the senior counsel's opinion with the Parades Commission.

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

Chairman, just to follow up because I know Mr Wilson was concerned about the parade in Strabane. This parade is taken like any other policing priority that the Commander has in terms of his work, he has time limits in which to work within, he has set up a team and he will continue to do that.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Question 11, Mr Willie Hay.

**Mr Willie Hay:**

There has been an ongoing investigation into the Claudy bombing, can the Chief Constable provide an update on that investigation and to comment on the likelihood of prosecutions coming out of any future investigation?

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

The investigation into the Claudy bombing, as Mr Hay said, is ongoing and to date we have completed most of the local enquiries. Currently, a full review of the intelligence available on the Claudy bombing is being conducted and

that is to see what evidential lines of enquiry would exist for the investigators. I expect that the main body of work to be completed after that will relate to working on that intelligence.

Work on the inquiry has varied at times due to the number of other murders that have happened in the area that have required us to give a live response. The SIO for this investigation, Detective Inspector Paul has updated the nominated relatives of each of the 9 murder victims I believe, several months ago, in relation to how progress was going on. I think it is important to appreciate I have arranged a meeting with the SIO and the relevant intelligence officers next week and I appreciate Mr Hay that this remains one of the major atrocities from the Troubles that is unsolved in terms of any detections. As we have done in some of the recent murder investigations, I am happy, at a future date, to come to a private session of the Board and to brief Members with the SIO on progress to date.

**Mr Willie Hay:**

I think Chairman, that would be very useful if ACC Kinkaid could do that at a private session. There is also a feeling as well and I have spoken to some of the families involved that they appreciate of the work that the Crime Operations team has been doing but they are also wanting to bring closure to this and the sooner that happens the better.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Questions 12 and 13, Mrs McCabe.

**Mrs Pauline McCabe:**

Thank you Chairman, I should just say that as a Sheffield girl, I have waited 12 years to sit in a room with a good Yorkshire majority so I am especially pleased to see all the visitors from Bradford University today.

Chief Constable, last month you touched upon this when you talked about the Sean Browne case, but could you explain what criteria are applied to the selection of ex officers to assist with the review of historic cases? Could you also explain what measures you are implementing to optimise confidence in the review of cases, where there are particular family or public concerns and also whether you have now established a Gold team or teams with an oversight role and who would be represented on those teams?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

In terms of selection of both serving and ex police officers, the approach will be, we need to find people who have the integrity and the skills for the posts we are going to advertise. We have just put out an advert as Stage 1 across the UK and Ireland to see what sort of a response we get.

In particular, in terms of part of C8 which will be the Special Cases Unit, we will have a substantial number of seconded officers and agency staff from outside the PSNI to give that independent element to the investigations where there are particular concerns, but I think it is worth remembering, that in many cases, there will not be particular concerns, people just want their cases reviewed.

I think one of the key areas will be family liaison and we will be attaching a number of our family liaison staff to C8 and a number will come from outside Forces. I am also working with developing a specific training programme to develop new thinking around how we handle family liaison across 2,000 plus unsolved killings, which has never been tried before in the history of policing, to my knowledge. The reason we put C8 into Crime Operations Group under Sam Kinkaid is to ensure maximum co-operation between its work and other officers who can add value, be it surveillance or intelligence officers or investigation of serious crime. In my view that should routinely remove the need for any more Gold groups unless we need one in a specific case.

The Board is well aware the amount of oversight I am already subject to. I am not attracted by having an additional Oversight Group per se looking at C8 because each case will be so different, it will require a bespoke response and I am happy to engage at that level, through Sam Kinkaid, when we think it is necessary to put some IAG above it, or a Gold group above it, in particular cases and we have a record of doing that where it needs to take place.

I think it also worth remembering that C8, in terms of going from nothing happening to a lot happening, I am confident that we will get the structure right. It is under the command of Sam Kinkaid, my ACC Crime Operations. It will be headed by 2 officers, one retired officer and one seconded from the Metropolitan Police, both of whom have substantial experience in dealing with historic cases.

We drove this plan and we drove the whole idea of reinvestigating all these crimes. We got to a point where government have given us the funds, we have been supported by the Policing Board and others in getting to this stage and I think that shows a substantial commitment on our part to do this properly and as well as we possibly can.

That is where we are but if it would be helpful, I am more than happy to do a presentation to the Board and bring the leaders of C8 in to do a presentation on how we think it will work in terms of the finer detail when perhaps we could explore some of the concerns in greater detail.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

I think that would be very useful Chief Constable.

**Mrs Pauline McCabe:**

Could I just add the point, that that would be welcome and it would be helpful to know the criteria where you feel the Gold teams have value to add. It is just, those of us who attended the Critical Incident training that you organised, were very persuaded by the value that the Gold groups added in the situations we are in, so it would be nice to know a bit more about that.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Question 18, Mr Ian Paisley.

**Mr Ian Paisley Jnr:**

Chief Constable, could you tell us how many Full-Time Reserve officers have lost their jobs since your statement, I believe on 9 September 2004 on the future of the Full-Time Reserve and could indicate to us any likely changes that there may be to the position that you announced then?

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

No-one has lost their job in that sense. We asked any Reserve officers who wished to leave between 1 April and 30 June 2005 to register their details by January this year. The figures are 133 in total who have notified us that they want to go early and that they already have something planned. Of those 133, 60 of the officers requests have already been processed and approved and 18 officers have actually left to date. It is anticipated there will be a further registration process for officers wishing to go in subsequent months, but we are working quickly through those who want to get out because they already have something to go to, but no-one has lost their job in that sense.

**Mr Ian Paisley Jnr:**

I appreciate your interpretation of that although whenever I speak to police officers who were officers, indeed some of the 18, they felt they were officers

one day and not wanted the next, so you can appreciate that they do feel they have lost something because of their contribution to this community but that is obviously a debating point.

Again, I am referring to the Baseline Assessment that makes some interesting comments about the Full-Time Reserve and it expresses concerns that continue to be raised in respect of the loss of these officers, especially with regards to community policing.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

I should say Ian, there will be the opportunity and we have not had the chance as a Board to reflect on the Baseline Assessment, it has been circulated to Members, it will come to the appropriate Committee and then it will come back to the Board.

**Mr Ian Paisley Jnr:**

Although I understand it has been published.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Well it has been sent to us.

**Mr Ian Paisley Jnr:**

It is a public document.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

It has not been considered as yet.

**Mr Ian Paisley Jnr:**

That may not be, but I have considered it and the issue which I am raising in relation to the Full-Time Reserve is, because of its impact on community policing, I am wondering if the Chief of Police is considering revising his initial view that he made in September 2004 because of the value that these officers add to community policing and indeed, the fact that between

September 2004 and now, only 18 of them have gone and I would imagine that if any more were to go it would put the police under pressure, given the fact that we do have some community problems which continue to raise their head at periods of time.

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

I know which part you are referring to, it also goes on to refer to issues around the Part-Time Reserve. Let me be clear on this, I am allowed to have 7,500 officers to police Northern Ireland, that was a Patten recommendation, it was accepted and it is not a matter for debate, there is no point in debating it that is the reality in which we live. The Board has kindly allowed me to keep a substantial number of the Full-Time Reserve to deal with specific issues in relation to security which, of course, is what our colleagues in the Full-Time Reserve were initially recruited for, so we are now working within the numbers we are allowed to keep.

There are a number of ways of bridging that gap and I am confident my officers are not only fully aware of the need to fill that gap, they are already working towards it by getting more officers onto the frontline of policing, another point for which the Board holds me to account. We are looking, with the Board, at other ways of providing the Part-Time Reserve officers to provide additional support, although that is distinct from Full-Time Reserve duty and also the flexibility allowed to us in how we deploy the Full-Time Reserve, if the environment becomes more peaceful, it does enable us to maximise the use of all the resources we have got. I am confident we will continue to deliver an effective policing service.

Our colleagues in the Full-Time Reserve who have registered a desire to leave are being supported by a comprehensive programme of re-settlement where they wish it and we are taking every care when people want to go to make sure they do have the support, the jobs and the employment and advice they need.

**Mrs Pauline McCabe:**

Could we just clarify so there is no misunderstanding, that 1 April was the effective date anyway for the phase out arrangements to commence, not September and indeed there have been other Full-Time Reserve officers who have left for other reasons, through ill-health retirement, non contract issue, from September but I think the Chief Constable was asked to address specifically the arrangements that were operating under the new voluntary severance scheme.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Question 14, Mr Alex Attwood, this relates to the review of the police estate and it is an item on the agenda of the Board for later today.

**Mr Alex Attwood:**

Could I welcome and acknowledge the work undertaken by the Chief Constable and the PSNI in respect of the review of the police estate, not just police stations but other police accommodation which is also a cost burden upon the PSNI. But in respect of the police estate in particular, could you confirm Chief Constable how many police stations in the next 5 financial years that the PSNI are recommending should be reviewed? Whether that does or does not end up in closure is another matter but what are the numbers in each of the next 5 years that the PSNI have recommended to the Board and would want to initiate a consultation around in terms of review?

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

Chairman, we are well aware that the Board are discussing the Estates Strategy after this meeting. Sixty one stations are identified to be reviewed over the next 5 years. Some of the reviews will take place over a number of years, they will not all happen in discreet periods of time. Thirty two of the reviews are scheduled to commence this year but some of them will

commence this year and not finish perhaps until 2006/07. So 32 of the 61 will commence this year but it is not possible to give a breakdown year on year because some of them will take place over a longer period of time.

I think the important thing to note is, that the Estates Strategy is not solely about reviews or any other building matters, it is about a £200m investment in our estate to bring it up to date and make it fit for purpose over the next 5 years. There are considerable elements of the Estates Strategy which are about that investment and the new stations which will be built.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

I am going from memory now, is it 50% of the estate that is more than 50 years old?

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

Fifty of our stations are more than 50 years old Chairman.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

And there are ones that are over 100 years old?

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

That is correct.

**Mr Alex Attwood:**

As a follow-up, that is a substantial number including the commencement of reviews of 32 in this financial year but could you give us some broad indications of alternative measures? Is it not the case that the police have already acquired and may yet acquire more mobile police stations?

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

That is correct Chairman and Members are aware we are trialling some mobile police stations and we are entering into discreet negotiations with other agencies about how we might possibly share accommodation and use shared facilities in different parts of the province. That is not to say that some

of the stations that are up for review could not be used by other agencies as well as ourselves, so it may be that there is a dual, two-way look at this but those are things that will have to be considered on an individual station by station basis.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Question 22, Mr Dougherty.

**Mr Brian Dougherty:**

Chief Constable, were you aware of the damage to public confidence and policing that occurred after the recent Derry City v Linfield game? In this context could you comment on the disturbances in the city centre after the St Patrick's Day parade, given the fact that a similar partnership agreement was in force and do you think the level of policing was adequate?

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

Chairman, I will answer that question. Following a very successful and peaceful day of celebrations in the city, there were a number of incidents in the evening time. The most serious involved a teenage girl who was struck on the head by a bottle thrown by a group of young people near Guildhall Square. Police who responded to assist were then stoned and bottled by a crowd who have gathered near a temporary fun fair. Two officers were struck and injured. The injured girl indeed was very complimentary about the police response on the day. The day was exceptionally busy from a police point of view, with a large number of planned events and spontaneous incidents. Extra police were on duty to deal with the parade and associated events and with the large crowds that gathered.

Unfortunately, after the main events were over, the emphasis turned to alcohol and there were a large number of alcohol related incidents, including underage drinking. This was despite extensive briefings by the police to

licensees about selling alcohol to young people although there is evidence that alcohol had been purchased by adults on behalf of underage drinkers. There were 16 arrests on the evening, mainly for public order type of offences including the arrest of three 14 year olds and the evening could be characterised as being very busy.

With regard to the adequacy of police resources, a busy day and evening was anticipated by the Commander and a large number of extra resources were on duty, both from within the DCU and from support in the region. His judgement is that there were adequate numbers on the day in the city given the demands for resources elsewhere in the region.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Mr Sammy Wilson has a supplementary.

**Mr Sammy Wilson:**

Chairman, could I just ask. Londonderry was not the only place where there was significant public disorder in the wake of the St Patrick's Day celebrations. Could you give us an indication of the number of arrests that there were as a result of incidents across Northern Ireland that were widely reported in the news when the celebrations on St Patrick's Day moved into, as was indicated, the alcohol fuelled part of the day?

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

That will obviously Chairman take us time to gather those details up.

**Mr Willie Hay:**

Very quickly on the Londonderry issue. Does Mr Sheridan feel, as an Assistant Chief Constable responsible for the area, was there a feeling that everybody on the day and leading up to the celebrations, fully co-operated with the police in trying to do their job?

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

I am not aware of any difficulties that the Commander had in relation to people not co-operating with the police, obviously when people are throwing stones and bottles ....

**Mr Willie Hay:**

I am talking about the organisers of the parade.

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

I understand Derry City Council worked very well with the police as they have done on the Halloween and Christmas events.

**Mr Willie Hay:**

Once again, did the security company who was employed work as well as they could have?

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

If you are asking was there any direct liaison, no.

**Mr Willie Hay:**

Thank you.

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Question 21, Mr Ian Paisley Jnr.

**Mr Ian Paisley Jnr:**

Thank you Chief Constable for taking a late question.

On 31 March 2005 Justice Weir, in relation to a court action to remove travellers from a private car park, stated *"in previous cases I have been told that the PSNI said they could not act because it was a civil matter and they had not the power to do anything, that is a statement used by the police to avoid doing anything"*. Chief Constable, do you agree with Justice Weir's

assessment of police actions either in this case or generally and what do you intend to do to ensure that both the public has greater confidence in the police and its power to act in these matters? I am very mindful of the figures you showed the Board earlier in your presentation, which I hope the public and the press do take note of in terms of burglaries.

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

I do not accept the comments. We intervene when a crime has been committed and there is evidence to justify an arrest, or where a breach of the peace is imminent. Commenting on that particular case, rather than in general, it was not a matter that we could particularly have acted on and we very quickly released a press release saying we regarded the statement as unfair and the Deputy Chief Constable, in my absence, wrote to the Lord Chief Justice. The bottom line was firstly, this was not a case to which we were a party, it was led by the Harbour Board Police not by the Police Service of Northern Ireland. If we are to be criticised in public, then it must be justified. I intend to raise this with the Lord Chief Justice when I meet him in the next couple of weeks. We are unaware and we have asked the Lord Chief Justice for advice on this, if there is additional legislation on which we are unsighted, because in this particular case there was no legislation that we felt would have been appropriate, even if it had been a case ..(tape unclear).

**Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:**

Could I simply, in order to assist not least the journalists present today say that Corporate Policy Committee will be recommending to the Board and it will be consider later, that we do not have a meeting in May, simply because it is the day before the General Election.