



# PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF THE POLICE, DPPs AND THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**REPORT BASED ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD  
MODULE OF THE SEPTEMBER 2008 OMNIBUS SURVEY**

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## THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD: WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Northern Ireland Policing Board is an independent public body whose job it is to oversee policing in Northern Ireland. It was set up on 4 November 2001 as a result of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000. The Policing Board is not controlled by Government and has strong independent powers to carry out its work. The Policing Board consists of 19 Members, and comprises Political Members and Independent Members who have been appointed by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The main role of the Policing Board is to ensure that the Police Service of Northern Ireland is effective and efficient. The Policing Board holds the Chief Constable to account for all his actions and those of his staff. This means that the Chief Constable must answer to the Policing Board on any aspect of policing in Northern Ireland. However, the Policing Board cannot, and does not, direct or control the Chief Constable. He has the right to take independent policing decisions based only on the need to uphold law and order. This is called operational responsibility. But he must in turn answer for his actions to the Policing Board. This process is what effective accountability is all about.

Finding out what the community wants from their police service; what they think about the service that is delivered, and how it is performing, is vital if the Board is to carry out that role.

### The Board must also keep itself informed as to:

- Trends and patterns in recruitment to the police and the police support staff; and
- The extent to which membership of the police and police support staff is representative of the community in Northern Ireland;

### and assess:

- The effectiveness of measures taken to secure that the membership of the police service is representative of the community; and
- The level of public satisfaction with the performance of the police and the District Policing Partnerships (DPPs).

In order to gauge public satisfaction and consider the views of the public on policing, the Policing Board conducts a programme of consultation and research activities involving a range of groups and organisations. The results of this consultation and research are published by the Policing Board to ensure openness and transparency, and to advise the public of its findings.

## BACKGROUND TO THE SEPTEMBER 2008 OMNIBUS SURVEY

The Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey is conducted several times each year by the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and is designed to provide a snapshot of the behaviour, lifestyle and views of a representative sample of people in Northern Ireland. The survey comprises two distinct parts: core questions about the respondents and their individual circumstances, and a variety of mainly attitudinal questions commissioned by clients, which seek the views of the public on a range of issues, including policing.

The sample for this survey consisted of a random sample of addresses selected from the Land and Property Services Agency list of private addresses, the most up-to-date listing of private households in Northern Ireland. At each address, one person aged 16 or over was selected to participate in the survey. From an eligible sample of 1,956 households, 1,213 interviews were achieved, giving a response rate of 62%. Interviews were conducted between 1 September and 30 September 2008. Analyses by religion are based only on those 1,158 respondents who said they were either Catholic or Protestant. Respondents who refused to answer the religion question or who said they were a religion other than Catholic or Protestant are excluded from these analyses.

The Northern Ireland Policing Board uses Omnibus Survey results to fulfil its responsibilities under Section 3(3)(d) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 to “assess the level of public satisfaction with the performance of the police and of district policing partnerships” and to measure some targets set by the Policing Board in the Annual Policing Plan.

The following symbols are used in the accompanying results tables:

Category not applicable - Cell is empty  
 Category result less than 0.5% - Cell contains a zero (“0”)

Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

### Statistical significance

Statistical significance tests have been carried out on the findings between the April and September 2008 Northern Ireland Omnibus Surveys. These tests are used to establish the degree of confidence with which we can infer the observed findings as an accurate reflection of the views of the population. In this publication, where differences have emerged as being statistically significant, this has been reported at the 5% ( $p < 0.05$ ) level of probability (two-tailed). This means that, for any observed result that is found to be statistically significant, one can be 95% confident that this has not happened by chance. Such statistically significant results are clearly noted in the text above each table.

## 1. PERFORMANCE OF THE POLICE

### Q1 Do you think that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does a good job or a poor job in your area?

The Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2008-2011 includes a target to increase the percentage of people who think that the police are doing a good job in their area, based on the October 2007 finding of 62%. Just over three fifths of respondents (62%) in September 2008 thought that their local police were doing a very/fairly good job, a statistically significant increase from 58% in April 2008 (Table 1). Almost one-fifth (18%) of respondents rated the performance of local police as very/fairly poor in September 2008, similar to the April 2008 finding. More Protestant respondents (64%) thought that the PSNI does a very/fairly good job in their area compared with Catholic respondents (59%).

Table 1: Performance of local police

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly good	56	65	61	54	67	62	56	60	58	59	64	62
Neither good nor poor	20	17	19	21	16	19	21	21	21	20	16	18
Very/fairly poor	22	17	19	23	16	19	20	18	19	19	18	18
Don't know/refusal	2	1	1	1	0	1	3	2	2	2	2	2

### Q2 Do you think that the PSNI does a good job or a poor job in Northern Ireland as a whole?

Just over two thirds of respondents (68%) thought that the PSNI in Northern Ireland as a whole was doing a very/fairly good job, compared with 65% in April 2008 (Table 2). 12% of respondents thought that the PSNI in Northern Ireland as a whole was doing a very/fairly poor job in September 2008, similar to the April 2008 finding. More Protestant respondents (71%) thought that the PSNI in Northern Ireland as a whole was doing a very/fairly good job compared with Catholic respondents (66%). The Protestant finding is a statistically significant increase from the April 2008 finding.

**Table 2: Performance of police in Northern Ireland as a whole**

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly good	61	69	65	62	71	67	65	66	65	66	71	68
Neither good nor poor	22	19	20	20	16	18	19	20	19	19	16	18
Very/fairly poor	13	13	13	15	13	14	12	14	13	13	11	12
Don't know/refusal	4	0	1	2	1	2	4	1	2	3	1	2

### Q3 How satisfied are you that the PSNI treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole?

As in April 2008, seven tenths of respondents (70%) were very/fairly satisfied that the PSNI treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole (Table 3). Approximately one in nine respondents (11%) were very/fairly dissatisfied, a statistically significant increase from 8% in April 2008. More Protestant respondents (75%) thought that the PSNI treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole than did Catholic respondents (63%). Just over one in seven Catholic respondents (15%) were very/fairly dissatisfied that the PSNI treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole, a statistically significant increase from 9% in April 2008.

**Table 3: Satisfaction that the police treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole**

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very satisfied	8	13	12	9	19	15	11	16	13	11	17	14
Fairly satisfied	53	59	55	53	54	54	57	57	57	52	58	56
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	20	17	19	21	16	18	22	18	20	19	15	17
Fairly dissatisfied	11	7	9	12	8	9	6	7	6	11	6	8
Very dissatisfied	5	2	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	4	2	3
Don't know/refusal	3	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2

### Q4 How satisfied are you that the PSNI treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole?

As in April 2008, almost two thirds of respondents (66%) were very/fairly satisfied that the PSNI treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole (Table 4). One in eight respondents (13%) were very/fairly dissatisfied, a statistically significant increase from 10% in April 2008. More Protestant respondents (72%) were very/fairly satisfied that the police treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole than Catholic respondents (58%). Almost one in five Catholic respondents (18%) were very/fairly dissatisfied that the PSNI treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole, a statistically significant increase from 12% in April 2008.

**Table 4: Satisfaction that the police treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole**

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very satisfied	10	14	13	9	19	14	9	16	14	8	18	13
Fairly satisfied	50	57	53	49	53	51	50	55	52	50	54	53
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	19	17	18	22	18	20	25	17	21	20	17	18
Fairly dissatisfied	13	8	10	12	6	9	9	6	7	12	7	9
Very dissatisfied	6	4	5	6	3	4	3	3	3	6	3	4
Don't know/refusal	2	1	2	2	1	2	4	2	3	4	2	3

### Q5 How much confidence do you have in the PSNI's ability to provide an ordinary day to day policing service for all the people of Northern Ireland?

The Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2008-2011 includes a target to increase the percentage of people who are confident in the police's ability to provide an ordinary, day-to-day policing service for all the people of Northern Ireland, which is based on the October 2007 finding of 84%. More than six out of seven respondents (86%) had some, a lot, or total confidence in the police's ability to provide a day-to-day policing service for everyone in Northern Ireland, a statistically significant increase from 83% in April 2008 (Table 5). One in seven respondents (14%) had little or no confidence at all.

**Table 5: Confidence in the police's ability to provide an ordinary day to day policing service for all the people of Northern Ireland**

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	8	9	8	5	15	11	5	10	7	8	10	9
A lot of confidence	29	40	34	32	34	33	32	34	33	28	39	35
Some confidence	44	37	41	46	35	40	47	40	43	48	36	42
Little confidence	13	11	12	12	12	12	13	13	13	7	12	10
No confidence at all	4	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	6	2	4
Don't know/refusal	3	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	1

**Q6 How much confidence do you have in the PSNI's ability to deal with public disorder situations such as riots?**

Four out of five respondents (81%) had some, a lot, or total confidence in the police's ability to deal with public disorder situations, similar to the April 2008 finding (Table 6). More Protestant respondents (85% - a statistically significant increase from 80% in April 2008) had at least some confidence in the police's ability to provide a public order policing service than Catholic respondents (76%). Almost one in five Catholic respondents (19%) had little or no confidence in the police's ability to deal with public disorder situations compared with one in seven (14%) Protestant respondents.

**Table 6: Confidence in the police's ability to deal with public disorder situations**

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	9	10	10	7	13	10	5	11	9	8	13	11
A lot of confidence	26	36	31	28	37	33	29	34	32	26	40	34
Some confidence	37	37	37	42	34	37	43	35	39	42	32	36
Little confidence	17	11	13	15	11	12	14	13	14	12	12	12
No confidence at all	9	4	6	5	4	5	6	4	5	7	2	4
Don't know/refusal	3	1	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	4	0	2

**Q7 How satisfied are you with the levels of police patrols in your area?**

As in April 2008, just over two fifths of respondents (42%) were very/fairly satisfied with the levels of police patrols in their area (Table 7). 42% of Protestant respondents were very/fairly satisfied, compared with 41% of Catholic respondents. Conversely, 37% of Protestant respondents were very/fairly dissatisfied with the levels of police patrols in their area, compared with 35% of Catholic respondents.

**Table 7: Satisfaction with the levels of police patrols**

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly satisfied	41	46	43	43	42	43	42	40	42	41	42	42
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22	22	22	22	24	24	24	21	22	24	20	21
Very/fairly dissatisfied	34	32	33	34	33	33	33	37	35	35	37	36
Don't know/refusal	3	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	2	1	1	1

**Q8 Over the last year, has the overall standard of policing in your area...?**

Almost three quarters of respondents (74%) thought that the overall standard of policing had remained the same in their area over the last year, a statistically significant increase from 68% in April 2008. One in ten respondents (10%) thought that it had got better (a statistically significant decrease from 14% in April 2008) and, as in April 2008, 13% thought that it had got worse (Table 8). Protestant respondents (7%) were less likely than Catholic respondents (13%) to think that overall policing had got better, and more likely to think that it had got worse (15% compared with 10% of Catholic respondents).

**Table 8: Perception of the overall standard of policing over the last year**

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Got better	16	12	13	20	11	15	16	12	14	13	7	10
Remained the same	71	70	70	66	71	69	69	69	68	74	74	74
Got worse	10	15	13	11	16	14	10	15	13	10	15	13
Don't know/refusal	3	4	4	3	2	3	5	4	5	3	4	4

### Q9 Have you heard of the concept of Neighbourhood/Community Policing?

Almost two thirds of respondents (64%) had heard of the concept of Neighbourhood/Community Policing, similar to the April 2008 finding (Table 9). Protestant respondents (70%) were more likely to have heard than Catholic respondents (57%).

**Table 9: Heard of Neighbourhood/Community Policing?**

Rating	Percentage of respondents					
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	61	66	63	57	70	64
No	39	34	36	43	30	36
Don't know	0	0	0		0	0

### Q10 How well do you think Neighbourhood/Community Policing is working?

Just over a quarter (26%) of the respondents who had heard of Neighbourhood/Community Policing thought that it was working well/very well (Table 10). Catholic respondents (28%) were more likely to think Neighbourhood/Community Policing is working well/very well than Protestant respondents (24%). Over a quarter of respondents (27%) did not know how well Neighbourhood/Community Policing is working.

**Table 10: How well Neighbourhood/Community Policing is working**

All those who have heard of Neighbourhood/Community Policing	Percentage of respondents					
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	3	7	6	5	6	6
Well	18	19	18	23	18	20
Neither well nor poor	28	27	27	28	31	29
Poor	20	15	17	13	12	13
Very poor	6	3	4	6	3	4
Don't know/refusal	25	28	28	24	29	27

### Q11 Does a PSNI Neighbourhood/Community Policing Team operate in your area?

Almost three out of ten respondents (29%) who had heard of Neighbourhood/Community Policing knew that a Neighbourhood/Community Policing Team operated in their area (Table 11). As in April 2008, a higher proportion of Protestant respondents (31%) knew that a Neighbourhood/Community Policing Team operated in their area compared with Catholic respondents (27%). Almost a quarter of respondents (24%) did not know if a Neighbourhood/Community Policing team operated in their area.

**Table 11: PSNI Neighbourhood/Community Policing Team operate in your area**

All those who have heard of Neighbourhood/Community Policing	Percentage of respondents					
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	26	35	31	27	31	29
No	49	38	43	54	42	46
Don't know/refusal	24	26	26	19	27	24

### Q12 Have you been in contact with the PSNI over the past 12 months?

Over one quarter of respondents (28%) had been in contact with the PSNI over the last year, similar to the April 2008 finding (Table 12). A slightly higher proportion of Catholic respondents (28%) were in contact with the PSNI compared with Protestant respondents (27%).

**Table 12: Contact with the PSNI**

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	25	22	23	26	27	26	25	28	27	28	27	28
No	75	78	77	74	73	73	75	72	73	72	73	72
Don't know		0	0	0		0	1		0			

**Q13 What form(s) did the contact take?**

The largest category for police contact in September 2008 was reporting a crime (29%), which was also the largest category in April 2008 (28%, Table 13). More Catholic respondents had contact with the PSNI regards seeking advice or information than Protestant respondents (16% compared to 13%). More Protestant respondents had contact with the PSNI when reporting a crime (30%) than Catholic respondents (28%). Almost one quarter of respondents (24%) were in contact with the PSNI as the victim of a crime.

**Table 13: What form(s) did the contact take?**

Respondents who had contact with the PSNI	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
You were the victim of a crime	25	20	22	18	18	18	24	19	20	25	23	24
You reported a crime	36	19	27	24	22	24	27	24	28	28	30	29
Giving a statement	18	12	15	22	16	18	24	15	19	20	18	18
Reporting anti-social behaviour	23	14	19	15	23	20	18	17	17	17	16	16
Proof of driving documents or involved in road traffic accident	7	15	12	17	16	17	14	8	11	9	7	8
Dispute with neighbour	3	2	2	2	3	3	4	5	4	6	3	4
Renewing firearms licence	4	5	5	4	7	5	2	8	5	2	3	3
Seeking advice or information	15	19	16	11	19	15	9	18	14	16	13	14
Other	26	24	24	24	11	16	17	18	17	14	12	13

Percentages may add up to more than 100% due to multiple responses.

**Q14 Were you satisfied with the PSNI during this contact?**

Over seven out of ten respondents (72%) were satisfied with the PSNI during their contact, compared with the April 2008 finding of 68% (Table 14). Catholic respondents (74%) were more satisfied than Protestant respondents (70%).

**Table 14: Satisfaction with PSNI contact**

Respondents who had contact with the PSNI	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	72	70	71	81	64	71	76	61	68	74	70	72
No	27	28	27	19	35	29	24	38	31	26	30	28
Don't know/refusal	1	2	2		0	0		1	0			

**Q15 If you were a victim of a crime, how satisfied were you with how the PSNI kept you informed of developments during the investigation?**

Just over two fifths of respondents (43%) were very/fairly satisfied with how the PSNI kept them informed of developments during the investigation, compared with 45% in April 2008 (Table 15).

**Table 15: Satisfaction with how the PSNI kept you informed of developments during the investigation**

Respondents who said they were a victim of a crime	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly satisfied	54	83	66	55	49	52	48	39	45	45	44	43
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	6	3	6	17	13	15	6	11	8	12	13	12
Very/fairly dissatisfied	40	14	28	28	38	32	42	47	44	42	44	43
Don't know/refusal							3	3	3			1

**Q16 How safe do you feel in your local community?**

The Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2008-2011 includes a target to increase the percentage of people who say they feel safe in their community, which is based on the October 2007 finding of 92%. Over nine out of ten respondents (93%) felt very/fairly safe in their local community, a statistically significant increase from 85% in April 2008 (Table 16). More Protestant and Catholic respondents felt safer in their local community compared with the April 2008 findings - Protestant respondents saw a statistically significant increase from 87% to 92%, while Catholic respondents also saw a statistically significant increase from 84% to 92%. Just 4% of respondents felt very/fairly unsafe, a statistically significant decrease from 8% in April 2008.

**Table 16: How safe do you feel in your local community?**

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very safe	36	36	37	38	38	38	32	36	34	46	38	42
Fairly safe	52	55	53	53	54	54	52	51	51	46	54	51
Neither safe nor unsafe	5	6	5	5	5	5	8	6	7	4	4	4
Fairly unsafe	5	3	4	3	3	3	7	4	6	3	3	3
Very Unsafe	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	1
Don't know/refusal				0		0	0		0		0	0

**2: DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPS)****Q17 Have you heard of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)?**

Almost three fifths of respondents (59%) had heard of DPPs in September 2008, similar to the April 2008 finding of 61% (Table 17). More Protestant respondents (65%) had heard of DPPs than Catholic respondents (53%). The proportion of Catholic respondents who had heard of DPPs fell from 61% in April 2008 to 53% - a statistically significant decrease of eight percentage points.

**Table 17: Have you heard of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)?**

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	62	72	67	60	63	62	61	63	61	53	65	59
No	38	28	33	39	37	38	39	37	39	47	35	40
Don't know/refusal		0	0	0		0		0	0		0	0

**Q18 How much confidence do you have that DPPs will help address local policing problems?**

Over two thirds of respondents (69%) who had heard of DPPs had some, a lot or total confidence that DPPs will help address local policing problems, compared to 73% in April 2008 (Table 18). The proportion of Protestant respondents who had some, a lot or total confidence that DPPs will help address local policing problems fell from 76% in April 2008 to 69% - a statistically significant decrease of seven percentage points. One in five respondents (21%) had little or no confidence at all - similar to the April 2008 finding.

**Table 18: Confidence that DPPs will help address local policing problems**

All those who have heard of DPPs	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	4	4	4	2	4	3	3	5	4	4	3	4
A lot of confidence	29	27	27	24	23	23	18	20	19	20	20	19
Some confidence	49	53	52	51	49	50	50	51	50	48	46	46
Little confidence	9	9	9	15	15	16	16	14	16	14	14	15
No confidence at all	4	3	3	2	6	4	4	2	4	7	6	6
Don't know/refusal	5	5	5	6	4	5	9	8	8	7	11	9

### Q19 Are you prepared to contact your local DPP to raise issues/ask questions about local policing?

Almost three fifths of respondents (56%) who had heard of DPPs were prepared to contact their local DPP regarding local policing issues (Table 19), compared with 54% in April 2008. Protestant respondents (58%) were more willing to contact their local DPP than Catholic respondents (51%).

**Table 19: Prepared to contact local DPP about local policing?**

All those who have heard of DPPs	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	57	53	55	58	58	58	51	56	54	51	58	56
No	41	45	43	41	41	40	46	42	44	47	40	42
Don't know/refusal	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2

### Q20 Do you feel that your local DPP has helped to improve policing in your local area?

Over one third of respondents (35%) who had heard of DPPs believed that their local DPP has helped to improve policing in their local area, compared with 32% in April 2008 (Table 20). Over one quarter of respondents (26%) did not know if the local DPP had helped to improve local policing.

**Table 20: Has your local DPP helped to improve local policing?**

All those who have heard of DPPs	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	36	36	35	41	35	37	33	32	32	39	33	35
No	37	42	39	38	40	39	40	41	41	39	38	39
Don't know/refusal	26	22	25	21	24	24	27	27	27	21	29	26

## 3. THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

### Q21 Have you heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB)?

Five out of six respondents (84%) had heard of the NIPB, a statistically significant decrease from 87% in April 2008 (Table 21). More Protestant respondents (87%) than Catholic respondents (79%) had heard of the NIPB. Fewer Catholic respondents had heard of the NIPB than in April 2008 (79% and 85% respectively - a statistically significant decrease of six percentage points).

**Table 21: Heard of the NIPB?**

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	84	88	86	85	90	87	85	89	87	79	87	84
No	16	12	14	15	10	12	14	11	13	21	12	16
Don't know/refusal		0	0	0		0	0	0	0		0	0

### Q22 How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on monitoring how the PSNI performs against annual Policing Plan targets?

Just over two fifths of respondents who had heard of the NIPB (42%) thought that the NIPB did well/very well in monitoring how the PSNI performs against annual Policing Plan targets, compared with 38% in April 2008 (Table 22). Almost one quarter of respondents (23%) did not know how well the NIPB did this.

**Table 22: How the NIPB does on monitoring how the PSNI performs against annual Policing Plan targets**

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	6	5	6	5	6	6	4	5	5	5	5	5
Well	40	42	41	39	38	38	32	35	33	35	38	37
Neither well nor poor	27	30	29	32	29	30	34	30	33	29	32	30
Poor	6	5	5	6	5	5	5	4	4	6	4	5
Very poor	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know/refusal	18	17	18	18	21	20	25	25	24	25	20	23

### Q23 How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on questioning the Chief Constable on how he carries out his duties?

Just over two fifths of respondents who had heard of the NIPB (44%) rated the NIPB's performance in questioning the Chief Constable as well/very well, similar to the April 2008 finding (Table 23). Less than one in ten of respondents (9%) rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in September 2008, similar to the April 2008 finding.

**Table 23: How the NIPB does on questioning the Chief Constable**

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	9	7	8	8	8	8	6	10	8	5	8	6
Well	39	43	41	38	39	39	33	36	35	34	41	38
Neither well nor poor	28	29	28	27	26	26	31	27	29	30	26	28
Poor	8	5	6	10	9	10	7	6	7	9	6	8
Very poor	3	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Don't know/refusal	12	15	14	16	17	16	22	19	20	19	19	19

### Q24 How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on holding the Chief Constable publicly to account?

Over two fifths of respondents who had heard of the NIPB (45%) thought that the NIPB did well/very well on holding the Chief Constable to account, compared with 43% in April 2008 (Table 24). Almost one fifth of respondents who had heard of the NIPB (17%) did not know how well the NIPB did on holding the Chief Constable to account.

**Table 24: How the NIPB does on holding the Chief Constable to account**

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	9	7	8	6	9	8	5	9	7	7	8	7
Well	40	42	41	34	38	36	34	38	36	36	41	38
Neither well nor poor	29	27	28	30	27	28	30	25	28	26	26	27
Poor	8	9	8	11	8	9	10	7	8	12	7	9
Very poor	3	1	2	4	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
Don't know/refusal	12	14	13	15	17	16	19	18	18	17	17	17

### Q25 How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on consulting with the public about policing issues?

Three out of ten respondents who had heard of the NIPB (30%) thought that the NIPB did well/very well in consulting the public on policing issues, compared with 28% in April 2008 (Table 25). As in April 2008, almost one in six respondents (16%) did not know how the NIPB does on consulting with the public on policing issues.

**Table 25: How the NIPB does on consulting the public on policing issues**

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	6	2	4	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	3
Well	32	29	31	28	29	29	23	27	25	26	28	27
Neither well nor poor	30	34	33	29	28	29	32	30	31	31	28	30
Poor	16	18	16	24	21	22	20	20	20	17	20	19
Very poor	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	5	6	5	5
Don't know/refusal	11	12	12	11	14	12	17	15	16	17	15	16

### Q26 Do you think that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job?

Almost two thirds of respondents who had heard of the NIPB (64%) thought that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job, compared with 68% in April 2008 (Table 26). One fifth of respondents (22%) thought that the NIPB does not help ensure that the PSNI do a good job.

**Table 26: Does the NIPB help to ensure that the PSNI do a good job?**

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	73	75	73	71	66	68	67	69	68	63	66	64
No	13	16	15	18	21	20	19	20	20	22	21	22
Don't know/refusal	14	9	11	11	12	12	13	10	12	15	13	14

### Q27 Do you think that the NIPB is part of the police or independent of the police?

Just over seven tenths of respondents who had heard of the NIPB (72%) correctly thought that the NIPB is independent of the police, similar to the April 2008 finding (Table 27). More Protestant respondents (74%) correctly thought that the NIPB is independent of the police than Catholic respondents (69%).

**Table 27: Is the NIPB part of the police or independent of the police?**

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Part of the police	23	20	21	26	15	19	22	20	21	22	21	21
Independent of the police	70	75	73	71	79	76	69	71	70	69	74	72
Don't know/refusal	7	4	5	4	5	5	9	9	9	9	5	6

### Q28 What do you think is the primary role of the NIPB?

As in April 2008, just under four fifths of respondents who had heard of the NIPB (78%) correctly thought that the primary role of the NIPB is "to oversee policing and hold the Chief Constable and the PSNI publicly to account" (Table 28).

**Table 28: What do you think is the primary role of the NIPB?**

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
To actively direct police operations	12	10	10	12	10	10	14	11	13	16	9	12
To oversee policing and hold the Chief Constable and the PSNI publicly to account	78	82	81	79	80	80	76	80	78	73	81	78
To tell the Chief Constable what to do	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	4	3	3
Other	0	0	1	1	1	1					1	1
Don't know/refusal	7	5	6	4	6	5	7	6	6	7	6	6

### Q29 Do you think the NIPB is made up of ...?

Over two thirds of respondents who had heard of the NIPB (69%) correctly thought that the NIPB is made up of "a mix of politicians and independently appointed members" a statistically significant decrease from 74% in April 2008 (Table 29). There was a statistically significant decrease in Protestant respondents to this question, from 74% in April 2008 to 68% in September 2008. Between April 2008 and September 2008, there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of both Protestant and all respondents who thought that the NIPB is made up of independently appointed members.

**Table 29: Do you think that the NIPB is made up of...?**

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Politicians	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
Independently appointed members	19	19	19	18	24	21	18	17	18	20	23	22
A mix of politicians and independently appointed members	72	72	72	74	67	70	73	74	74	70	68	69
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1				1	0	0
Don't know/refusal	6	5	6	5	6	6	6	7	7	7	6	6

### Q30 Overall, how well do you think the NIPB is working?

Almost four fifths of the respondents who had heard of the NIPB (78%) thought that the NIPB is working at least adequately, compared with 80% in April 2008 (Table 30). Almost two fifths of respondents who had heard of the NIPB (37%) thought that the NIPB was working well/very well. As in April 2008, one in nine respondents (11%) thought the NIPB was performing poorly/very poorly.

**Table 30: Overall, how well do you think the NIPB is working?**

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)			2008 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	7	6	6	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	7	6
Well	39	37	37	34	34	34	32	34	33	32	31	31
Adequately	35	41	39	43	41	42	40	41	41	38	42	41
Poorly	10	9	9	10	9	9	8	9	9	12	9	10
Very poorly	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	1
Don't know/refusal	8	6	7	6	8	8	12	9	10	10	10	11





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#### PUBLISHED BY

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#### DOCUMENT TITLE

**PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF THE POLICE, DPPs AND THE  
NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD SEPTEMBER 2008 OMNIBUS SURVEY**

#### PUBLISHED DECEMBER 2008

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