



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

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

CONTENTS

PAGES

Index of Contents	2
The Northern Ireland Policing Board: who we are and what we do	3
Background to the April 2008 Omnibus Survey	4
Public Perceptions of the performance of the Police	5-14
Public Perceptions of District Policing Partnerships	15-16
Public Perceptions of the Northern Ireland Policing Board	17-21

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

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

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

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

The Board must also keep itself informed as to:

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

and assess:

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

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

BACKGROUND TO THE APRIL 2008 OMNIBUS SURVEY

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

The sample for this survey consisted of a random sample of addresses selected from the Land and Property Services Agency list of private addresses, the most up-to-date listing of private households in Northern Ireland. At each address, one person aged 16 or over was selected to participate in the survey. From an eligible sample of 1,962 households, 1,267 interviews were achieved, giving a response rate of 65%. Interviews were conducted between 1 April and 30 April 2008. Analyses by religion are based only on those 1,192 respondents who said they were either Catholic or Protestant. Respondents who refused to answer the religion question or who said they were a religion other than Catholic or Protestant are excluded from these analyses.

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

The following symbols are used in the accompanying results tables:

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

Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Statistical significance

Statistical significance tests have been carried out on the findings between the October 2007 and April 2008 Northern Ireland Omnibus Surveys. These tests are used to establish the degree of confidence with which we can infer the observed findings as an accurate reflection of the views of the population. In this publication, where differences have emerged as being statistically significant, this has been reported at the 5% ($p < 0.05$) level of probability (two-tailed). This means that, for any observed result that is found to be statistically significant, one can be 95% confident that this has not happened by chance. Such statistically significant results are clearly noted in the text above each table.

1. PERFORMANCE OF THE POLICE

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

The Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2008-2011 includes a target to increase the percentage of people who think that the police are doing a good job in their area, based on the October 2007 finding of 62%. Just under three fifths of respondents (58%) in April 2008 thought that their local police were doing a very/fairly good job, a statistically significant decrease on the October 2007 finding (Table 1). Nineteen percent of respondents rated the performance of local police as very/fairly poor in April 2008, the same finding as in October 2007. Although more Protestant respondents (60%) thought the PSNI does a very/fairly good job in their area compared to Catholic respondents (56%), this is a statistically significant decrease on the October 2007 finding of 67%.

Table 1: Performance of local police

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly good	49	54	52	56	65	61	54	67	62	56	60	58
Neither good nor poor	24	21	22	20	17	19	21	16	19	21	21	21
Very/fairly poor	25	24	25	22	17	19	23	16	19	20	18	19
Don't know/refusal	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	3	2	2

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

Just under two thirds of respondents (65%) thought that the PSNI in Northern Ireland as a whole was doing a very/fairly good job, compared to 67% in October 2007 (Table 2). Thirteen percent of respondents thought that the PSNI in Northern Ireland as a whole was doing a very/fairly poor job in April 2008, similar to the October 2007 finding of 14%. Protestant and Catholic respondents had similar levels of confidence that the PSNI does a very/fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole (66% and 65% respectively).

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly good	51	65	58	61	69	65	62	71	67	65	66	65
Neither good nor poor	26	15	20	22	19	20	20	16	18	19	20	19
Very/fairly poor	21	18	20	13	13	13	15	13	14	12	14	13
Don't know/refusal	3	1	2	4	0	1	2	1	2	4	1	2

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

Seven tenths of respondents (70%) were very/fairly satisfied that the PSNI treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole, compared to 69% in October 2007 (Table 3). Approximately one in twelve respondents (8%) were very/fairly dissatisfied, a statistically significant decrease compared with 12% in October 2007. Just over two thirds of Catholic respondents (68%) thought that the PSNI treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole, a statistically significant increase compared with the October 2007 finding of 62%.

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very satisfied	8	16	12	8	13	12	9	19	15	11	16	13
Fairly satisfied	47	55	51	53	59	55	53	54	54	57	57	57
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	27	17	22	20	17	19	21	16	18	22	18	20
Fairly dissatisfied	12	8	9	11	7	9	12	8	9	6	7	6
Very dissatisfied	4	3	4	5	2	3	3	2	3	3	2	2
Don't know/refusal	2	2	3	3	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2

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

Almost two thirds of respondents (66%) were very/fairly satisfied that the PSNI treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole, which is similar to the October 2007 finding of 65% (Table 4). One tenth of respondents (10%) were

very/fairly dissatisfied, a statistically significant decrease on the October 2007 finding of 13%. More Protestant respondents (71%) were very/fairly satisfied that the police treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole than Catholic respondents (59%).

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very satisfied	8	14	11	10	14	13	9	19	14	9	16	14
Fairly satisfied	46	54	51	50	57	53	49	53	51	50	55	52
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	24	17	20	19	17	18	22	18	20	25	17	21
Fairly dissatisfied	15	9	11	13	8	10	12	6	9	9	6	7
Very dissatisfied	3	3	3	6	4	5	6	3	4	3	3	3
Don't know/refusal	3	3	3	2	1	2	2	1	2	4	2	3

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

The Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2008-2011 includes a target to increase the percentage of people who are confident in the police's ability to provide an ordinary, day to day policing service for all the people of Northern Ireland, which is based on the October 2007 finding of 84%. More than four out of five respondents (83%) had some, a lot, or total confidence in the police's ability to provide an ordinary day-to-day policing service for everyone in Northern Ireland (Table 5). As in October 2007, 16% of respondents had little or no confidence at all. In April 2008, Catholic and Protestant respondents were equally as likely to have at least some confidence in ordinary day-to-day policing (84%).

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	4	9	7	8	9	8	5	15	11	5	10	7
A lot of confidence	25	33	29	29	40	34	32	34	33	32	34	33
Some confidence	50	38	43	44	37	41	46	35	40	47	40	43
Little confidence	16	15	16	13	11	12	12	12	12	13	13	13
No confidence at all	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	3
Don't know/refusal	1	1	1	3	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1

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

Four out of five respondents (80%) had some, a lot, or total confidence in the police's ability to deal with public disorder situations, the same finding as in October 2007 (Table 6). The proportion of Catholic respondents who had at least some confidence in the police's ability to provide a public order policing service was 77% in April 2008, while the proportion of Protestant respondents who had at least some confidence was 80%.

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	5	10	7	9	10	10	7	13	10	5	11	9
A lot of confidence	24	35	30	26	36	31	28	37	33	29	34	32
Some confidence	43	35	38	37	37	37	42	34	37	43	35	39
Little confidence	20	12	16	17	11	13	15	11	12	14	13	14
No confidence at all	6	5	6	9	4	6	5	4	5	6	4	5
Don't know/refusal	3	2	3	3	1	2	2	1	2	3	2	2

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

Just over two fifths of respondents (42%) were very/fairly satisfied with the levels of police patrols in their area, similar to the October 2007 finding of 43% (Table 7). 42% of Catholic respondents were very/fairly satisfied, compared with 40% of Protestant respondents. Conversely, 33% of Catholic respondents were very/fairly dissatisfied with the levels of police patrols in their area, compared with 37% of Protestant respondents.

Table 7: Satisfaction with the levels of police patrols

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly satisfied	38	34	35	41	46	43	43	42	43	42	40	42
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	26	24	25	22	22	22	22	24	24	24	21	22
Very/fairly dissatisfied	34	41	38	34	32	33	34	33	33	33	37	35
Don't know/refusal	1	1	1	3	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	2

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

Just over two thirds of respondents (68%) thought that the overall standard of policing had remained the same in their area over the last year, while 14% thought that it had improved and 13% thought that it had deteriorated (Table 8). Protestant respondents (81%) were less likely than Catholic respondents (85%) to think that overall policing had remained the same or improved, and more likely to think that it had deteriorated (15% compared to 10% for Catholic respondents).

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Got better	11	6	8	16	12	13	20	11	15	16	12	14
Remained the same	71	72	72	71	70	70	66	71	69	69	69	68
Got worse	15	18	16	10	15	13	11	16	14	10	15	13
Don't know/refusal	3	3	4	3	4	4	3	2	3	5	4	5

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

This question was asked for the first time in April 2008. Just over three fifths of respondents (63%) had heard of the concept of Neighbourhood/Community Policing (Table 9). Protestant respondents (66%) were more likely to have heard than Catholic respondents (61%).

Table 9: Heard of Neighbourhood/Community Policing?

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

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

Just under a quarter (24%) of the respondents who had heard of Neighbourhood/Community Policing thought that it was working well/very well (Table 10). Protestant respondents (26%) were more likely to think Neighbourhood/Community Policing is working well/very well than Catholic respondents (21%). Over a quarter of respondents (28%) did not know if Neighbourhood/Community Policing is working or refuse to answer the question.

Table 10: How well Neighbourhood/Community Policing is working

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

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

Just under one third of respondents (31%) who had heard of Neighbourhood/Community Policing knew that a Neighbourhood/Community Policing Team operated in their area (Table 11). A higher proportion of Protestant respondents (35%) knew that a Neighbourhood/Community Policing Team operated in their area compared to Catholic respondents (26%). Just over a quarter of respondents (26%) did not know if a Neighbourhood/Community Policing team operated in their area or refuse to answer the question.

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

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

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

Just over one quarter of respondents (27%) had been in contact with the PSNI over the last year, similar to the October 2007 finding of 26% (Table 12). A slightly higher proportion of Protestant respondents (28%) were in contact with the PSNI compared to Catholic respondents (25%).

Table 12: Contact with the PSNI

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
	Yes	26	25	26	25	22	23	26	27	26	25	28
No	74	75	74	75	78	77	74	73	73	75	72	73
Don't know		0	0		0	0	0		0	1		0

Q13 What form(s) did the contact take?

The largest category for police contact in April 2008 was reporting a crime (28%), which was also the largest category in October 2007 (24%, Table 13). Protestant respondents were more likely to have contact with the PSNI to seek advice or information than Catholic respondents (18% compared to 9%). Catholic respondents were more likely to have contact with the PSNI when giving a statement than Protestant respondents (24% compared to 15%). One fifth of respondents (20%) were in contact with the PSNI as the victim of a crime.

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

Respondents who had contact with the PSNI	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
You were the victim of a crime	26	13	18	25	20	22	18	18	18	24	19	20
You reported a crime	30	25	27	36	19	27	24	22	24	27	24	28
Giving a statement	13	13	14	18	12	15	22	16	18	24	15	19
Reporting anti-social behaviour	21	19	20	23	14	19	15	23	20	18	17	17
Proof of driving documents or involved in road traffic accident	8	7	8	7	15	12	17	16	17	14	8	11
Dispute with neighbour	5	3	4	3	2	2	2	3	3	4	5	4
Renewing firearms licence	4	5	4	4	5	5	4	7	5	2	8	5
Seeking advice or information	13	17	16	15	19	16	11	19	15	9	18	14
Other	18	20	19	26	24	24	24	11	16	17	18	17

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

Q14 Were you satisfied with the PSNI during this contact?

Just over two thirds of respondents (68%) were satisfied with the PSNI during their contact, compared with the October 2007 finding of 71% (Table 14). Catholic respondents (76%) were more satisfied than Protestant respondents (61%).

Table 14: Satisfaction with PSNI contact

Respondents who had contact with the PSNI	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	73	76	73	72	70	71	81	64	71	76	61	68
No	27	24	27	27	28	27	19	35	29	24	38	31
Don't know/refusal				1	2	2		0	0		1	0

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

Just under half of respondents (45%) were very/fairly satisfied with how the PSNI kept them informed of developments during the investigation, compared with 52% in October 2007 (Table 15).

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

Respondents who said they were a victim of a crime	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly satisfied	36	50	42	54	83	66	55	49	52	48	39	45
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	6	6	6	3	6	17	13	15	6	11	8
Very/fairly dissatisfied	57	44	51	40	14	28	28	38	32	42	47	44
Don't know/refusal				-	-	-				3	3	3

Q16 How safe do you feel in your local community?

The Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2008-2011 includes a target to increase the percentage of people who say they feel safe in their community, which is based on the October 2007 finding of 92%. Just over five sixths (85%) of respondents felt very/fairly safe in their local community, a statistically significant decrease on the October 2007 finding (Table 16). 8% of respondents felt very/fairly unsafe, a statistically significant increase compared with 3% in October 2007.

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

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

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

Just over three fifths of respondents (61%) had heard of DPPs in April 2008, similar to the October 2007 finding of 62% (Table 17). Protestant respondents (63%) were more likely to have heard of DPPs than Catholic respondents (61%).

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	64	64	63	62	72	67	60	63	62	61	63	61
No	36	35	36	38	28	33	39	37	38	39	37	39
Don't know/refusal		0	0		0	0		0		0	0	0

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

Almost three quarters of the respondents (73%) who had heard of DPPs had some, a lot or total confidence that DPPs will help address local policing problems, compared to 76% in April 2007 (Table 18). One in five respondents (20%) had little or no confidence at all – identical to the October 2007 finding.

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

All those who have heard of DPPs	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	4	3	4	4	4	4	2	4	3	3	5	4
A lot of confidence	17	18	18	29	27	27	24	23	23	18	20	19
Some confidence	48	50	49	49	53	52	51	49	50	50	51	50
Little confidence	15	14	14	9	9	9	15	15	16	16	14	16
No confidence at all	9	6	8	4	3	3	2	6	4	4	2	4
Don't know/refusal	7	8	8	5	5	5	6	4	5	9	8	8

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

Over half of respondents (54%) who had heard of DPPs were prepared to contact their local DPP regarding local policing issues (Table 19), compared with 58% in October 2007. Protestant respondents (56%) were more willing to contact their local DPP than Catholic respondents (51%).

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

All those who have heard of DPPs	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	53	57	55	57	53	55	58	58	58	51	56	54
No	45	40	42	41	45	43	41	41	40	46	42	44
Don't know/refusal	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2

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

Almost one third of respondents (32%) who had heard of DPPs believed that their local DPP has helped to improve policing in their local area, a statistically significant decrease on the October 2007 finding of 37% (Table 20). Over one quarter of respondents (27%) did not know if the local DPP had helped to improve local policing. One third of Catholic respondents (33%) believed that their local DPP has helped to improve policing in their local area, a statistically significant decrease on the October 2007 finding of 41%.

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

All those who have heard of DPPs	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	32	29	30	36	36	35	41	35	37	33	32	32
No	44	42	43	37	42	39	38	40	39	40	41	41
Don't know/refusal	24	29	27	26	22	25	21	24	24	27	27	27

3. THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

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

Almost seven out of eight respondents (87%) had heard of the NIPB, the same as the October 2007 finding (Table 21). Protestant respondents (89%) were more likely than Catholic respondents (85%) to have heard of the NIPB.

Table 21: Heard of the NIPB?

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	85	85	84	84	88	86	85	90	87	85	89	87
No	15	15	16	16	12	14	15	10	12	14	11	13
Don't know/refusal		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0	0

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

Just under two fifths of the respondents who had heard of the NIPB (38%) thought that the NIPB did well/very well in monitoring how the PSNI performs against annual Policing Plan targets, a statistically significant decrease from the October 2007 finding of 44% (Table 22).

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

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	5	7	6	6	5	6	5	6	6	4	5	5
Well	27	29	28	40	42	41	39	38	38	32	35	33
Neither well nor poor	32	29	30	27	30	29	32	29	30	34	30	33
Poor	6	6	6	6	5	5	6	5	5	5	4	4
Very poor	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know/refusal	29	27	28	18	17	18	18	21	20	25	25	24

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

Just over two fifths of respondents who had heard of the NIPB (43%) rated the NIPB's performance in questioning the Chief Constable as well/very well, compared with 47% in October 2007 (Table 23). Less than one in ten of respondents (8%) rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in April 2008, a statistically significant decrease on the October 2007 finding of 11%.

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

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	9	9	9	9	7	8	8	8	8	6	10	8
Well	32	32	32	39	43	41	38	39	39	33	36	35
Neither well nor poor	25	28	27	28	29	28	27	26	26	31	27	29
Poor	8	6	7	8	5	6	10	9	10	7	6	7
Very poor	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	1
Don't know/refusal	25	24	25	12	15	14	16	17	16	22	19	20

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

Over two fifths of respondents who had heard of the NIPB (43%) thought that the NIPB did well/very well on holding the Chief Constable to account, compared to 44% in October 2007 (Table 24). Almost one fifth of respondents who had heard of the NIPB (18%) did not know how well the NIPB did on holding the Chief Constable to account.

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

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	8	8	8	9	7	8	6	9	8	5	9	7
Well	34	32	32	40	42	41	34	38	36	34	38	36
Neither well nor poor	24	28	26	29	27	28	30	27	28	30	25	28
Poor	10	6	9	8	9	8	11	8	9	10	7	8
Very poor	1	2	1	3	1	2	4	1	2	2	2	2
Don't know/refusal	23	24	24	12	14	13	15	17	16	19	18	18

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

Just over one quarter of respondents who had heard of the NIPB (28%) thought that the NIPB did well/very well in consulting the public on policing issues - a statistically significant decrease from the October 2007 finding of 33% (Table 25). Almost one in six respondents (16%) did not know how the NIPB does on consulting with the public on policing issues, a statistically significant increase on the October 2007 finding of 12%.

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

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	4	2	3	6	2	4	3	4	4	3	3	3
Well	23	20	22	32	29	31	28	29	29	23	27	25
Neither well nor poor	30	35	32	30	34	33	29	28	29	32	30	31
Poor	21	18	19	16	18	16	24	21	22	20	20	20
Very poor	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	5
Don't know/refusal	15	20	18	11	12	12	11	14	12	17	15	16

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

Over two thirds of respondents who had heard of the NIPB (68%) thought that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job, the same as the October 2007 finding (Table 26). As in October 2007, one fifth of respondents (20%) thought that the NIPB does not help ensure that the PSNI do a good job.

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

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	62	64	63	73	75	73	71	66	68	67	69	68
No	25	20	23	13	16	15	18	21	20	19	20	20
Don't know/refusal	13	16	14	14	9	11	11	12	12	13	10	12

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

Seven tenths of respondents who had heard of the NIPB (70%) correctly thought that the NIPB is independent of the police, a statistically significant decrease on the October 2007 finding of 76% (Table 27). Although Protestant respondents (71%) were more likely to know that the NIPB is independent of the police than Catholic respondents (69%), this finding is a statistically significant decrease when compared to the October 2007 finding of 79%.

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

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Part of the police	26	15	20	23	20	21	26	15	19	22	20	21
Independent of the police	68	77	73	70	75	73	71	79	76	69	71	70
Don't know/refusal	6	8	7	7	4	5	4	5	5	9	9	9

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

Just under four fifths of respondents who had heard of the NIPB (78%) correctly thought that the primary role of the NIPB is "to oversee policing and hold the Chief Constable and the PSNI publicly to account" (Table 28), compared with the October 2007 finding of 80%.

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

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
To actively direct police operations	12	10	12	12	10	10	12	10	10	14	11	13
To oversee policing and hold the Chief Constable and the PSNI publicly to account	78	78	77	78	82	81	79	80	80	76	80	78
To tell the Chief Constable what to do	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	3
Other	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1			
Don't know/refusal	6	8	7	7	5	6	4	6	5	7	6	6

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

Almost three quarters of respondents who had heard of the NIPB (74%) correctly thought that the NIPB is made up of "a mix of politicians and independently appointed members" a statistically significant increase from 70% in October 2007 (Table 29). There was a statistically significant increase in Protestant respondents who gave the correct answer to this question, from 67% in October 2007 to 74% in April 2008.

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

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Politicians	3	2	3	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
Independently appointed members	14	20	17	19	19	19	18	24	21	18	17	18
A mix of politicians and independently appointed members	77	70	73	72	72	72	74	67	70	73	74	74
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Don't know/refusal	5	7	7	6	5	6	5	6	6	6	7	7

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

Four fifths of respondents who had heard of the NIPB (80%) thought that the NIPB is working at least adequately, compared with 82% in October 2007 (Table 30). Of these 80% of respondents, 39% thought that the NIPB was working well/very well, similar to the October 2007 finding of 40%. Just over one in ten respondents (11%) thought the NIPB was performing poorly/very poorly.

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

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2006 (October)			2007 (April)			2007 (October)			2008 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	6	6	6	7	6	6	7	7	6	6	6	6
Well	29	28	28	39	37	37	34	34	34	32	34	33
Adequately	41	41	41	35	41	39	43	41	42	40	41	41
Poorly	15	11	13	10	9	9	10	9	9	8	9	9
Very poorly	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
Don't know/refusal	8	13	11	8	6	7	6	8	8	12	9	10



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

PUBLISHED BY

Northern Ireland Policing Board
Waterside Tower
31 Clarendon Road
Clarendon Dock
BELFAST BT1 3BG

Tel: 028 9040 8500 Fax: 028 9040 8540 Text phone: 028 9052 7668
Email: information@nipolicingboard.org.uk Web: www.nipolicingboard.org.uk

DOCUMENT TITLE

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

PUBLISHED JUNE 2008

This document is also available upon request in alternative formats or languages.
Requests for alternative formats should be made to the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

ONLINE FORMAT

This document is available in PDF format from our website.

DISCLAIMER

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this document, neither the Northern Ireland Policing Board nor its consultants will be held liable for any inaccuracies that may be contained within.

DESIGN

www.whitenoisestudios.com