

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2008 AT 11:30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)
Ms Martina Anderson
Mr Leslie Cree
Mrs Dolores Kelly
Mr Alex Maskey
Mr Basil McCrea
Mr Daithí McKay
Ms Mary McKee
Mrs Rosaleen Moore
Mr Gearóid Ó hEára
Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
Mr Brian Rea
Mr Trevor Ringland
Mr David Rose
Mr Jimmy Spratt
Mr Peter Weir

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)
Mr Alistair Finlay (ACC Urban Region)
Mrs Judith Gillespie (ACC Rural Region)
Mr Drew Harris (ACC Crime Operations)
Mr David Jones (ACC Crime Support)
Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Criminal
Justice)
Mr David Best (Director of Finance and
Support Services)
Mr Joe Stewart (Director of Human
Resources)
Ms Liz Young (Head of Media & Public
Relations)
Detective Superintendent Karen Baxter,
Rape Crime Unit
1 PSNI Personnel

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Dr Debbie Donnelly (A/Chief Executive)
Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate
Services)
Mr David Jackson (Director of Community
Engagement)
Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
2 Board Officials

APOLOGIES:

Mr Tom Buchanan
Mr Suneil Sharma

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Good morning Chief Constable, Senior Officers, members of the public and media. You are all very welcome to this meeting in public of the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

Chief Constable, we have a busy agenda today so a brief introduction and then straight to your policing report, which will include the policing of last week's parade, that was last Sunday's parade. The fact that the parade and counter demonstrations passed in a peaceful way is to be welcomed. There was a very real sense of relief within the total community that events passed without serious incident and all of those who worked to achieve this are to be commended.

Of course a significant policing operation was put in place, and this will no doubt also have had a substantial cost; I believe Chief Constable that you have mentioned the figure of £300,000 and in terms of manpower as well, it would be interesting to know just the numbers involved and perhaps you could cover that in your report to us.

Finance has been an issue of specific priority for the Board with the pressures being faced by the Service of very serious concern. As a Board, we have been facing up to and working through them with you Chief Constable and your finance team and we will continue to do so. We accept completely the role of the Board in dealing with this pressure, but given the close interest that Ministers take on this issue, it was also right and proper that this matter was brought to the attention of Government and the wider public. Early today we had a discussion and will be holding a special meeting of the Resources & Improvement Committee to discuss budget issues further with you and

your colleagues. You recognise I know, as do your colleagues and this Board, that some difficult decisions will have to be made and in doing that the Board will be looking to minimise the impact on frontline services. We are, of course, far from a normal policing society and that presents additional challenges, continuing challenges, to you and your colleagues and to this Board.

Chief Constable, the Board has asked for a report today. Indeed, we had asked for this report you will recall prior to the recent incidents of rapes in South Belfast. This we recognise has been of concern within the wider community, but I have no doubt that you will wish to put this in perspective in terms of the incidents in the period covered by your statistics.

Chief Constable, I would ask you to address us.

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

Thank you Chairman. I note your comments on a busy schedule, I will try and keep my comments fairly brief but it has been a particularly challenging month in policing. We faced yet another serious attempt to murder one of our officers in Fermanagh and we also had to conduct one of the largest public order operations we have seen in recent years, and again I can report to Board there was another attack on Lurgan police station last night when a pipe bomb was thrown over the wall.

In terms of the parade Chairman, it was a success and I think it was a success for a number of reasons. I would want to put on record my thanks to all my officers for the effort they put into the parade and the protest, but also to those who organised the parade and the lawful protest and the community representatives and their political representatives who worked collectively to ensure the day was largely peaceful. I think it was a success story, not just for police but for the community generally. It did not happen by accident, a huge amount of planning went into this operation to try and minimise disruption to those who wanted to use Belfast city centre and we did manage to get back to a normal level of normality very quickly. It was a significant and it was a complex operation. It was, in my judgement, entirely appropriate and proportionate and led by ACC Alistair Finlay and Paul Leighton my Deputy Chief Constable. Ten of thousands of people came into the city centre on Sunday and there were no serious incidents.

Chairman, in terms of the cost, it was substantial and it was peaceful. The reason it was peaceful was because it was well policed and those who came to make mischief realised they would not be able to do so, so it had to be a significant police operation.

Just under 1,000 officers were deployed in relation to the event and the initial cost over £300,000. They are in excess of £400,000 it is difficult to get a precise amount bearing in mind the operations we were running, not just in Belfast, but in other parts of Northern Ireland, to ensure that it ran peacefully. But it did and we all moved on.

Chairman, in terms of terrorist activity, the dissident threat continues and it has continued to divert police resources. I have touched on the determined attempt to kill officers recently, indeed the bomb at Wattlebridge was a booby trap bomb which was clearly designed to kill police officers or the bomb disposal officer who was trying to render it harmless, so it did not kill civilians. It would have had that potential if anyone of course had touched it.

Two arrests have been made in relation to dissident activity this month and a reports file will be submitted to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS).

We will continue to deliver community policing against this threat Chairman, there is no stepping back from a job we are employed to do. I again would like to pay tribute to my frontline officers, many of whom I and my Senior Management Team have met in recent weeks, for their determination to get on with it. The reality is of course, it does make policing more expensive and the other reality is, it diverts resources from the normal policing activities which both we and the communities want us to deliver.

Chairman, you touched on budget cuts and I look forward to coming to the Board on the 21 November 2008 with detailed proposals in relation to the current shortfall. The current shortfall is now £24m to be recovered in the next 5 to 6 months. There is one thing I would like to be absolutely crystal clear on. This cut is not a result of a miscalculation on our part or indeed on the Board's part of a budget we were allocated at the beginning of the year. We had dealt with the shortfall at the beginning of the year and planned a balanced budget. These pressures are, I would argue, out of my control. They refer to the Civil Service Equal Pay Claim and the announcement by the First Minister in relation to that a little while ago, puts a huge pressure and potential

contingent and liability on our budget. Changes in the Police Pension Scheme added an additional pressure, that was a change announced by the Prime Minister in England. The retention of a full time allowance reflecting the current policing situation here, which we were confident we could in fact have found from within our budget, and more importantly the hearing loss claims continuing to rise and these of course go way back to pre 1990, officers claiming for hearing loss from the times of the Troubles.

In addition to that of course, there is the pressure caused by the policing style we have had to adopt. We were confident again we could have managed that within our budget.

Chairman, this organisation has delivered balanced budgets for the last 5 years, and indeed, substantial savings over the last 5 years and I am committed to continuing to do that. Indeed, our budgets have also been unqualified by the auditors showing that we are more than capable of running a budget.

The challenge we face here of course is exacerbated by our commitment to 7,500 in keeping with the principles of Patten. Any Chief Constable elsewhere in the United Kingdom facing budget shortfalls has the opportunity to turn on and off the recruiting tap to balance his or her budget, which of course are generally far smaller than ours. We are looking at a small section of our budget which we can influence, much of that is around the IT and issues like that where we are now having to make severe cuts to give a balanced budget.

Chairman, I will come with detailed explanations of where we see the savings to be made to the Resources and Improvement Committee on 21 November 2008.

Chairman, last month at the meeting you announced the Board's statement in relation to TASER. After careful consideration of the findings and all the recommendations arising from the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA), which included the Board's decision, I have taken the decision to issue TASER on a permanent basis to officers from Specialist Operations Branch and Armed Response Vehicles (ARVs). The Board suggested in your letter, that the issue of TASER to ARVs should be on a pilot basis, I am happy to agree with that. ARV officers will undergo exactly the same approved training on TASER as their Special Operations Branch colleagues in terms of the use of TASER as a less lethal weapon. That pilot will run for a period of 6 months after which

I will report back to the Board on my assessment of that pilot period and whether or not deployment to ARVs should indeed continue.

Chairman, you touched on rape also. There has been extensive media coverage of rape and sex attacks in Belfast over recent weeks. The facts are clear, there have been 3 substantive reports of rape in South Belfast during this month. Three people have been arrested and 2 people have been charged.

The extensive coverage around these attacks has led, quite understandably, to widespread public concern and we have a presentation today which will deal with the extremely challenging issues around rape investigation and, indeed it will be, and I will put the Board on notice on this, it will be an extremely challenging presentation. It needs to be, it is a very serious crime which we take very seriously indeed.

In terms of frontline response to the current concerns on visible reassurance. We are working with many organisations, including the Students Union, publicans, private landlords, the Housing Executive, local taxi companies and the City Council, to reduce the risk of attack and to ensure Belfast is indeed a safe place. In the last fortnight we have increased our resources in the University area of South Belfast, there is an average of 8 neighbourhood watch officers supported by up to 6 community safety officers from the council and community wardens patrolling up to 3am to give that vital reassurance.

In addition, as you are aware, from Thursday to Monday, the 'Get Home Safe' operation delivers an average of 35 officers, in high visibility uniform, patrolling the main night time entertainment locations in the city centre and we have the support of one unit of Territorial Support Group, that is a further 25 officers. It is an issue we take very seriously Chairman and I would draw my conclusion there and ask Detective Superintendent Baxter to give her presentation.

Mrs Dolores Kelly:

Will you be take questions on the Chief Constable's statement first?

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

We will take it all at the end.

Detective Superintendent, you go on ahead.

Detective Superintendent Karen Baxter:

I think what is important with regards to rape is actually to put it into context, and I think before we start the presentation we all need to put it into context. So, I would ask everybody in the room, that is everybody in the public forum, everybody around this table, to spend a few seconds and think back to your last sexual experience.

I would like you to think about it in enough detail but I will invite somebody up here to discuss some aspects of it.

I would like you to take a few seconds now to mull it over and to think about some issues, for example, the time of the day, who it was with, the day or the date and I appreciate it is a public forum, but if you can recall exactly what you were wearing and I would like you to take a few seconds and think about those details. I would like you to hold those thoughts because that is exactly what we do to every victim of rape when we invite them over the door of a police station. Except we do not ask them once or twice, we ask them several times and more perhaps until we get a factual and accurate statement.

If we get a suspect, we will then expect that victim to go to the PPS and meet a barrister with whom they have never met and recall that sexual experience in the finest of detail. If we get the case to court, we then expect that victim to stand in court in front of the judge, at least 2 barristers, perhaps some solicitors, some police officers, 12 jurors and some courtroom staff. We expect that person, that victim, to stand and give in detail that sexual experience. When they are in that courtroom there will be questions raised potentially around integrity, their honesty, perhaps even their lifestyle. That is a very very short insight into rape and some of the perceptions, some of the prejudices and some of the challenges that exist around it, and no I am not going to ask anybody in this room to come here and discuss their last sexual experience with me, let alone the entire room. But I have no doubt that most of you, if not all of you, were just a little bit uncomfortable at that prospect.

Rape, the definition is before you on the screen. I am not going to read it out but as you can see it talks in fairly graphic terms. That is the bread and butter of what we deal with. It is graphic, but in short it is the vaginal or anal rape of any person by a man. That is Article 18 of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2003. That legislation is due to change this year, it is due to change we think in December 2008 but certainly at the latest next year, to include rape by either an object or by an implement and it will also include oral rape, so it extends the legislation and the definition of rape significantly.

The facts. If I was to ask everyone in this room, I suspect that I would get a fairly heavy response to what they perceive to be a rape, because most people see rape as something that happens late at night, out in the open and perpetrated by somebody that is a stranger. They are not the facts.

The facts are that 70% to 80% of rapes are not reported according to the British Crime Survey. 45% of rapes are committed by current partners, 32% are committed by other partners, that is partners who are perhaps ex partners or estranged partners, 22% are committed by acquaintances and 8%, only 8% are committed by strangers. In 2007/08 rape, within the PSNI, the reporting was down by about 8% that reflects the trend elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

The figures that apply there are for females who are between 16 and 59 years old and it was based on a survey that was self completion so that is basically getting victims and what women will say to you. Those are the figures for the last 3 years, what we have had reported to us with regards to rape and attempted rape. As you will see we have a decrease overall in the number of rapes being reported to us. With regards to the clearance we have had an increase.

In 2006/07 you will see that the clearance rate was 15.3%, that increased through a period of significant change to 16.6% last year and in the first half of this year, we have a clearance rate of 21.3%. We are in no way saying that that is where we want to be, but I can reassure you that every effort by every officer who deals with rape is being made to increase that clearance rate to bring more cases to the PPS and provide a much better service to rape victims right throughout Northern Ireland.

That provides you with some information with regards to the distribution of rape throughout all the Districts. You will see there is a fairly even distribution throughout all of the Districts, none are particularly worse for rape. I would suggest that you have some Districts there where you have a difference in the number of reported rapes and the number of reported incidents. What that means is for example, in 'G' District is that you have one offender who committed 4 offences. That happens in rape, that is the nature of the crime, but you do not see a massive or significant variation between any of the Districts and that includes South Belfast, of which I know the Chairman was talking about earlier.

If you look at the monthly report, we have looked at this over the last 6 months and there is not a significant difference with regards to how many rapes and incidents are reported over the 6 monthly period. There was a problem with the numbers but you can see all the numbers there and you will find that in May 2008 you had a difference in the number of incidents and the number of rapes and that was exactly the incident in 'G' District, where you had an historical case where you had one offender and 4 victims. Both those pieces of information are actually up until 10 October 2008.

What we have tried to do with regards to those figures is actually scrutinise our figures more and develop a more detailed problem profile around rape. That allows us to better understand the problems with rape and to better deliver our business and our services to victims.

So where are we now? The Rape Crime Unit (RCU) was established in April of this year, it was the combination of 3 years work. It was not done in a knee jerk reactive sense but it has been done with the objective to ensure sustainability in our Service. In those 3 years we took advice and we sought guidance with regards to the Association of Chief Police Officers' Working Party on rape. We have taken best guidance and advice from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and we have tried to combine all of that good advice in a context that best fits the need of both the Police Service of Northern Ireland, but more importantly, the victims of Northern Ireland. So, that has taken 3 years. We established our Rape Crime Units in April 2008, there are now specialist and look particularly at rape, but we do work with the entire organisation. What we now have is a much more consistent and co-ordinated approach to the investigation of rape right across the country and right across the organisation.

The structure of the Rape Crime Unit. The structure of the Rape Crime Unit is as you see it on the screen. You have one Detective Superintendent, one Detective Chief Inspector and you have in total in or around 50 officers. At the moment we have 8 support staff supporting us, they do a tremendous job and every officer within the Rape Crime Unit has a complete and total commitment to actually making things better for victims. They have required degrees of training, they are hopefully going to receive specialist training later on in the year and we are working about trying to professionalise that service continually, professionalising that service.

At the same time that the Rape Crime Units were established, Public Protection Units (PPUs) were established in all of the 8 Districts. The Rape Crime Units will deal with all adult rape and child stranger rape. The Public Protection Units will deal with child familial rape, both Units work very closely together and they will work with other areas in the organisation, for example, those officers who work with domestic abuse to try and have a more joined up approach to how we deal with sexual crime as a whole.

In total we have 202 cases of rape or rape type of crimes and that was up until Friday past, so there is a significant workload around that and our capacity to deal with it. But it is not just in our structure that we have changed things. What we have done in the last 3 years is, that we as an organisation, in the establishment of the structures of RCU and PPU, we have also invested an extra 40 staff, that is 40 officers, that is about 50% of the original amount we have invested in actually both parts of the Service. We also have invested over £500,000 in improving our Forensic Medical Services. Elsewhere in the United Kingdom we have places called Sexual Assault Referral Centres that are partly funded through a multiple set of agencies. At the moment we do not have that we anticipate that it will come along hopefully in 2010. At the moment we have had to completely revise our Forensic Medical Services. We have injected money into it, we have ensured that all of our cadre of about 15 doctors actually have enhanced training. To ensure that they have the sufficient expertise to go to court, we have to ensure that they get a sufficient amount of cases. On top of that we work with them on a continual basis about trying to improve their overall training, in conjunction with Forensic Services.

The challenges, we have talked about some of the challenges. The challenges when we get to court and about getting convictions and about getting positive outcomes for victims. The first one there, it is a very private crime. A crime that takes place generally between 2 people without other witnesses and the burden of proof in the absence of forensic quite often relies upon the victim. This is a very very big demand that we make of victims when they go to court.

We also have victim withdrawal. This year to date we have over 22 cases where the victim has decided, for a variety of reasons, not to continue with their complaint. I have read those 22 cases and there is nothing in those 22 cases that I would suggest will ever be less than genuine. They were very very genuine complaints. However, for policing, we will never clear those cases. They will remain on our books as intelligence, we will use what we can from them but we will never clear those cases.

Public attitudes, probably one of the biggest issues and one of the biggest challenges around rape. In 2003 Amnesty International polled I think 1,000 people, 30% of those people thought that women were asking for it if they went out and had excess amount of drink or perhaps dressed in a certain sort of way. I think even more horrifying here is that Amnesty International found that in the student population, 46% of students thought if a female was flirting that they were wholly or partially responsible for rape. That is a very sad statistic, it is also a very challenging statistic, not just for police but for everybody in this room.

Awareness in the media, and the media has had quite an input in the last few weeks. We will use the media as an investigative tool and we have had some tremendous results. We use the media in every other serious crime, so we now use it much more robustly with regards to rape. We have had excellent results, we have had people come forward and witnesses come forward who have assisted us in investigations so it is an excellent tool. But rape is a highly emotive subject, it is easy to sensationalise and when we sensationalise or when the media sensationalise, the problem is that there is a disproportionate amount of fear created amongst the community and that is exactly what happened several weeks ago in South Belfast.

We had the terms 'Uni Rapist' plastered across papers. I can reassure the community now that from the evidence that is there and the facts that we see, there is no 'Uni rapist'. South Belfast does not have any worse a problem than anywhere else. You saw the statistics yourself folks, but what it has caused for us in the Rape Crime Unit and also for our colleagues in District, is that personally I have had to spend in or around 20 hours with my Detective Inspector and with colleagues from South Belfast dealing with the reassurance issue, dealing with the fallout of the media. I could have been driving rape investigations, but no, I was dealing with the fallout and quite realistically it is easy to understand how students are living quite fearfully at the moment. Has it been helpful? Absolutely not.

I would say that we have a role within the media however around raising awareness, and in providing that reassurance. We are working with our partners in the voluntary sector and with Queen's University and with South Belfast and with all of our other partners to try and raise awareness, but not in a fearful sense but in a much more positive and helpful sense.

That is a very very quick overview of rape, I hope it has been informative but I would like to reassure everybody that this is a new Unit, the Rape Crime Unit, it was only set up in April 2008 but we have and I have absolutely every faith in the officers that work in that Unit, an absolute commitment to continuing to improve and better things for the victims of Northern Ireland.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Thank you very much indeed. There were 2 questions on the Order Paper today, both from Jimmy Spratt, that is questions 1 and 2.

Mr Jimmy Spratt:

Q1 - To ask the Chief Constable to detail the number of sex attacks that have occurred in the South Belfast District in the (i) Donegall Road, Village, Sandy Row and the Donegall Pass areas; (ii) University and Holylands areas; (iii) elsewhere in South Belfast, in each of the last five years; and to ask the Chief Constable to provide the percentage clearance rate for these attacks.

Q2 - To ask the Chief Constable to detail what measures the PSNI have taken to increase visibility in areas of South Belfast where recent sex attacks have taken place.

Could I thank Detective Superintendent Baxter for the presentation that has just been given and it is reassuring to see how the PSNI are dealing with the situation. I think it is fair to say that over the past number of weeks the fact that a number of these incidents were reported in the South Belfast area did certainly increase fear certainly amongst the community. I attended a meeting of a Residents Association in the Holylands only the other night and certainly there is a considerable amount of fear about. I know that one of those reported rapes that was highly publicised, I understand, was in fact not a rape and was sensationalised as a rape at the start on the media. But there is a perception within the community in South Belfast, that particularly around the nightlife that people are not reassured that there is highly visible patrolling. I know the Chief Constable has given figures of officers at peak times within the city centre, but within the periphery areas, there certainly is a concern amongst the community and I think more reassurance needs to be given around the community policing aspect and the response to calls from the public. I think the public do need to be reassured and I think it is important that all of us and at anytime that I spoke I asked for any information whatsoever to be given to the police service and I think it is important that the police do that.

I understand the difficulties around sex offences and rape and how difficult it is, even for victims and I think that has been very well illustrated this morning by the Superintendent in what she said and that has always been a problem with all of these cases. But I would just ask the police to continue, I know Chief Constable you mentioned that there was additional resources, I think the public do need reassurance and they do need to be reassured that there will be a continuance of that highly visible policing, particularly during the peak night time spots around the city centre and in the early hours when people are travelling home.

Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Alistair Finlay:

Chairman, thank you. I am grateful for all the support that we can get regarding reporting and encouraging reporting to the police. The Member has asked for quite a

large amount of data in relation to crimes and I think we are agreed that will be dealt primarily in a written response to give that data.

Perhaps it might be helpful to take the headline figures of recorded rape within South Belfast. This year to date there has been 27 recorded crimes. Last year, the financial year 2007/08, it was 38, 2006/07 - 39, 2005/06 – 31, 2004/05 – 22 and 2003/04 – 32 so I think you can see there is no particular upsurge or much variation in those figures. Indeed, the figures for the year to date are in alignment with that which we have seen in the previous years.

In terms of prevention work, the Chief Constable has already mentioned the high visibility patrols that we are putting in place. Those are done in partnership with the city council and also I think it is important to discuss, or raise, that a multi agency group has been formed on the back of the increased fear of this particular crime and associated crimes in that particular area. The group has been formed with ourselves, the universities, the council, the District Policing Partnership, Victims Support, Community Safety Partnership and Women's Aid and with these partner agencies it is coming together jointly to see how best the fear of crime can be tackled in this particular area.

Belfast Community Safety Partnership also secured 2,000 personal attack alarms which are in the process of distribution to particular vulnerable groups and we have also distributed 5,000 personal safety leaflets in a targeted fashion in that particular area.

I hope the Board can be reassured that we take this increased fear of crime, a fear of crime that has been raised through the media and is disproportionate to what is a normal level of crime, albeit every crime is traumatic, and will be investigated fully, but we are taking all the measures to reduce and reassure the community that we are doing everything we possibly can to keep them safe at those particular times and in those particular areas where they feel most vulnerable.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Ms Martina Anderson.

Ms Martina Anderson:

Go raibh maith agat. Chief Constable, it came as no surprise to me that you decided to deploy TASER, I just would like to say in the week that we have had, 2 people being killed by TASER in Canada that my concern about this weapon continues to grow...

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Sorry, we are taking it on these questions. Supplementaries in a moment. I am dealing purely with rape crime.

Ms Martina Anderson:

Okay.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Would you get to the question then.

Ms Martina Anderson:

I found that presentation very powerful and quite significant, particularly in the amount of presentations that we get in this Board, I found that one very very useful.

There was a widely reported comment from a judge in Derry in relation to a particular rape case, whereby he says that the inexperienced officer, the junior officer, he was not actually criticising the junior officer but he said that it was not helpful to have an inexperienced junior officer dealing with such a case, and I would like to seek some reassurance that we would get a senior officer dealing with such cases.

Also, the Rape Crisis Units, I believe there are 3 perhaps D/Superintendent Baxter could confirm this across the North, one in Portadown, one in Belfast and the third in Ballymena. There are none at all in the North West and that is something that we are very concerned about in the North West. The LGBT community, especially to women, they believe that the vast majority of male rape attacker are carried out by unknown attackers, although they accept that the vast majority of male rape may not be reported. However, I know that there would be some statistics there in relation to the figures of male rape across the North and I do not expect D/Superintendent Baxter to have them with her today, but I would not mind getting access to that information.

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

I will ask D/Superintendent Baxter to deal with the detail. There is something I forgot to mention at the beginning, if any Board Member is interested in visiting the Rape Unit, I would commend it. It visited it recently, it is a group of the most highly motivated officers and in terms of your question around experience Ms Anderson, it ranges frankly from very experienced senior detectives through to junior detectives who are going through their CID training programme. Everyone is a volunteer and in my judgement it was a Unit that, as D/Superintendent Baxter has described, has an absolute commitment to delivery. I do not have sufficient, fully trained detectives to put across the peace. What you have is the right balance in my judgement in that group, who would of course build experience over time, but if D/Superintendent Baxter wants to touch on the detail. I am aware of the case, I have raised that particular case with the Lord Chief Justice personally.

Detective Superintendent Karen Baxter:

With regards to the first issue which was training, Ms Anderson. I would completely concur with what the Chief Constable has said there. We also have invested further, in that the trainee investigators that we have taken on in the last 6 to 7 months, we have provided them with extra training with regards to rape and specifically about rape. We are working with the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Working Group around rape about trying to establish some bespoke training. We have bespoke training which we have actually invested and brought in to meet and to fill that gap. We have worked and we are continuing to work with Crime Training about establishing bespoke training in-house, there will be a transitional phase for that, but we would anticipate that we will be able to deliver perhaps one of the first training programmes within the UK, probably in this financial year. Those are very early arrangements at the moment, but I cannot see the reason why they will not be delivered. We continue to look about giving trainee investigators every support and about trying to have informal support mechanisms within each of the offices.

You mentioned about the Rape Crime Units being located at Mahon Road, at Garnerville and at Ballymena, with our current estates that is where they ended up being for several reasons.

Belfast obviously has probably about 48 to 49% of rape overall and the Sexual Crime Suite at Garnerville obviously provides an additional facility there, it makes sense to have it in Belfast.

The Mahon Road suite we actually got from our Estate Services, the facility to have a Sexual Crime Suite. It is good that we are able to put our Rape Crime Unit close to that suite.

The Ballymena accommodation is there because it is what we have to some degree inherited. We are actively looking at how we can develop that, perhaps we are going to be looking over the next few years about moving that, but really it does fall down to budget and it will fall down to how we fit best with the needs of the north of the province.

We maintain a Sexual Crime Suite at Maydown. As you know we had additional investment in that suite, and at the moment I am actually trying to look and to update that further and I am in negotiation with our Estate Services with regards to that.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Mr Peter Weir.

Mr Peter Weir:

Thank you Chairman. Thank you for the presentation. I think certainly on this issue it would be one that the Board would be very much united, I am sure I speak for everyone hear when I say that we would see the creation of the Rape Crime Unit as something that would be a very positive development in tackling what is an appalling crime.

Could I ask, following on from the issue in terms of training? On the practical level, to what extent then will the Rape Crime Units be, if you like, taking the lead in each of these investigations? To what extent would they be in a position to effectively deal almost exclusively with the victim, because I think one of the concerns that would be raised would be, with the best will in the world, whatever level of general training is out there, clearly the Rape Crime Units will be reaching a situation in which the officers have a much greater depth of level of training. Obviously as indicated earlier, one of the major blockages in terms of the reporting of crime and dealing and securing of

convictions, are there sensitivities around the subject and in particular, the fear for victims of the trauma of reporting? So I wonder if you would comment just on that?

Secondly, if the Units are going effectively to give a lead in this area, while I appreciate that in most cases the rape situation will be effectively almost 'stand alone' crimes. There are occasions when rapes can be part of a wider crime. For example, this was a number of years ago, I had a constituent raise with me the issue where there was a burglary in their house, there was violence too, but as part of that burglary process they were raped and she did express concern over the difference in attitude between those officers that had, and again to be fair to the police, I think this was a crime reported from a number of years ago so it may not necessarily be the situation at present, but concerns in terms of the attitude from on the one side, the very helpful treatment she received from those officers who were trained in the rape side and in dealing with it, and she contrasted that perhaps with some of the response she got from some of the other members of the police. I am just wondering if you could comment in terms of that type of situation as to the level of involvement of the Rape Crime Unit in the presumably relatively unusual circumstances where the rape is part of a wider number of crimes more or less within the same period?

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

I will ask D/Superintendent Baxter to deal with that, but it is hard to comment on cases from many years ago but we can certainly give you reassurance in relation to your question.

D/Superintendent Karen Baxter:

The first part of the question was around taking the practical lead. The whole idea of actually setting up the Rape Crime Unit in the 3 locations was actually to take the investigations from cradle to grave, that there is one officer that is accountable and has ownership of that investigation. That generally develops a much better standard of service. You are quite right, the continuity with the victim is very important and that is one of the reasons why we actually have established the Units in the way that they have.

The other issue that you and again you are quite right, is about actually getting intelligence and getting reporting from people and increasing that reporting.

On the 9 October 2008 I met, as did all of my staff, with all of the voluntary agencies in Northern Ireland who would be involved around rape and we are looking at establishing a set of 'critical friends' to look at how best we can progress some of that.

We are already engaged with some of the organisations, for example Rainbow, Rape Crisis, Nexus and Women's Aid about trying to establish how we get that information through to us and that has already started to happen. So, we would anticipate that within the next 12 months we will have much stronger protocols about sharing that information in much more meaningful way.

With regards to rape in other types of crime, for example in burglary, the Rape Crime Units will deal with all adult rape where the victim is over 18 years old. If a child is raped and it is a familial setting, it would be dealt with by the Public Protection Units. In any situation like that, I would consider that we will be consulted and that the best form of investigation will actually be decided between the uniform officer who responds and the Rape Crime Unit.

With regards to the response by uniform officers or by officers who are outside of the Rape Crime Unit, we are also looking at training officers outside of the Rape Crime Unit in first response. We are looking at trying to develop notebooks and sets of guidance for those officers that will give them some guidance when they arrive at the scene of a rape because it is very very difficult to deal with. We were looking at enhancing the equipment that is available to them with regards to forensic recovery, and we are working with our District Commanders to see how best we can rollout some form of awareness with regard to rape.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

I have got 3 more questions in this area and I am going to take them, but I would encourage colleagues to try to be as succinct as possible. Alex Maskey.

Mr Alex Maskey:

Thank you Chairman. Thank you D/Superintendent Baxter for that very potent and timely presentation and it is and I want to recognise, a very very complex and difficult issue for people to deal with. I did take the trouble to go and talk to you and some of the senior police officers recently in South Belfast recently, so I hope that following that

discussion and other discussions since that, that we would have some understanding of at least some of the very wide range of complex issues associated with this, not least including the old question, of double victimisation of people depending on what the police or others might have to say.

I would want to disassociate from some of the more sensationalised media reportage of it. Nevertheless, I think I would want to take issue with the police on this matter of the media and awareness raising. I do believe, that recently there was a very serious vacuum created whenever the police, and for understandable reasons, and D/Superintendent Baxter you will know, I spoke to you at length about this, the police decided they would not be making any comment and I feel that over a number of days that created a very substantial and worrying public concern. My view was that that had to be addressed and really only the police could address that because the police could have at least put some factual context around some of these reported attacks. Again I know this is a matter for judgement and a matter for very serious consideration. I do welcome the fact that under D/Superintendent Baxter's own leadership there has been tremendous work being carried out on this whole area, in particular the outreach with the other organisations who will maybe help to shape public attitudes and strategies. So, I do believe that there has to be a sustained effort at making sure that the public is aware at the nature and the range, and indeed, the number of these types of attacks, because at least if people are more aware then may be more people would be more vigilant and more able to deal with it even in advance and, of course, particularly in the line of prevention. So, I would just make the point again, that I do think there has to be a sustained public effort made because, let us be honest about it, we are no.....

(Interruption)

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Question, Alex Maskey?

Mr Alex Maskey:

Sorry Chairman, I will get to what I have to say when I say it. I do not think it is really appropriate to be interrupted on a matter as important as this. I am not talking about yourself, you are chairing the meeting and that is your entitlement to do that. It is an important issue.

What I would want to be making the point of, that is to say there are very serious issues out there of public concern, particularly when we are dealing with the substantial number of unreported attacks, so if the public was concerned about the number of attacks which were reported, what is the public concern behind the scenes when they know that that is only perhaps a quarter of the actual reality? So, as I say, I want to commend D/Superintendent Baxter and for the leadership she has given, but I want to make the plea almost, can I get an assurance that there will be increasing efforts made to have a preventative strategy in place which involves given considerable public reassurance?

D/Superintendent Karen Baxter:

Thank you for your support, they are very kind words.

First of all what I would say is, that since our meeting which was approximately 2 to 3 weeks ago and that was a very difficult decision, both for C/Superintendent Hamilton and myself with regards whether we go to the media, whether we go public or whether we do not. The first thing that we had to look at was our responsibility to victims. Victims that were currently in the system, the victim around which the case that was actually in the media at that time was being talked about, and particularly around our responsibility to future victims, because if we actually dwell upon an issue of a false allegation, which is what the situation was at that point, it actually may cause some concerns with future victims.

So, probably it is actually wise for me to say, any victim of sexual crime must come forward and we would encourage you to come forward. Let none of the media that has happened discourage you from coming forward.

Secondly, what it has done, some of those discussions, is actually I suppose given us some food for thought and what we have done within our own media and public relations is actually established a strategy for the next 18 months with regards to how we deal with raising awareness, working with our partners and actually informing the public around rape. Also, in that there will be issues around raising awareness with those 70% to 80% of people who do not report, many of them in relationships. So, we are actively doing that at the moment and we have created that strategy and we would anticipate that you will see some of that starting in the next 3 months.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Brian Rea.

Mr Brian Rea:

Thank you Chairman. It is not for me to answer the Chief Constable's questions for him, but to make a comment. In relation to the question that is on the screen now from Jimmy Spratt, I had the opportunity on Halloween night to go out with Chief Inspector Robert Murdy on the 'Home Safe' operation. I was there at 10:30 in Musgrave Street police station when the briefing was given to his officers. We did a tour of all of the city centre hotspots. We were as far south in his Region as Finaghy. We were in Dee Street, we were in Holylands, we were up around the university and the Odyssey and I saw good high visibility policing. I saw police officers with an excellent relationship with the young people who were very high spirited and in different states of dress, being Halloween night of course. I believe that there was a lot of assurance and reassurance given to the public, including the young people who were out there having, in their mind, what was a good time.

The question that I simply want to ask is, in the light of the present financial circumstances can the Chief Constable reassure us that he will maintain that level of good policing in that type of situation?

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

First of all, can I thank you for taking the time to go out and see the front end, I do think it adds huge value to the understanding of how my officers operate, so thank you for doing that Mr Rea.

We will do our absolute best, of course we will, but we are facing as the Board is aware, a substantial issue around our budget for this year. The focus will be to maintain frontline service delivery at all costs, so wherever we can, we will not cut frontline service delivery, we are looking to all the back office issues for the want of a better description, to make those particular savings which we are going to have to make.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Mr Basil McCrea, the final question on this.

Mr Basil McCrea:

Can I thank D/Superintendent Baxter for what is the more powerful, most compelling and probably the most useful presentation that I have had since I joined the Policing Board. I do not think it should go unremarked on the fact, that this is an issue that many people find difficult talking about and I do think it was worthwhile the entrance to your presentation to actually bring it to mind.

I am particularly concerned, and in light of some of the conversations that we have had here, about this balance between public attitudes and looking after the victims or alleged victims. There certainly was a lot of information given out, particularly in terms of the balance of crimes in different districts at different times which dispels a lot of worries, but at the same time we have to find some way of communicating that. Now, you mentioned in the answers to some of the other folk, that you are developing a PR strategic, maybe you would just explain to me what are the protocols that you have established and how you do intend to take it forward?

Detective Superintendent Karen Baxter:

First of all, the strategy that we have developed and it has been developed within the last 3 weeks, and it is the first draft that is actually out, but we have had extensive discussions with our friends at ACPO and the Working Group for Rape and with other UK services. So, what we would anticipate doing and these are our plans, these are not completely finalised and I am tasked with a degree of finding the money. So, if there is anybody out there who would like to contribute and be partners with us in this, we are more than happy to work with any partner when it comes to that. But first of all, what we will have and we have already met with Queen's University to look at some of the issues around South Belfast, and particularly around students. We anticipate that between now and Christmas we will have some posters, some awareness and some information that is completely targeted at young people. Young men and young women because the messages are not same, and looking at how we can actually raise awareness for both of those types of groups.

In the long term strategy, I have also spoken to the Sexual Violence Strategy at the NIO because any strategy that we have must link in to the Sexual Violence Strategy, and what we anticipate is, that next year and over the next 18 months, we will look at different groups who are subject to rape, some of those will be the subject of domestic

rape and domestic abuse, some of those will be young men, some of those will be young women. Some will be with regards to community safety and we will work with our community safety partners internally and externally to establish the messages that we want to put out. It is important that we put a very consistent message out and it is co-ordinated, because it can easily become quite confused. That is where the work is actually going to be, but that is a very rough idea over the next 18 months of where we are going.

We would hope also to try and raise awareness around perhaps looking at some sort of public forum in the New Year.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Can I say Chief Constable, I think there would be value in combining some of the comments that you made in this area about what is being done, in particular in South Belfast, with some of what was said in the presentation here today as a press release. It seems to me that would be of value in the current situation.

Members have expressed their appreciation Chief Constable to D/Superintendent Baxter for her presentation and I believe that they have spoken for all of us. Thank you very much indeed.

Could I, in the order in which your report Chief Constable, question 13 this was on a 'home coming' parade and it is in the name of Mr Ian Paisley Jnr.

Q13 - To ask the Chief Constable to report on the policing of the Armed Forces Home Coming Parade?

Mr Ian Paisley Jnr:

I think Chief Constable you did give some indication yesterday about this, but I would welcome any other details you can give the Board.

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

I will ask ACC Finlay who ran the operation to comment, thank you.

Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Alistair Finlay:

Thank you very much. The policing of the 'home coming' parade was indeed large and complex, but I think as the Chief Constable emphasised in his opening remarks, the most important factor in this was the dialogue that we had with those people organising parades, particularly community leaders who brought influence over everybody who was coming into the city centre or main groups coming into the city centre and allowed it, in the main, to go off peacefully. Our role was to provide an appropriate control measure round about that which is what we sought to do given the risks that were presented to us and the heightened tensions beforehand.

In terms of the actual policing of the event, as the Chief Constable mentioned, we had just under 1,000 officers deployed but the event was not just confined or the policing of the event was not just confined to the Belfast area, this in fact was an operation that spanned right across the province. Given the number of people that were travelling relatively far distances to come to the event on the day.

Current costs are somewhere in the region of £425,000. It is £425,000 that we would have spent doing other things, but for we had the issues of the parade and the protest to deal with. While largely the day was regarded as successful, people came into the city centre, the parades and protests were allowed to continue and then everyone dispersed fairly quickly. We are aware that it was not entirely without incident. Those incidents are being reviewed and investigated, and in particular I know there will be disappointment in terms of the people who gained access to the scaffolding in Fisherwick Place. That is an area that is under review and certainly, if people thought we fell short of the mark in that respect, yes they would be right. We were disappointed that it happened and we have some learning to gain out of that, but I think that was the most significant element in that particular day. But it was the combined efforts of everybody involved, from community leaders, politicians and the control measures that we put in place through policing and high visible policing that allowed that event to go off peacefully.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Could there be arrests arising from the young people on the scaffolding and some of them covering their faces etc?

Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Alistair Finlay:

There were 3 arrests on the day and there are further enquiries ongoing in respect of evidence that was gathered on the day, video evidence and a range of other evidence collected. We are making further enquiries with a view to, where appropriate, reporting people to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) for consideration of charge.

Mr Ian Paisley Jnr:

Thank you, that has been very helpful and I appreciate the answer.

First of all, can I thank the police for policing it. I think it is important to put that on the record. Obviously, it was a difficult situation that was emerging and once again you were in the middle of what could have been a very very difficult set of circumstances and thank your officers for the work which they did. I think when a nation wants to express its gratitude to its military it should be able to do that without the fear of being molested, but nonetheless, I am thankful that by and large the 'home coming' parades were carried off without incident.

I know there was a fairly serious bomb scare at the Larne demonstration. I do not know if you are able to tell us anything else about part of the protest in West Belfast that your officers had to move in on which may have been an illegal protest, I do not know if you are able to give us any further information on that, but I do want to publicly thank the police for making those efforts. I would also say that the cost of this operation, almost £500,000 surely must be a very telling lesson to public representatives, that if they want on the one hand talk about having greater police control and greater support for the police, and then on the other hand create circumstances which put the police to such great expense, and which affects the budget in such a direct way, that may be that should make them reflect upon calling people out onto the streets, especially at a time whenever they are calling to have control for the police budget.

Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Alistair Finlay:

Thank you. In terms of illegal parade, Members will be aware of the parade or the illegal formation of people in the Divis area forming under the banner of the Eirigi organisation and that was subject to enquiry. I am not aware of any other illegal event or parade surrounding the notification of the parade and protest elsewhere in the city.

Otherwise, in terms of the Larne 'home coming' parade, that was delayed for a short time due to the planned security action, the detection of a possible device which was dealt with by army technical officers and found to be a hoax. Similarly, there was one on the railway line nearby, which was also found to be a hoax. Those inconvenienced the parade and delayed the parade and those wishing to support it until such times those could be dealt with, but it was dealt with in a relatively short time.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Mr Alex Maskey.

Mr Alex Maskey:

Thank you Chairman. Certainly clearly Chairman, there will not be a corporate view around this table as to the rights and wrongs of last week. I am not going to waste the Board's time today rehearsing an argument which has been had and probably will still be had in the time ahead, but if people want to have parades and people want to have protests then they have a right to do that and I certainly will stand by that 100%. I think, certainly in my mind, this is a very important lesson because the policing operation itself I think went a long way to contribute to making sure that we had a fairly good day, if I can call it that in relative terms, and notwithstanding the tension that was there. The police themselves, and I appreciate this, have recognised here this morning, that a lot of people were involved in very detailed ongoing discussions to ensure that the events went off peacefully and in a dignified fashion.

You have of course acknowledged yourselves that there was a big problem around the scaffolding and people getting access to that. There were a number of people injured as a result of missiles being thrown from there and I spoke to an elderly gentleman myself who received an injury himself on the day and another young girl. But notwithstanding that, and lessons have to be learned, I just cannot understand how that was actually omitted. It was not planned for, but nevertheless, overall the message coming out from the police and everybody else involved in these events was in the first instance saying, well these parades are entitled to go ahead, if you want to acknowledge that, I do not necessarily want to do that myself, but nevertheless there was a parade, there were protests. Certainly the protests that my party was involved in was a substantial number of relatives. It did what it said it would do, it was organised, it was peaceful, it was dignified, it went ahead as planned, in my opinion very very rightly

so, but at the end of the day the policing operation, because the policing operation was sensitive to those rights and in my opinion it was a good example of where these things can be managed and need to be managed, in the time ahead with respect to the right to either parade or protest.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

David Rose.

Mr David Rose:

I would be interested to know whether you felt that the operation, which went well, shows that as a society we are improving our managements of these situations or it actually exposes the truth of how deep our divisions still are?

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

I think it is a good question. I think in broad terms I think it was a success as we quite properly reflected, because everyone realised it was important for all sorts of different reasons and took responsibility for their bit of the day and I think, as we said, people should be commended for that. I am grateful for ACC Finlay's comments. I do think a lot of consideration went into the policing operation to make sure it was proportionate and I think that was a critical element of the success. Our task of course is to police that which is legally allowed, and in that case the determinations were clear that people had those equal rights and we did our best to walk down the middle and to respect everybody's right to protest and to march and I think we pulled it off.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Two questions and we are going to move to the next part of your statement Chief Constable on budget cuts, questions 5 and 6 if they could be put on the screen and they come from the Chairman of the Resources and Improvement Committee, Dolores Kelly.

Q 5 - Would the Chief Constable advise the Board on the up to date financial position for the PSNI in relation to the current financial year?

Q6 - Can the Chief Constable detail the effects of the budgetary cuts on frontline policing and also detail what impacts the budgetary cuts are likely to have?

Mrs Dolores Kelly:

Thank you Chairman. Chief Constable, if I could just ask you in opening to confirm that the PSNI in conjunction with the Policing Board over the past 3 years have delivered efficiency savings of £70m and I can assure you Chief Constable, and I am sure it comes as no surprise to you, that the Board totally refuted and were dismayed at the comments by the Security Minister, Paul Goggins in recent days.

Chairman, I have a number of questions in addition to that because the Chief Constable has touched on some of those in earlier responses, but could the Chief Constable tell the public at large how much in terms of reserves that the PSNI are allowed to carry over on a year by year basis in comparison to forces in Great Britain?

Could I ask the Chief Constable how much additional funding the NIO provided for the police to resource public inquires?

Could I ask the Chief Constable, in terms of HET and the outworkings and investigations required under Operation Ballast, how much have the NIO handed over, or indeed defaulted on?

Could I ask the Chief Constable, in particular, the impact that the budgetary cuts are likely to have on frontline policing in particular and in the delivery, for example of new stations such as those planned for Downpatrick, Cookstown and I think Ballymoney?

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

I think Peter Weir has a question that he would like to add to that, it is under question 21, but you have got a list there Chief Constable but if you could add his as well.

Q21 - To ask the Chief Constable what consideration has been given to maintain the Full-Time Reserves, and to maximise police resources, given the increase in dissident republican activity.

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

If I can deal with the first part of Dolores Kelly's question, I will ask ACC Jones to do some of the detail. I think Chairman, we are working flat out since the pressures have been brought to our attention, due to statements outwith our control. Because my primary duty as Chief Constable, is to come in on budget, it is a legal obligation to deliver a balanced budget because it is quite proper, it is public money.

In terms of reserves, we are of course a unique police budget. We are a Treasury line and I think it is right, looking at today we have no facility to carry over reserves.

Director of Finance and Support Services, Mr David Best:

GB forces recommend it is 3% of your budget, if you apply that to our budget that is about £30m we should be carrying forward and GB forces all work to build up that balance. The last couple of years we were allowed ½% and 2 years ago we did not carry forward anything, but last year we were allowed to carry forward £12m.

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

It is very small beer.

Mr Dolores Kelly:

Sorry Chief Constable, surely it is the case though that we are not allowed to carry forward 3% on a year by year basis.

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

That is correct.

Director of Finance and Support Services, Mr David Best

The maximum and this was just last year. Six months ago, the NIO indicated we could carry forward up to £14m and for a short period, we were not allowed to carry anything, but we are now allowed to carry up to £14m.

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

Which of course is nowhere near to 3%.

Director of Finance and Support Services, Mr David Best:

Which is well below the 3%.

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

In terms of additional funding for inquiries. The Historic Enquires Team (HET) as Members will be aware, was separate funding which we went to Government for, £32m over a fixed period of time, so that is outwith the police budget. We have had no funding to service inquiries announced, post 2002, so the current public inquiries and the huge amount of work required by us to provide the raw material, which quite properly we are legally obliged to provide in a timely fashion, has fallen on this budget, it was a pressure we had to absorb.

In relation to new work undertaken by the HET because of its independent status in Operation Ballast, we sought to bring forward £2m of the HET money to bring it forward a year to allow us to carry that work. It is work already underway and I was advised, as early as this morning, that that is no longer going to be allowed. So, we have to manage that and I have a meeting with my Historic Enquires Team's senior management as a matter of urgency just to work out what we do, because that is work underway and it is a public commitment to deliver it.

If I can deal with Peter Weir's question in relation to Full-Time Reserve and then I will ask David Best to summarise the detail of the areas we are facing.

Of course the Full-Time Reserve is currently being phased out in keeping with our last review which is to be completed by 31 March 2011. There is no budget. The assumption has been made that that will take place.

Chairman, when the last review took place, of course we were in a different place. The threat from a very small number of people, which is hugely disproportionate to their ability, of course has caused some real concerns around security of our officers. We of course now police with no military whatsoever. Huge saving in governmental terms, or huge opportunity to move resources from military to do what military do. They no longer support civilian policing, quite properly.

I am looking at bringing forward the next review of Full-Time Reserve so we can have a very sensible and thoughtful discussion, certainly in areas ACC Gillespie commands around the current level of threat, so if anything, the Full-Time Reserve could become an additional pressure rather than anything else, but it is too early to say yet. There is no budget within our current budget line after 2011.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Chief Constable, could I ask you just going back to question 6 maybe you could say something about that because that will be the concern of the wider community?

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

That is exactly where I am going now. I will ask David Best just to cover in brief terms those particular headline issues Chairman. We have agreed of course to come and brief you in detail at the next Finance and Resources Committee.

Director of Finance and Support Services, Mr David Best:

Picking up the overall pressure for the current year which is the immediate problem. The Chief Constable has referred to a number of issues, I do not think I need to repeat them, that are largely outside our control. The overall pressure this year was £46m. We have identified easements in contributing that in reducing it down to £25m and I referred to the carry forward of £10 - £12m, that is part of that that we saved in the preceding year.

The cuts which we are looking at are considerable. I think I should just highlight, if one were to make a point, that we had a budget of say £1.1 billion which adds up to £3.3 billion over 3 years, we would really need to look at the issue of what is in, and I would just make the point, a lot of those costs are fixed. I will use the example of our budget this year, just short of £1.2 billion. £418m relates to pensions and severance which we have absolutely no control over. £540m relates to primarily police officers and the 7,500 which is a fixed cost. Now, normally a business who face the reductions we are facing, would look at that and that is a difficult one for us.

We have some other areas like depreciation which are not real costs and you are left with £170m. We have already spent half of that in the first 6 months, so when you apply a £24m reduction to that in the last 5 months of the year, that is an incredibly

difficult challenge for the Police Service and that is what we are looking at. When you look into the future years, the pressure that we have looked at, it is about £130m plus. We have got big issues to look at here as to what is going to happen to the following years budget if these pressures are still there and there is no additional funding.

Just going on to the issue of the second question of what is the impact and particularly in frontline policing was the question. Our focus and I think the Chief Constable has already referred to the fact that we have focused on the 'back room' jobs as it were in achieving these savings and maybe initially there is not seen to be a big impact on frontline policing, but what we are doing is going into our infrastructure and one might make the point that we could be mortgaging our future. A good example of that is with our ICS work on Patten. We were hoping to bring our ICS up to the standards of other police forces and good standards and we have now had to cut back on that.

Some of the areas, training, we are planning to take £1.5m out of our training budget which has implications for frontline policing. We are curtailing some activities in public inquiries and the issue of public confidence comes in there. We have already referred to ICS, we have actually cut, what I referred to, not huge sums of money but significant enough, local initiative budgets which have been very useful in providing services to local the community, that has had to go. We are also having to delay a number other pressures, say on the estates, the building programmes that we have been referred to which will be pushed forward into future years. Maybe another one is occupational health, maybe having to cut back in the services there. That is getting police officers back to work from sickness sooner rather than later and that potentially could have an impact on sickness.

Capital programmes I have referred to. If we take out all of these which we have looked at, we still have pressures about £8m and we are going to have to look as a service at the option at the police numbers again.

The last point maybe I would refer to; our budget was top sliced itself at the start of the year. There is £20m in reserve but it appears we will not be able to bid for that.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Can we leave it there?

Director of Finance and Support Services, Mr David Best:

I think that covers it.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

There was a brief supplementary from Peter Weir.

Mr Peter Weir:

I welcome the remarks in terms of the Full-Time reserve in terms that the situation has changed and you will be doing a further review. I was wondering are you in a position at this stage to give an indication as to what you see as the ballpark timescale for that review.

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

I was talking about bringing it forward to the end of this year rather than starting it next year. It gives us more time to have a more thoughtful look at how we manage the security situation so our colleagues can deliver community policing, which is a commitment, and confident that they are being protected as best they can in the circumstances they currently face.

Assistant Chief Constable, Mrs Judith Gillespie:

I think it is also important to add just in relation to the here and now, that there is a review ongoing of the location of current Full-Time Reserve officers to match the numbers of officers against the threat, and the Police Federation are fully involved in that review as well.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Brief question, Dolores Kelly.

Mrs Dolores Kelly:

I think this is the most strategic and I do not think it is an understatement to say that it is a financial crisis for both the Board and the PSNI, so I think it is probably the most, notwithstanding some of the early discussions, one of the most important issues before the Policing Board today.

Just to summarise Chairman, if my understanding is right, we have to find £24m out of £80m over the next 5 months. Chairman, just to reiterate the fact that the equal pay claim and other claims, some of which have to do with the legacy of the past, we are actually putting a £43m cost into next year's budget of a saving that we will have to find next year as well as the £40m cost we are expected to find next year, so make no mistake about it, this is a real crisis facing the Board and the PSNI.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Do you concur with that statement, Chief Constable?

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

Yes, I think it is a very serious issue. That having being said, we still have a lot of money put into policing in Northern Ireland, and we will continue to deliver an effective service within the budget we have got. The unique difference here, which I touched on in the private session, of course is the commitment to 7,500 police officers. Fellow Chief Officers routinely manage their budget fluctuation by turning on and off their recruiting tap and that is something which, quite frankly, is going to have to be part of the discussion on the 21 November 2008.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Can I take you to questions on Policing with the Community, question 3, Mr Maskey.

Q3 - The Policing with the Community Policy states "if the transition from philosophy to operational practice is to be realised fundamental changes are required to the structure and culture of the police organisation". In light of this would the Chief Constable outline for the Board the specific changes he has introduced to the culture of PSNI in order to ensure the effective delivery of Policing with the Community?

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

I will ask ACC McCausland to deal with this. Chairman, I am aware that there is a day that has been put aside with the Community Engagement Committee to discuss this in detail, but I will ask ACC McCausland to deal with some of the headline issues that have arisen.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Question 4 is also with this.

Q4 - To ask the Chief Constable what measures he has introduced, relating both to culture and to operational delivery, in order to ensure that Policing with the Community is the core policing activity of the PSNI's Tactical Support Groups and Crime Operations Department and in particular what actions he has taken in the last year in order to mainstream Policing with the Community as the core policing activity within PSNI?

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

Yes, I understand that.

Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Duncan McCausland:

Chairman, if I specifically deal with question 3 then my colleagues in the 2 Regions and Crime Operations can give specific examples in relation to the answer to question 4.

The Chief Constable has already said, and I have had a number of discussions with the Community Engagement Committee in relation to potentially refreshing the Policing with the Community Strategy, and we have agreed a day when the Board will join with us to look at this, and the idea would be in the future, that the new Policing with the Community Strategy will be a joint ownership between the Board and ourselves.

But to specifically answer the question raised here today, structural changes and work carried out through the principles of Policing with the Community, have provided the catalyst for the change in culture and change in mindset of the organisation which is referred to in the question.

The principles of the Policing with the Community are central to all our policing issues and debates, as well as determining local policing practices. Thus, we are moving away from, and have moved away from, the reactive security base of 5 years ago to a proactive, preventative and consultative organisation which I know Members have seen and do see regularly when they out on visits.

In terms of some of the structural changes. The work carried out through the CORE and the LINKS project, for example placing TSGs, Roads Policing within Operational Support, but deployable using the National Intelligence Model to support primarily the Districts and the implementation of the Neighbourhood Policing Framework within the Districts, taking service delivery to neighbourhood levels. This stresses the importance of policing with the community as the preferred style of policing. These structural changes are ongoing in relation to Headquarters structures, which have already been mentioned by Members of the Board, and are fully cognisant of the policing with the community principles.

I would remind the Board of what those principles are; service delivery, partnership, problem solving, empowerment and accountability. In addition, we now have restructured the National Intelligence Model to include, not just prevention, intelligence and enforcement, but also the major issue of reassurance which was referred to by D/Superintendent Karen Baxter in relation to her comment and raised by Board Members.

The principles of Policing with the Community form part of the decision making process when deciding policy throughout the organisation, including training. Joe Stewart, in the Northern Ireland Police College and Probationer training in Maydown, now integrate Policing with the Community principles throughout their entire initial training. Probationers also spend time during the probation period with the neighbourhood teams which was a key element raised by Patten in terms of some of his recommendations.

Joint training of neighbourhood officers has been completed with Crime Support Department, Criminal Justice Department and Crime Operations Department, ensuring neighbourhood policing is not seen in isolation, but as an integral part of the whole organisation. These Departments do not work in silos but see Policing with the

Community as a key element of their functioning. Neighbourhood police officers are seen as a specialist post and they have a separate role profile, enhanced training will commence in the next financial year of these officers. A previous neighbourhood officer beat course is being revamped and in effect re-emphasising the principles of policing with the community.

I have already referred to those 5 principles. I mean in terms of service delivery, legislation for example, human rights and equality legislation is seen through all aspects of service delivery ensuring that legislation is fully compliant, both internally and externally with what the organisation provides in terms of reflecting a service delivery to the community we serve which reflects the policing with the community principles.

Chairman, what I will do is, due to the nature of time I will skip some of my answers and if you are content I will write it the Chairperson of the Community Engagement Committee.

Partnership and problem solving are integral and are integral parts of the work that we do, particularly with DPPs and the introduction of partners and Community Together meetings which the Board are aware of.

In terms of empowerment, the work that DPPs and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) do at District level, and for example, the Policing with the Community awards which this Board supports is a recognition of the empowerment and the partnership work that we do in the community.

In terms of accountability, what we are sitting here today doing, is this Board holding us to account as happens at local District level with the DPPs and right down now to neighbourhood levels.

In relation then to specific issues that were raised in question 4, I would refer then to my 2 Regional colleagues and to ACC Crime Operations, but the emphasis must be made that we gave a commitment in 2002 to refresh the Policing with the Community policy, we are now going to refresh that with the Board being an integral part and partner in taking that forward that we will have a joint policy and strategy to implement together. I would suggest we have come a long long way in the last 6 years and we have

continued that commitment to policing with the community, which remember is a style of the entire service, it is not just something that you do in neighbourhoods.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Could I ask for written responses to questions 3 and 4?

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

I would like to thank ACC McCausland for his presentation.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Thank you very much.

Vice Chairman, Mr Barry Gilligan:

Could I make a very brief point Chairman? It refers back to the last discussion. I, together with a number of Members were in Lisburn earlier this week where we met the neighbourhood policing teams, and there are some great examples of good practice going on there.

One thing, it seems to me it would be very simple to extend that throughout a number of districts. I am not sure that is happening on the ground. But the other point that was made was that in terms of the initiative of underage drinking that there was a direct correlation between the impact of that and the resources available to them were going into police overtime to allow police interaction with communities, so I am concerned that the pressures on resources that we have identified earlier will have a disproportionate affect on policing with the community. Would you agree with that Chief Constable?

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

Not if we can help it. But the reality is, the numbers are stark and discussed already and as I have said we have to take a long hard look at where the bulk of the money is and 82% of our budget or thereabouts is in people. Anyone who runs a business knows that cannot be a fixed when other things change around, but our determination is to maximise the capacity at the frontend and save anywhere else we possibly can. It is also worth of course remembering we have already built in substantial cuts and delivered substantial cuts over the last 5 or 6 years and come in on budget every single year, so we take our budget very seriously. What is different this time was that within a

period of a small number of days, a number of additional exterior pressures came in which we are now having to absorb, but my job is clear as is the Board's, we have to deliver a balanced budget.

Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Duncan McCausland:

In terms of best practice sharing, we have regular meetings with the neighbourhood units in terms of forums to allow them to express and share the best practices of the examples that you had in Lisburn. In fact the Operation Snapper that we introduced to deal with alcohol and young people was primarily piloted in Lisburn back in February 2008 but it was financed by Home Office money which we were able to successfully bid for.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Alex Maskey. Could I ask Members, succinct questions please.

Mr Alex Maskey:

Thank you Chairman. As you know, both of the last questions were dealt with on behalf of the Community Engagement Committee, so this is part of our ongoing theme. I want to thank ACC McCausland for his exhaustive if not exhausting response and we certainly will come back to it. As the Chief Constable said, we have already a day planned in the near future, because obviously the core element of the work of the Committee itself, and indeed this Board and the police themselves, is to try to make sure that we convey a very important message to the general public. What we are about is delivering a tailor made area by area policing service that people can have confidence in and give support to. Obviously neighbourhood policing and policing with the community, as a policy, is a core element of delivery of that, so I thank ACC McCausland for his response and acknowledgement that we have a lot of work yet to do on that.

Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Duncan McCausland:

Being brief, thank you.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Question 7, this is in the name of Ms Anderson.

Q7 - To ask the PSNI Chief Constable to explain why in response to questions concerning the award of contracts during the period 1999 to 2004 by the PSNI to Jamesons and John Sinton Limited:

- (a) (i) *the PSNI indicated last year that the value of all contracts was £320k; and*
- (ii) *the PSNI revealed this year that the actual value of all contracts awarded was approximately £5m.*
- (b) *To ask the PSNI Chief Constable to state what concerns have been raised with him by Mr Paul McIlwaine, father of murdered Portadown teenager David McIlwaine, about the award of these contracts and what he has done to assuage any concerns or investigate any allegations which Mr McIlwaine has brought to his attention?*

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

I see that the question is on the board. I have met with Martina Anderson and Alex Maskey to discuss this in detail, and what was absolutely clear is more work needs to be done to get right to the bottom of some of the issues and concerns that were quite properly raised in the question.

In terms of one thing I can deal with with absolute clarity here and apologise and I have already had this conversation with Martina Anderson. The initial information sent in response to the question said that £320,000 worth of business had been sent to those 2 particular firms, the correct figure was £5m. What happened was that one firm's costs were forwarded rather than both and I apologise for any difficulty caused by that initially incorrect answer. Deputy Chief Constable Paul Leighton has already written correcting that figure as soon as it was found.

In relation to other matters that have come out of that, as a result of discussions I have had, I have agreed to have further meetings with Martina Anderson and Alex Maskey, and indeed with Mr McIlwaine to discuss any particular concerns he has had, in the near future. I am looking at a full review of a policy around how we vet firms bidding for business in the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Ms Martina Anderson:

Excuse me.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Sorry, go on ahead.

Ms Martina Anderson:

Thank you. Chief Constable, I do acknowledge that you spoke to Paul McIlwaine this morning and Paul McIlwaine is here with us today. As you know he has campaigned relentlessly for the truth about the murder of his son and Andrew Robb, as have many families I now also acknowledge that Mark Thompson from Relatives for Justice is here. But this is the third attempt that I have tried to get to the bottom of this, and I do acknowledge that you have said that you are going to come back with further information on this.

Just so I am right in understanding what you are saying and the generality of it, are there firms that maybe have secured lucrative contracts that had they have gone through, the firms that is, the generality of firms, had they have gone through the procurement or the vetting process, that they may not have all secured the contracts and the changes that you are wanting to bring into the policy will result in perhaps firms as opposed to just individuals on site.

Also, and I do not know if you will be able to answer this today, but Paul McIlwaine obviously he does believe that in terms of complete investigation into this murder has been, in many respects, frustrated by what he believes is to shield state agents. Now, if we bring this up to very current incidents, something that has happened in our life time, in terms of our period on this Board, that his victim impact statement was not the victim impact statement that he recorded, so there was some tampering had went on with that statement before it was handed over to the judge, and either that was done by the PSNI, PPS, either or, or both. So, just in terms of the role of the PSNI with regards to the inaccuracy of the statement that was given to the judge in the trial of Burkin, could you investigate whether there was any PSNI involvement in that or not?

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

It is the first I have heard of this Chairman and I will certainly take a look at it.

In relation to the other issue, I cannot say yet what the change in policy will mean, but what it does mean is that I am looking at it and I am taking a personal interest in this as a result of information that I had discussed with you at our meeting.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Question 8 in the name of Peter Weir.

Q8 - To ask the Chief Constable what has been his involvement in the establishment of the West Belfast Community Safety Forum?

Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Alistair Finlay:

Thank you Chairman. In respect of the West Belfast Community Safety Forum, police have been involved in the West Belfast Community Safety Forum since its inception earlier on this year. Strategically, we were involved in the initial planning process however, local representation is the Community Safety Superintendent and there are various sub-groups associated with the forum which also have local police involvement.

Geographically, the Neighbourhood Inspectors would be involved in the sub-groups which are located in the Upper Falls and the Upper Springfield areas and they feed, as a conduit, into the larger forum. My understanding is that the forum has recently been able to appoint a facilitator funded by the NIO Community Safety Unit.

Mr Peter Weir:

Briefly, can I ask what level of co-ordination there has been between the police and the DPP on this issue because I have had some concerns expressed by some DPP members that they have been seeking more information on this, what level of co-ordination has there been between the police and the DPP on this?

Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Alistair Finlay:

I think there was initial co-ordination but I am not aware of anything coming from the DPP to me regarding particular concerns of the police involvement in it, but I am certainly happy to take that away.

Mr Peter Weir:

To be fair, that is not what they were saying. I think they were seeking and I think to be fair they had contacted the Minister in relation to this. I think they felt that on a number of things that they were seeking further information on and that perhaps some members of the DPP certainly had a feeling that they were not as fully in the loop and were seeking clarification on a range of issues in relation to it. It is important, that if groups are going to be established, that there is joined-up processes in relation to it I think that is the problem rather than particular opposition to it.

Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Alistair Finlay:

I will certainly have to go away and have a look at it and see if I can revert with a more fuller answer.

Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Duncan McCausland:

If I can answer and help in relation to my former life. The DPP members actually sit on that forum so the West Belfast Sub-Group is very actively involved and there are full DPP members there, and the Chief Superintendent for the area gives a regular briefing both to the sub-groups and also to the Belfast DPP because the Board will remember, there is a layered approach in Belfast.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

But as you are also aware, it took some arguing to achieve that.

Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Duncan McCausland:

Again Chairman, you are aware and the Vice Chairman will be aware, you were present when we had that debate with officials of the NIO and we pushed through that the Board had to be a key lead in relation to the process.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Question 9 is from Mr Basil McCrea, it speaks for itself.

Q9 - Following a recent incident in Belfast where a woman was contacted by the police and asked to check for a body outside her house in Irwell Court. Can the Chief Constable explain the PSNI policy on officers contacting members of the public to seek assistance; and also confirm that the householder in question has since been contacted by the local police to provide an explanation to her?

Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Alistair Finlay:

There is no policy regarding the contacting of members of the public. A commonsense approach must be adhered to each situation and will have different factors.

In this case, the early Duty Sergeant spoke to the householder, thanked her, explained the urgency of the particular situation that had been found at that time. It maybe needs clarification, at no time was she asked or told to leave the safety of her home to expose herself to any potential danger or to contaminate any possible crime scene. She apparently understood this and again was thanked for her assistance, but if there is inconvenience that has been caused and upset that has been cause, again I would apologise for that.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Supplementary.

Mr Basil McCrea:

That is not quite really good enough, is it though? If you phone up somebody and ask them to take a look out the window, there is every likelihood that they will then go outside the door to find out what is going on, thereby putting themselves in some harm potentially. If the big concern was that the police were worried about the level of threat, they should have been aware of that, and I really do think that you need to come up with a better set of protocols and policies before you actually start to engage with the public like that. I would ask, because it was part of the question, have either you or the Chief Constable spoken directly to this woman involved, because I think she is owed an apology.

Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde:

I will deal with that. No, I have not Chairman and I do not think ACC Finlay has, it has been dealt with by the local officer. We cannot plan for everything. On occasions and you read in the papers all the time, we do not get right all of the time. I am sure this was done for the best of intentions, it was not the best idea. If we are going to bring individual instances to the strategic planning group of the Board so be it, but I will have to have an awful lot more officers here. I would have happily brought them had I known it was a matter of such concern I would have brought the local Inspector to explain what has been done.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Mr McCrea, I believe you were frustrated by not being called in terms of the budget, you can ask your question now.

Mr Basil McCrea:

It is alright Chairman. I think we have passed on from that. I appreciate being called but can I just say since you were gracious enough to say, part of the issue Chief Constable about having a public meeting like this, is so that we can bring issues up. This is an issue of public confidence, it is worth raising and I do think and I absolutely accept because I have spoken to the local officers, done for the best possible reasons, nevertheless, it did cause something of a stir in the local community and on that basis I think that maybe we might have found a better way of handling it, but not to take up any more time, we have exchanged our views on that and may be somebody would be able to pick up on it after the meeting.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Two questions relating to lost or misplaced material and/or weapons, questions 11 and 12 in the name of Mr McKay.

Q 11 - To ask the Chief Constable if between 2005 - 08 the PSNI has lost or misplaced material which contained confidential information or information relating to members of the public?

Q12 - To ask the Chief Constable how many PSNI officers have been disciplined for losing or misplacing weapons from 2005 – 08 and to indicate what rank they hold?

Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Paul Leighton:

Chairman, if I could take question 11 first which relates to confidential information or information relating to members of the public. We have no material which was classified as confidential which has been misplaced or lost during this period, but there is information which did relate to members of the public and could be viewed as confidential, although it was not officially classified as such. This mainly relates to police notebooks and over the period of 1 January 2005 to 20 October 2008, 6 police notebooks have been misplaced or lost. Four of those we know were lost in the public domain, 2 we believe were lost within police stations. We have no further information because we have not recovered those as yet. What information was in the police notebooks obviously could have pertained to members of the public.

There is also one instance where a bag containing various forms, force orders and manual amendments as well as an RUC journal, and journals are kept by officers in Detective status or above Inspector level, fell from a police van and was recovered. So, there are 6 police notebooks not recovered in that period.

There were again, during the period from 2005 – 2008 lost of misplaced weapons, there have been 2 lost weapons, both of which have been recovered, both were PPWs. One was lost in a supermarket by a member of staff, it was located very quickly in the toilets by members of staff from the supermarket and the officer received appropriate treatment from Professional Standards Department (PSD) after that.

One was thought to be stolen from a home address and was reported as such, but a further search recovered it at the home address, so it was never actually stolen.

A third weapon was believed to be in a locker by a member retiring and he told us it was in the locker. When we searched the locker we could not find it there, therefore it was reported misplaced, but after some further thought we were able to locate it after the member remembered where he had put it. So, there were 3 weapons in that period, one inside a police station, one inside a supermarket and one inside a home

address, all of those weapons have been recovered and all officers have been dealt with.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Daithí McKay.

Mr Daithí McKay:

Thank you Chairman, and can I thank Deputy Chief Constable Leighton for his answer.

Obviously this is an issue of public concern, because there have been a number of high profile cases involving other public agencies where information has gone amiss and has been quite embarrassing, so it is quite important that there is robust procedures in place to ensure that this does not happen again.

Could I welcome the fact that the Chief Constable has already given me assurance that more detail will be forwarded onto me in regard to this case which came out in the media in the past couple of weeks.

Could I ask the Deputy Chief Constable to outline what disciplinary procedures are already in place to deal with cases like this, where weapons and confidential information do go amiss and if he believes those procedures are robust enough at this present moment in time?

Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Paul Leighton:

Thanks very much for the comments. One of the reasons that we have not been involved in anything to do with memory sticks or CDs is, that our computer systems by and large, do not allow those sorts of things to be attached to the computer system. It is a security device that we have employed throughout a number of years, so there are not loads of memory sticks and CDs about there to be lost, we have not got any of those so that is one of the reasons.

The discipline procedures are all based on the Code of Ethics and officers are dealt with according to the incident. So, if an officer reports her or his weapon stolen within their house, that weapon is later located in the house and it has never been stolen, the

officer will receive probably in my estimation, advice and guidance would be the way that we would phrase it under discipline, as to better care of their weapon. In the supermarket incident, obviously there would be further steps taken.

With regards to misplaced information, the loss of a police notebook obviously is a disciplinary offence, just the same as anything else and they would be dealt with according to the circumstances in which they lost it. If it was ripped from them during a public order disturbance, that would be very different from if they had just carelessly misplaced it, so it would be dealt with according to each individual circumstance, and all the officers in these cases have been dealt with according to the procedures that we have. It is treated very very seriously and in fact, loss of information was re-emphasised in our latest Professional Standards meeting as an issue for all managers to take a particular interest in.

Chairman, Professor Sir Desmond Rea:

Thank you very much indeed, thank you Chief Constable and your colleagues for taking our questions. Thank you for the presentation and thanks to members of the public for their attendance and also the journalists.