



# **PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF THE POLICE AND THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

**REPORT BASED ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD  
MODULE OF THE APRIL 2004 OMNIBUS SURVEY**



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# INTRODUCTION

## THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

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, ten political members of the Northern Ireland Assembly and nine Independent Members appointed through open competition.

The main role of the Policing Board is to ensure that the Police Service of Northern Ireland are 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 do 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.

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## APRIL 2004 OMNIBUS SURVEY

Northern Ireland Omnibus Surveys are carried out several times a year by Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and seek the views of the public on a range of issues including policing. The sample for this current survey was taken from a random selection of 2000 addresses in Northern Ireland selected from the Valuation and Lands Agency list of addresses. A total sample of 1,301 persons aged 16 and over were interviewed between 22nd March 2004 and 23rd April 2004. A total of 1,195 of the 1,301 respondents stated their community background and therefore the breakdowns by religion are based on this sample of 1,195. Some questions commissioned by the Policing Board in the April 2004 Omnibus Survey were asked for the first time so there is no comparison with previous surveys.

The results of Omnibus Surveys are used by the Northern Ireland Policing Board fulfill its responsibilities under Section 3(3)(d) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 and to measure some targets set by the 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")

# RESULTS

## 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?

Just under half of respondents (48%) in April 2004 thought that their local police were doing a very/fairly good job – a decrease of 8 percentage points on the October 2003 survey result (Table 1). The proportion rating the performance of local police as very/fairly poor in April 2004 was 28% - an increase from October 2003. Just over half of Protestant respondents (52%) thought that the PSNI do a very/fairly good job in their locality (down from 59% in October 2003) as did 46% of Catholic respondents (down from 50% in October 2003).

**TABLE 1: Performance of local police**

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Very/fairly good	50	63	57	50	61	56	50	59	56	46	52	48
Neither good nor bad	20	17	18	20	17	18	18	15	16	19	19	20
Very/fairly poor	28	19	22	28	22	23	30	25	27	34	26	28
Don't know/refusal	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	3	3

### Q2: Do you think that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does a good job or a poor job in Northern Ireland (NI) as a whole?

Just under three fifths (57%) of respondents thought that the PSNI in NI as a whole were doing a very/fairly good job, down from 62% in October 2003 (Table 2). The proportion rating the performance of the PSNI in NI as a whole as very/fairly poor in April 2004 was 22% - an increase of 4 percentage points from October 2003. More Protestant respondents (61%) thought that the PSNI do a very/fairly good job in NI as a whole (down from 67% in October 2003) than did Catholic respondents (52% - compared to 55% in October 2003).

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

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Very/fairly good	49	71	61	50	71	63	55	67	62	52	61	57
Neither good or bad	21	15	18	28	14	20	23	15	18	20	17	19
Very/fairly poor	26	12	19	21	14	16	19	18	18	27	20	22
No answer/Don't know/refusal	3	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	2

### Q3: How do the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) treat Protestant and Catholic members of the public in your area?

Over two thirds (70%) of respondents thought their local police treated both communities equally, down from 73% in October 2003 (Table 3). Almost three fifths of Catholic respondents (58%) thought that the police in their local area treated both communities equally, compared to 59% in October 2003. This compares to 79% of Protestant respondents who thought that both communities were treated equally (compared to 84% in October 2003). A lower proportion of Catholic respondents (26%) believed Protestants receive better treatment in the April 2004 survey compared to October 2003 (28%).

**TABLE 3: Perceived treatment of Protestants and Catholics by local police**

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Catholics better	1	3	2	4	5	4	2	6	4	6	6	6
Both equally	60	83	73	58	79	69	59	84	73	58	79	70
Protestants better	25	3	13	28	4	13	28	3	14	26	4	12
No answer/Don't know/refusal	13	9	12	10	12	13	10	7	9	10	12	12

### Q4: How do the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) treat Catholic and Protestant members of the public in Northern Ireland (NI) as a whole?

Under two thirds of respondents (64%) believed that the PSNI in NI as a whole treat both communities equally, a decrease of 4 percentage points on the 68% recorded in October 2003 (Table 4). Three quarters of Protestant respondents (75%) thought that the PSNI in NI treat everyone equally (down from 80% in October 2003) compared to 49% of Catholic respondents who thought there was equity of treatment (down from 52% in October 2003). Respondents were more likely to think that the PSNI treated the two communities equally in their area (70%) than in Northern Ireland as a whole (64%) (Tables 3 and 4).

**TABLE 4: Perceived treatment of Protestants and Catholics by police in Northern Ireland**

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Catholics better	1	5	4	2	8	5	2	8	5	3	8	5
Both equally	48	81	67	50	76	64	52	80	68	49	75	64
Protestants better	39	6	20	38	8	20	37	6	19	37	7	20
No answer/Don't know/refusal	13	7	10	10	9	11	8	5	7	10	11	11

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

Three quarters of respondents (75%) had some, a lot or total confidence in the police's ability to provide a day-to-day policing service for everyone in NI compared to 79% in October 2003 (Table 5). Under one quarter of respondents (24%) said they had little or no confidence at all, up from 21% in October 2003. The proportion of Protestant respondents who had at least some confidence in ordinary day-to-day policing fell by 4 percentage points from 81% in October 2003 to 77% in April 2004. The proportion of Catholic respondents with at least some confidence fell from 75% in October 2003 to 69% in April 2004.

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

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Total confidence	5	12	8	6	9	8	7	10	9	5	8	7
A lot of confidence	19	30	25	24	33	28	20	33	28	21	29	26
Some confidence	44	37	40	40	39	39	48	38	42	43	40	42
Little confidence	21	17	19	21	16	18	19	15	17	22	18	19
None at all	8	4	6	8	3	5	5	3	4	7	4	5
No answer/Don't know/refusal	2	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1

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

Three quarters of respondents (75%) had some, a lot or total confidence in the police's ability to deal with public disorder situations – down slightly from 76% in October 2003 (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 fell from 69% in October 2003 to 64% in April 2004 whilst the proportion of Protestant respondents who had at least some confidence increased from 81% in October 2003 to 82% in April 2004.

**TABLE 6: Confidence in the police's ability to provide a public order policing service for all of the people of Northern Ireland**

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Total confidence	4	12	8	5	11	9	6	11	9	4	9	7
A lot of confidence	20	33	27	21	36	29	21	34	29	26	33	30
Some confidence	39	32	34	40	37	38	42	36	38	34	40	38
Little confidence	22	17	20	21	12	16	20	13	16	26	13	18
None at all	13	5	9	11	3	6	8	4	6	9	4	6
No answer/Don't know/refusal	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2

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

Just over one third of respondents (34%) were satisfied with the levels of police patrols in their area compared to 36% in October 2003 (Table 7). The percentages of Catholic and Protestant respondents who were very/fairly satisfied with the levels of police patrols were identical (35%). The proportion of Catholic respondents who were dissatisfied with levels of police patrols rose from 36% in October 2003 to 40% in April 2004.

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

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Very/Fairly Satisfied	39	39	38	33	35	35	38	35	36	35	35	34
Neither	28	17	22	27	21	23	25	18	21	23	18	21
Very/Fairly Dissatisfied	31	43	38	38	44	40	36	47	42	40	46	43
No answer/Don't know/refusal	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	1	2

## Q8: Over the last year, has the overall standard of police service in your area...

Under two thirds of respondents (63%) thought that the overall standard of policing had remained the same over the last year, 20% thought that it had got worse and 11% felt that it had improved (Table 8). Protestant respondents (71%) were much less likely than Catholic respondents (79%) to think that overall policing had remained the same or improved and much more likely to think that it had got worse (24% compared to 17% for Catholic respondents).

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

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Improved	11	6	8	10	8	9	14	7	10	12	11	11
Remained the same	71	66	69	71	63	66	72	67	69	67	60	63
Got worse	14	26	21	16	26	21	12	23	18	17	24	20
No answer/Don't know/refusal	4	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	4	6	5

## Q9: Have you been in contact with the PSNI over the past 12 months?

Just under one third of respondents (29%) had been in contact with the PSNI over the last year compared to 32% in October 2003 (Table 9). A higher proportion of Protestant respondents (31%) were in contact with the PSNI compared to Catholic respondents (26%).

**TABLE 9: Contact with PSNI**

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Yes	30	32	32	29	29	29	32	31	32	26	31	29
No	70	68	68	71	71	70	68	69	68	73	69	70
No answer/Don't know/refusal	0	-	0	-	0	0	-	-	0	1	0	0

## Q10: What form did the contact take?

The largest category for police contact in April 2004 was reporting a crime (30%) down from 32% in October 2003 (Table 10). In addition, one quarter of respondents (25%) were in contact with the PSNI due to being a victim of crime compared with 20% in October 2003. Catholic respondents (20%) were more likely to have contact with PSNI to seek advice/information than Protestant respondents (15%) whilst Protestant respondents (39%) were much more likely than Catholic respondents (19%) to contact PSNI to report a crime.

**TABLE 10: What form(s) did the contact take?**

Respondents who had contact with PSNI Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
You were the victim of a crime	35	28	30	27	20	24	19	21	20	22	25	25
You reported a crime	13	10	11	26	26	26	30	34	32	19	39	30
Giving a statement	24	26	24	23	13	17	23	18	20	21	18	19
Reporting anti-social behaviour	-	-	-	15	17	16	15	21	18	13	23	19
Proof of driving documents or involved in road traffic accident	5	8	7	18	12	15	11	8	9	13	10	11
Dispute with neighbour*	-	-	-	6	2	4	4	2	3	5	1	3
Renewing firearms licence*	-	-	-	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	2	3
Seeking advice or information#	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	16	19	20	15	17
Other (please specify)	39	40	41	24	32	28	13	17	16	28	20	23
Refusal	-	2	1	-	1	0	-	-	0	-	-	-

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

\* Categories not included before April 2003.

# Category not included before October 2003.

## Q11: Were you satisfied with the PSNI during this contact?

Just under two thirds of respondents (64%) were satisfied in their contact with PSNI compared to 69% in October 2003 (Table 11). Catholic respondents (70%) were much more satisfied than Protestant respondents (59%).

**TABLE 11: Satisfaction with PSNI contact**

Respondents who had contact with PSNI Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Yes	74	74	74	75	74	75	68	69	69	70	59	64
No	26	25	25	25	26	25	32	31	31	30	41	36
No answer/Don't know/refusal	-	1	1	-	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-

## 2. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs)

### Q12: Have you heard of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)?

Two thirds of respondents (66%) had heard of DPPs in April 2004, identical to the October 2003 finding (Table 12). Protestant respondents (68%) were more likely than Catholic respondents (62%) to have heard of DPPs.

**TABLE 12: Heard of District Policing Partnerships?**

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Yes	35	38	37	38	42	41	63	69	66	62	68	66
No	64	62	62	62	58	59	37	31	33	37	32	33
No answer/Don't know/refusal	0	-	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0

## Q13: How much confidence do you have that DPPs will help address local policing problems?

Two thirds of respondents (67%) who had heard of DPPs had some, a lot or total confidence that DPPs will help address local policing problems compared to 72% in October 2003 (Table 13). Over one quarter of respondents (27%) said they had little or no confidence at all. Catholic respondents (68%) were slightly more confident than Protestant respondents (67%) that DPPs will help address local policing problems.

**TABLE 13: Confidence that DPPs will help address local policing problems?**

All those who have heard of DPPs	Omnibus Survey					
	2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Rating/Percentage						
Total confidence	5	4	4	3	2	2
A lot of confidence	22	20	21	15	17	16
Some confidence	45	49	47	50	48	49
Little confidence	18	16	17	18	23	21
None at all	4	4	4	9	4	6
No answer/Don't know/refusal	6	7	7	5	6	6

## Q14: Are you prepared to contact your local DPP to raise issues/ask questions about local policing?

Over half of respondents (54%) said they were prepared to contact their local DPP regarding local policing issues (Table 14) compared to 64% in October 2003. Protestant respondents (57%) were more willing than Catholic respondents (49%) to contact their local DPP.

**TABLE 14: Prepared to contact local DPP about local policing?**

All those who have heard of DPPs	Omnibus Survey								
	2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Rating/Percentage									
Yes	56	59	57	57	68	64	49	57	54
No	42	38	39	40	29	33	47	42	43
No answer/Don't know/refusal	2	4	3	2	3	3	4	1	3

## Q15: Do you feel that your local DPP has helped to improve policing in your local area?

This question was asked for the first time in April 2004. Under one quarter of respondents (22%) believed that their local DPP has helped to improve policing in their local area (Table 15). Catholic respondents (23%) were much more likely to think that their local DPP has helped to improve policing in their local area than Protestant respondents (22%). Almost one third of respondents (30%) did not know if the local DPP had helped to improve local policing.

**TABLE 15: Local DPP has helped to improve local policing?**

All those who have heard of DPPs Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey		
	2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot
Yes	23	21	22
No	45	52	48
Don't know	32	27	30

## 3. THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

### Q16: Have you heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB)?

Over five sixths of respondents (84%) had heard of the NIPB – 3 percentage points down from the October 2003 finding (Table 16). Proportionately more Catholic respondents (86%) had heard of the NIPB than Protestant respondents (84%).

**TABLE 16: Heard of the NIPB?**

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Yes	82	89	86	84	90	87	84	89	87	86	84	84
No	17	11	13	16	10	13	16	11	13	14	16	15
No answer/Don't know/refusal	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0

## Q17: How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on monitoring how the PSNI performs?

Over two fifths of respondents (43%) thought the NIPB did well/very well in monitoring how PSNI performs compared to 49% in October 2003 (Table 17). Proportionately more respondents rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in April 2004 (9%) than in October 2003 (7%). Protestant respondents (46%) were more likely to think that the NIPB did well in this area than Catholic respondents (42%).

**TABLE 17: How NIPB does on monitoring how the PSNI performs**

All those who have heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Very well	6	7	6	9	8	8	7	7	6	6	7	6
Well	39	43	42	35	38	37	39	46	43	36	39	37
Neither well nor poor	29	28	28	31	31	31	30	24	26	31	27	29
Poor	7	7	7	7	8	7	7	6	6	10	7	8
Very poor	5	3	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	14	13	13	16	15	16	16	17	17	17	19	19

## Q18: How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on questioning the Chief Constable on how he carries out his duties?

Over two fifths of respondents (42%) rated the NIPB's performance in questioning the Chief Constable as well/very well - five percentage points down from the October 2003 finding (Table 18). Proportionately more respondents rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in April 2004 (9%) than in October 2003 (8%). Protestant respondents (46%) were more confident that the NIPB did very well/well in questioning the Chief Constable on how he carries out his duties compared to Catholic respondents (39%).

**TABLE 18: How NIPB does on questioning the Chief Constable**

All those who have heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Very well	8	9	8	8	8	8	8	7	7	4	8	6
Well	34	39	36	38	40	39	39	40	40	35	38	36
Neither well nor poor	26	26	27	24	24	24	25	26	25	28	28	29
Poor	12	6	9	10	8	8	7	7	7	10	7	8
Very poor	6	2	3	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1
Refusal/Don't know	15	17	16	19	19	19	20	18	19	20	19	20

## Q19: How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on consulting with the public about policing issues?

Under one quarter of respondents (24%) thought the NIPB did well/very well in consulting the public on policing issues compared to 27% in October 2003 (Table 19). Proportionately more respondents thought performance was poor/very poor in April 2004 (31%) than in October 2003 (28%). A slightly higher proportion of Protestant respondents (25%) thought the NIPB did very well/well in consulting with the public about policing issues compared to Catholic respondents (24%).

**TABLE 19: How NIPB does on consulting the public on policing issues**

All those who have heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Rating/Percentage												
Very well	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	3
Well	24	24	24	21	21	20	24	25	24	20	22	21
Neither well nor poor	21	27	25	30	30	30	29	30	29	29	28	28
Poor	31	27	28	21	24	23	23	23	23	26	23	24
Very poor	10	7	8	7	9	8	6	4	5	6	8	7
Refusal/Don't know	12	12	12	18	13	15	14	15	15	15	17	17

## Q20: How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on ensuring that the PSNI is adequately funded?

Under one third of respondents (31%) thought that the NIPB did well/very well in ensuring that the PSNI is adequately funded – identical to the October 2003 finding (Table 20). Catholic respondents (37%) were more likely to think that the NIPB did well/very well in this area than Protestant respondents (28%). A high proportion of respondents (27%) answered Don't Know to this question.

**TABLE 20: How NIPB does on ensuring that the PSNI is adequately funded**

All those who have heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Rating/Percentage												
Very well	6	3	4	4	5	5	7	4	5	7	2	4
Well	34	26	28	23	23	23	28	24	26	30	26	27
Neither well nor poor	22	26	24	28	27	27	23	25	24	25	23	24
Poor	14	19	17	9	18	15	12	16	14	9	18	14
Very poor	2	8	6	3	4	4	1	7	4	3	5	4
Refusal/Don't know	24	18	20	33	23	28	29	24	26	26	26	27

## Q21: Do you think that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job?

Three fifths of respondents (60%) thought that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job compared to 70% in October 2003 (Table 21). Protestant respondents (61%) were slightly more likely to think that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job compared to Catholic respondents (60%). The proportion of Catholic respondents who thought that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job fell from 73% in October 2003 to 60% in April 2004.

**TABLE 21: Does the NIPB help to ensure that the PSNI do a good job?**

All those who have heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Yes	66	64	63	64	65	64	73	69	70	60	61	60
No	18	25	23	21	22	22	16	17	17	22	24	23
No answer/Don't know/refusal	16	11	13	15	13	14	11	13	13	18	15	17

## Q22: Do you think that the NIPB is part of the police/independent of the police?

Over two thirds of respondents (68%) correctly thought that the NIPB is independent of the police compared to 72% in October 2003 (Table 22). Protestant respondents (71%) were much more likely to know that the NIPB is independent of the police than Catholic respondents (64%).

**TABLE 22: Is the NIPB is part of the police/independent of the police?**

All those who have heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Part of the police	25	21	22	29	20	23	27	19	22	26	22	23
Independent of the police	67	74	72	62	74	69	66	76	72	64	71	68
No answer/Don't know/refusal	8	5	6	9	6	7	7	5	6	10	7	8

## Q23: What do you think is the primary role of the NIPB?

Over three quarters of respondents (77%) 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 23). This compares to 79% of respondents in October 2003 who knew the NIPB’s primary role. Protestant respondents (78%) were more likely to know the NIPB’s primary role than Catholic respondents (74%).

**TABLE 23: What do you think is the primary role of the NIPB?**

All those who have heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Rating/Percentage												
To actively direct police operations	10	12	11	12	11	11	12	11	11	13	11	12
To oversee policing and hold the Chief Constable and the PSNI publicly to account	80	80	81	75	79	77	77	80	79	74	78	77
To tell the Chief Constable what to do	2	3	2	6	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4
Other (please specify)	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
Refusal/Don't know	6	4	4	5	3	4	5	4	4	6	6	6

## Q24: Do you think the NIPB is made up of...

Two thirds of respondents (67%) correctly thought that the NIPB is made up of “a mix of politicians and independently appointed members” compared to 65% of respondents in October 2003 (Table 24). Catholic respondents (71%) were more likely to know the composition of NIPB than Protestant respondents (64%).

**TABLE 24: Do you think that the NIPB is made up of...**

All those who have heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Rating/Percentage												
Politicians	1	2	2	6	5	5	3	1	2	3	2	9
Independently appointed members	20	23	22	19	19	19	25	26	26	18	25	21
A mix of politicians and independently appointed members	69	68	68	66	67	66	63	67	65	71	64	67
Other	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Don't know	8	7	7	10	8	9	9	5	7	8	9	8

## Q25: Overall, how well do you think the NIPB is working?

Under three quarters (73%) of respondents thought the NIPB is working at least adequately compared to 77% in October 2003 (Table 25). Within this, 28% of respondents thought that the NIPB was working very well/well compared to 34% in October 2003. One sixth (16%) of respondents thought that the NIPB was performing poorly/very poorly compared to 12% in October 2003. Catholic respondents (74%) were slightly more likely to think that the NIPB is working at least adequately than Protestant respondents (72%).

**TABLE 25: Overall, how well do you think the NIPB is working?**

All those who have heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)			2003 (Oct)			2004 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Very well	5	3	4	4	5	5	5	7	6	6	3	4
Well	24	24	23	27	23	24	31	28	28	26	24	24
Adequately	42	46	44	41	45	44	41	43	43	42	45	45
Poor	15	14	15	11	13	12	12	9	10	13	13	13
Very poor	5	5	5	4	3	3	3	2	2	4	2	3
Refusal/Don't know	8	7	8	13	11	12	8	11	10	10	13	12







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