

**NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

**MINUTES OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> PUBLIC MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND  
POLICING BOARD HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2002 AT 12 NOON IN  
WATERSIDE TOWER, CLARENDON DOCK, BELFAST**

**PRESENT:**

**MEMBERS:**

Professor Desmond Rea (Chairman)  
Mr Denis Bradley (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr Alex Attwood  
Viscount Brookeborough  
Mr Joe Byrne  
Mr Fred Cobain  
Mr Brian Dougherty  
Mr Sam Foster  
Mr Barry Gilligan  
Mr William Hay  
Mr Tom Kelly  
Lord Kilclooney  
Mrs Pauline McCabe  
Mr Alan McFarland  
Mr Eddie McGrady  
Mrs Rosaleen Moore  
Mr Ian Paisley, Jnr  
Mr Suneil Sharma  
Mr Sammy Wilson

**POLICE SERVICE OF  
NORTHERN IRELAND:**

Mr Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)  
Mr Colin Cramphorn (Deputy Chief  
Constable)  
Mr Alan McQuillan (ACC Urban Region)  
Superintendent, Command Secretariat  
Chief Inspector, Command Secretariat  
Director of Media and Public Relations

**OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Bob McCann (Chief Executive)  
Mr Ivan Wilson (Interim Chief Executive)  
Business Manager  
Head of Audit Services  
Head of Policy and Accountability  
Head of Training and Community  
Consultation  
Three Board Officials

**Apologies:**

There were no apologies.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

Good afternoon everyone. This meeting affords me the opportunity to once again publicly welcome our new Chief Constable and to wish him well in his job here with us. I would also like to say thank you to the Deputy Chief Constable for assisting us since April. The time has flown Deputy Chief Constable, but we thank you for your contribution to policing in the period in which you have been in charge.

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

Thank you Chairman, and thank you for your kind comments in relation to my appointment. I am delighted to be here and look forward to working closely with the Board over the next five years, and providing a high quality police service to the whole and all the communities of Northern Ireland.

In terms of recent events which I think are important, one I mentioned briefly earlier and I would like to mention again in the public session, is the successful conclusion or the successful arrests made in relation to the attempted murder of Michael Craig, a fifteen year old young man from Antrim, who was attacked in what we would clearly describe as a sectarian attempted murder. Six people have been arrested, three have been charged with attempted murder and three have been charged with other serious offences, including trying to mislead the investigation. I think that reinforces the points I made on Monday about the absolute commitment of officers under my command to bring to justice those who commit these atrocious crimes.

A matter of concern, which I think also needs to come to your attention, is a recent attack on a new police drop-in community clinic in Rathcoole. I happened to be at Newtownabbey at about 7 00am on my first day to meet officers there. They told me with great pride of their moves around community policing and the deployment of two full-time officers to police the Rathcoole area in a home-beat style of policing, a community style of policing. Part of their decision making and the community's request around that, was to open a drop-in centre within that community. It was strongly supported by a Labour councillor who was subject to a pipe bomb attack, I believe it was last night, and again, graffiti on the community drop-in centre they were hoping to open today. I express a deep concern at that, because yet again a small number of people are spoiling it for a community that clearly want to be policed by the PSNI and have worked closely to get to that stage. So that is just for your information, it is very recent but I think it is important.

Again something that may be causing some concern, and my final point, I was contacted late last night because we had discharged firearms and shot and injured an individual in Coleraine, that is subject to investigation. The individual who we shot in the leg was in relation to a call to a man armed with a firearm. An imitation firearm has been recovered from the scene and the Police Ombudsman is investigating. I am confident that we deployed senior CID officers to the scene to ensure we preserve the scene for the Police Ombudsman and I am confident that that will be investigated thoroughly by that office.

**Mr Sam Foster:**

Good afternoon Chief Constable and I wish you well in your new position. My question is with regards to the possible closure of stations in the rural areas, especially along the border. How does the policy apply to the closure of rural stations? Is it compatible with policing in rural communities, which is very,

very important? I wonder in fact how that will or does apply because there is a great fear in the rural areas about the closure of those stations, and taking the police from the people instead of people to the police?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

Thank you. I understand those concerns. A long time ago I came from a rural community and I know exactly what you mean in terms of policing numbers. I think the points that I made on Monday were my general policing philosophy, to empower the District Superintendents and Chief Superintendents to decide, with their communities, what the best policing mix is they need. That is, of course, enshrined in Patten who says we must consult with the communities before we do anything about closing police stations, or deciding the mix between static and patrol posts. So I am very keen at the moment to say, let me give as much of my policing resource as I possibly can to the Districts at stage one, and then let the Districts get on and speak to their rural communities and decide what it is the communities want. If the communities want a number of police stations then that is a matter they need to discuss with their District Commander. The reality is, the more police stations I keep open, the less police officers I have to patrol and deploy in a proactive way to protect the communities. So it is getting the balance right.

You will be aware recently, a police station has closed and that was closed in keeping with the consultation process. Now the net result of that will be that a number of officers who were employed on important, but not very relevant if you are a member of the community, protection duties of the site, can be re-deployed within the communities. Now, what I must do is make sure that if the District Superintendent closes the police station, I do not simply claw that back and then re-deploy them in a proactive way. So I have no personal view on how many police stations the PSNI needs. My first reaction to it is we seem to have an awful lot of sites, and we seem to be spending an awful lot of money defending a lot of sites rather than actually defending the communities that those sites cover. So we need to look at it.

What I can assure you on is that no police station will be closed or even thought about being closed without the community being consulted and listened to, and if for very strong views they want the police station to remain open, then I suspect the District Commander will keep the police station.

**Mr Eddie McGrady:**

Chief Constable, good-afternoon and welcome to your new post and we wish you all the best. There is a grave concern within the community, indeed that concern is tinged with certain scepticism, that in areas where there is CCTV and therefore apparent evidence of crimes being committed and who is doing it, indeed the more confrontational communities conflict where there are a large number of police officers seeing what is going on themselves. The community is very, very concerned and there does not appear to be a higher degree of arrests, charging and convictions. Can you give us any explanation why that is so?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

Certainly. If I do a full picture and I will have to involve the Assistant Chief Constable who, coming from Belfast, knows a lot more of the detail, but CCTV evidence is entirely admissible in court subject to certain rules. The issue is always identification, it can be used, it has been used and I carry very few props around with me but I always carry these, and I have to circulate to Members. These are the pictures of the man that blew up Brixton when I was a Senior Commander, a man called Copeland, who then went on to blow up two more communities before we caught him. He was caught and convicted on those pictures which were from the Brixton community CCTV scheme. That is how important it is in terms of policing. It is also worth recognising that in Brixton it was very difficult to get the community to accept the cameras

in the first place until we did this for them as a result of it. I understand there are some parallels here in terms of nervousness around CCTV. It has to, I have to, satisfy the DPP that it is prima-facie evidence and so he will prosecute them. Now we have been doing that and we continue to do it.

In terms of arresting people immediately for criminal offences during a riot, that is very difficult without losing too many officers who have to defend the line. Where we are successful is in following it up, using the CCTV to identify suspects and to take them to court. Now there are a number of legal issues and I am concerned about the time it takes and, the issues I have to go through before I can satisfy the prosecuting authorities. It is a matter that I have already raised with the Secretary of State and I think it needs to be looked at.

The Assistant Chief Constable has our instructions, which are based on the instructions from our lawyers, which go to seventeen pages, on what my officers must do before we can get someone to court. Now we need to look at how much of that we really need to do because speedy justice is the way of actually proving to people, if you riot we will come after you, we will bang on your door at five o'clock the next morning, or the morning after that, or the morning after that, we will take you to court, we will get you into custody and we will convict you. Now that is the objective, you are right, I am one hundred percent behind you on that. The administration on that is somewhat more complicated, especially if all we have is CCTV.

### **Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Alan McQuillan**

There is an extremely complex process to be gone through when we take video of a riot. We have a process that has to be organised in different stages. Officers have to sit down and view the material collectively and fill in a pro-forma, noting any evidence they see. They are not allowed to discuss that with each other. There then has to be a further stage afterwards where

they individually review the evidence, make the identifications and then prepare statements which can then be used by the investigators to go and arrest people and interview them. The difficulty in that process is that we are dealing sometimes with hundreds of police officers. It is a massive logistic business to manage and if we get it wrong in any part, the entire evidence may be thrown out of court. We have a number of cases coming up soon based upon CCTV evidence from public disorder which may have clarified this, but this is based upon our best knowledge and understanding of the law and the standards the courts will require at the current time.

To add to the points that the Chief Constable also made. In a number of the riots in Belfast over the last three months, one of the major difficulties in trying to make arrests has also been the ballistic threat. If we are facing crowds, as we have done in Belfast, of up to three to four hundred and we have reason to believe that there are people present with firearms and blast bombs to attack officers, we simply cannot send lines of officers forward to try and make arrests because of the risk that someone will be killed or seriously injured. Therefore, we have to adopt different tactics which make it much more difficult for us to make those arrests but we are doing that, everything that we can within that, to try and follow-up retrospectively to identify people off the CCTV and bring them before the courts.

**Mrs Pauline McCabe:**

Welcome Chief Constable, we look forward very much to working with you.

Chief Constable, people throughout this country were dismayed at recent events in Cambridgeshire surrounding the abduction and murder of Holly Wells and

Jessica Chapman. Our hearts went out to the families of the girls and we also felt for the police officers and others who worked so tirelessly to find the girls hoping for an ending that sadly was not to be. During the course of the investigation, issues were raised relating to the management and

administration of the HOLMES System and in particular questions were asked about who should input new data received from the public onto the system and the time lapse before a qualified detective examines this new information. Concerns were also expressed in the past about the administration of HOLMES in connection with our own Omagh investigation. In the event of the time critical major investigation in the future of whatever nature, are we now satisfied that we have in place the protocols and training that will ensure that from the very first day the system would be used in the optimum way?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

The short answer to that is, no I am not. It is a point I made earlier, it is a point that I made on Monday. The PSNI is desperately short of detectives and it is detectives you need to run the HOLMES System.

The HOLMES System is actually no more than a computer. It is the Home Office Large Major Enquiry System, into which you put as much data as you possibly can in relation to the murder. You then have a very advanced and very sophisticated search engine through which you can then identify links, suspects and prioritise your actions. There is a new system, the HOLMES 2 System which we will have within the PSNI and the training and role-out is well advanced on that which is an even better system. So in terms of the technology, it is one of the good news stories for Northern Ireland we do have and will have the technology around major crime investigation.

The technology is frankly not much use without the individuals to run it. At the moment I am not complying, we cannot comply, with the major crime enquiry manual. That is a national manual, in terms of numbers because I do not have the numbers. What I do have is a small number of very hard working detectives who are working just about every hour they can to deal with the crimes I am currently dealing with. That is not in compliance with HOLMES frankly. The vision is we will comply with HOLMES over time as soon as I can recruit detectives.

In terms of if there was a similar sort of event here. The staffing levels for that enquiry, to my knowledge, was in excess of three hundred police officers for one enquiry. A very small force I have to say, but helped out by ten or eleven other forces in terms of people. If we had something like that, it may be we would have to think very differently in Northern Ireland and I may have to go knocking on doors of chief officers and see if I can encourage them to lend me people on a short term basis in the same way as the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire had to do. I am not against anything like that if it means we can become more effective despite there is obviously a cost concerned. The vision for the future is, we will have sufficient officers over the next two years to staff to a reasonable level all the major enquiries we have, but at the moment we do not have.

**Mr Ian Paisley Jnr:**

Thank you Mr Chairman and Chief Constable, could I be associated with the remarks of the Chairman at the beginning, congratulating you on your new post and indeed the heavy mantel falling on your shoulders. Although you are a new Chief Constable you face many of the same old problems and I hope that you are able to deal with them and deal with them effectively. Again, I would like to be associated with the comments thanking Colin Cramphorn, the Deputy Chief Constable for the sterling job he did from April until now.

Turning to what the Deputy Chief Constable actually said on the 22 August, he indicated a counter terrorist activity was now operating at an intensity greater than at any time since 1997. You will know that just before taking up the post, there was the atrocious murder of Mr Caldwell, the atrocious murder of Mr Lawlor and indeed there was an incident where a rocket launcher was used by republicans against police officers. Could you inform the Board what type of device that was? What your enquiries indicate that type of device is associated with in terms of the republican organisation that used it, have you

been able to bring anyone forward for prosecution, have you any indication as to when a prosecution will take place? I am reminded that I asked a similar question at our last Board meeting about an incident against a police officer in my own constituency. Again I am looking for updates in terms of when prosecutions will come forward against these people carrying out terrorist attacks.

One final matter, your report to us that the Chief Constable's briefing paper of today does not actually have any statistics in it regarding terrorism and given that we have had these events, I think it would be important in the future to have a more detailed analysis of the terrorist picture that is inside it. I think that would be useful for us. Thank you.

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

Thank you. If I could deal with the main question first, around the type of device, a note of caution here. This is still an ongoing investigation so I do not really want to go into detail and I know the senior investigating officer does not want to give away anything around the type of the attack. What I can tell you is, it is an enquiry that is ongoing to the extent that yesterday there was a search operation undertaken as part of that investigation and during that police came under fire. One individual has been arrested in relation to the attack on the officers investigating the crime. But no one has been arrested in relation to the attack itself. I can assure you and that is simply an example yet again, of officers carrying out their work. It reinforces the other point you make about the level of terrorist activity and they actually were being shot at whilst they were trying to solve that crime. The point you make on terrorist statistics - if you are not getting them, I will fix it because you are absolutely right it would make absolute sense. Colin Cramphorn, the Deputy Chief Constable may have something to add.

**Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:**

I understood Chairman, that you in fact do have the statistics although they come out as a separate statistics bulletin rather than as part of the Chief Constable's brief, but we will sort that out with the administration.

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

Very briefly Chairman, in relation to the other matter you raised which I believe was the attack on the police officer, the new recruit?

**Mr Ian Paisley Junior:**

Yes.

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

No arrest has been made on that, but I am glad you raised it, because I can inform the Board and the public that we are about to start our next recruiting campaign and it will be very interesting to see how that plays in terms of encouraging people to join the PSNI and make a difference from this side of the fence. Bearing in mind the obligation I have on Patten which I am determined to keep to, it will be interesting and I will keep the Board fully updated on how that goes.

**Mr Alex Attwood:**

You are very welcome Chief Constable and could I also acknowledge the work of the Deputy Chief Constable over the recent difficult months.

The question is about interface tensions and wider intercommunity tensions and I am asking the question, mindful that all the paramilitary organisations in the North are active to whatever level and that has been most tragically evident in Belfast and Derry with the recent murders. But my question is this, first of all, I know that you are aware and that you have probably commented

both here and previously on some of these matters, but you need to be aware Chief Constable, that there are many people in adverse circumstances in Belfast and beyond, across a community who do have a sense that, for whatever reason, the PSNI at certain times are not adequately protecting those people and are not vigorously prosecuting those who are responsible for visiting upon those communities the adverse circumstances that I refer to. You may want to comment on that, but the question is this, that there is an assessment widely held that in many instances that the exclusive aggressor in the North at the moment in terms of interface tensions and wider intercommunity difficulties are loyalist paramilitary organisations and that in other cases, the primary aggressor at interface areas and intercommunity tension difficulties are loyalist paramilitaries. Acknowledging that there are examples where there is mutual aggression one to the other, and do you have any comment to make upon that assessment as to the situation at interfaces and the situation regarding the wider community relations?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

Thank you, in terms of a comment, I will certainly hand to the Assistant Chief Constable in terms of the details for the interfaces in Belfast. My job is to convince the communities that we actually care equally about protecting them and we are doing the best with the resources we have got. Mind you, part of that job is to make sure that I am doing the best with the resources that I have got, and there is a structure that I have rehearsed already to the Board and publicly on Monday which we are looking at. So there is a bit of watch this space, but give us a chance to get our organisation best positioned to make sure we do protect the communities. I think the example I gave earlier of our commitment to arrest people regardless of where they come from in terms of serious crime, is well evident by arrests for attempted murder within five days of the crime being committed and that is what success looks like quite frankly. I will do my best and the officers I have met so far, I am satisfied are doing their best to do a professional and proper job the majority of the time.

In terms of the exclusive who is the aggressor, and who is not, the Assistant Chief Constable can make some observations on recent history, my only observation on that really, is one I have made before. I can police a problem, our officers can police a problem but only the communities can solve the problem. So any initiatives around getting the communities to speak together and to communicate to dispel rumours, to dispel any sort of misunderstanding about what is going on in the front line, on the interfaces, I would welcome. I know my people will work closely with anyone who thinks they can make a difference in that regard. But in terms of the detail, Assistant Chief Constable, I am sure you can help us.

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Alan McQuillan:**

Chairman, in terms of a number of Mr Attwood's general comments, as a senior police officer, it is no joy to me to agree with him that we have not been able to deal effectively, or as effectively as I would have wished with all the violence across the interfaces in Belfast and have been unable to improve the quality of life for people from both sections of the community, along those interfaces who have suffered from this.

Mr Attwood has asked in terms of agreement that about the exclusivity of the responsibility for this, what I would say is this. There has been evidence from what we have seen across the city of Belfast over the summer and all the information intelligence available to me, that there is evidence that people from both sections of the community have at times been involved in violence, in terms of street disorder, and the paramilitary groups from both sides have been involved in attacks.

If I deal very briefly with the detail of that, in North Belfast we have seen in terms of general disorder, violence with both sections of the community involved. We have seen in East Belfast similar violence with both sections of the community involved. In West Belfast we had one significant period of disorder at the Whiterock parade which was associated with a nationalist

crowd attacking the police and army at the end of that demonstration. In South Belfast on a number of occasions the police have come under ferocious attack, with gun fire from loyalist paramilitary groups.

In terms of the general disorder there has been evidence of both sections of the community involved. In terms of the more serious element of that disorder, the pipe bombings, the petrol bombings, the gun fire, I would have to say that objectively on the basis of the numbers, looking at the city as a whole, the significant majority of that has come from loyalist paramilitary groups. So we have a situation where I could not say exclusively the violence has come from one side. But what I can say is, the significant majority of the serious violence, the serious attacks, in my view has come from loyalist paramilitary groups. Much of that directed at the Catholic community, and much of it also directed at my officers, and our military colleagues. That is the best assessment that I can give Members and it gives me no joy to say that, and it is a very serious situation and one that my officers are working very hard to address.

We have huge operations on a nightly basis, particularly in North and East Belfast try to bring peace to the communities along the interface, give people some respite and also deter sectarian murders. We have seen a number of sectarian murders over the summer and we have put a huge effort with our military colleagues into trying to stop any further attacks of those type. It may be worthwhile mentioning at this stage for example, when I came to this post in February, 18 months ago, aside from the marching season, the Drumcree Parade, we had virtually no army on the streets of Belfast, for about three and a half years. My military brigade in Belfast is now totally committed on the streets virtually every day and that is the level of increasing effort that has gone in. Coupled with everything else, some of my officers are working 110, 120 hours a month overtime to try and brave these issues. But it brings me no joy to say that we are not totally successful. We simply do not have the resources to be everywhere we would want to be at the times we need to be.

## **Lord Kilclooney**

I want to add supplementary on that. I find the comments by the Chief Constable very interesting indeed. He is saying that the greater number of fire bombs and missiles are coming from the loyalist paramilitaries, in East Belfast for example, I understood that Protestants had to get out of their houses because they had been attacked, have Catholics also had to get out of their houses there?

## **Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Alan McQuillan:**

My understanding is, that a much smaller number of Catholics have left their homes in East Belfast, I was dealing with the city as a whole and I said at the most serious end of the violence and we are talking about explosive devices and gun fire etc. There have been people forced out of their homes on both sides of the community, on both sides of the interfaces in different places. There have been five Protestants shot in East Belfast by republican groups, I have put all that into the equation, what I am saying is, looking at the totality of the violence, the number of attacks, the shots fired, the blast bombs thrown, the preponderance lies on the side of the loyalist paramilitaries, but that does not mean that others have not been involved as well.

## **Mr Fred Cobain:**

Just a couple of points, I do not think we should get into this argument about trying to score political points at each other, for people who are living in the interfaces whether they are Protestant or Catholic it does not really matter. I am disappointed that Alex Attwood is actually trying to make a political point here about Protestant paramilitaries. All of the paramilitary groups are involved in this, you know that as well as I do, and I think that all of the violence in the interfaces should be condemned. What we should not be trying to do is to seek out who is more responsible than the other. All of them

are responsible and all of the violence has to be brought to an end. It is not a matter for making political points in this issue.

I have to press the Assistant Chief Constable for this about more definitive descriptions on who is actually involved in this violence. When you run through your report you talk about loyalists and republicans, you give that broad brush stroke. Are we going to get into the situation where we are going to actually identify groups who are involved? I know the Assistant Chief Constable has identified mainstream republicans, and has said the Provisional IRA were involved in interface violence, were involved in shootings and attempted murders. Are we going to continue with that process? Are we going to get away from this broad brush loyalist, republican stuff? Are we going to get into identifying people in groups who are actually involved? Because I have to say this, and I have said it before, the police with all the intelligence they have, know I think, on a lot of occasions who is actually responsible, but are reluctant to say, so they give this broad grouping. So could I have an assurance Chief Constable that we are going to move away from that and we are going to identify people as they are?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

Thank you. I took a couple of points. Firstly, I am absolutely at one with you, attributing blame is not a way of solving it over time. The communities solve it over time, it is a point you made, not me.

In terms of the detail, my role to the Policing Board is to give you as much detail as I can without compromising ongoing investigations, so if by telling you stuff, obviously my crime fighting capacity is damaged and I would have to withhold it. But in broad terms, the more detail you have the better understanding you have and the better chance you have of doing your job which is to hold me to account, so I have no difficulty with that.

The Assistant Chief Constable made the point about the hours the officers are working, maintaining an uneasy peace in a number of parts of Belfast and indeed sometimes in other parts of Northern Ireland. We are looking at other ways of doing it, technology has a part to play. CCTV has had a major impact on some parts of the interface in preventing crime and we would be looking at that. Certainly I would support initiatives around trying to police it out in technical ways because it increases our control and obviously that will be done in consultation with the local community through District Commanders, but we are looking at other ways other than simply deploying people to bring these things to a conclusion.

**Mr Brian Dougherty:**

Welcome Chief Constable. Elements of my question have been asked already through discussions earlier on, but basically I would like your comments on increasing paramilitary activity in Derry particularly around the time of the murder of Mr Caldwell. Also your comments on claims that his employers were unaware of any security threat at the time. Finally, how do you see the reallocation of resources to North Belfast effecting the wider province?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

If I can deal with the broad picture, I will hand over to the Deputy Chief Constable to give as much detail as he can and also I think I would encourage you to speak to Peter Sheridan, the Chief Superintendent at Foyle if you want far more detail than even that, because he has a real grip on that part of the territory.

The broad terms are an incredibly soft target, the TA Centre, shows a mind set of those prepared to commit these crimes. I am not sighted on how much security briefing was given to any particular individual.

In terms of the deployment of resources, Belfast does its level best to maintain its own sort of policing integrity, albeit robbing Peter to pay Paul on occasions. In broad terms the consequences of violence in one part of Northern Ireland has an impact on others. If we send officers from Derry and elsewhere albeit some way away, and I suspect not routine, it would have an impact on the ability of somewhere like Derry to deliver a local policing service. I happened to be in Derry, Monday night, meeting local officers and what you have in Derry is the closest to community policing in a challenging area that I have seen in Northern Ireland and officers who are delivering at local levels are getting impressive results. It is one of the highest performing districts in Northern Ireland in terms of performance and lowest in terms of sickness, so they are doing a lot of things right. If I take officers from them, they will be able to do less, you are right on that. But I will handover to the Deputy Chief Constable in terms of the detail.

**Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramphorn:**

On the issue of Mr Caldwell's murder, you will know that the TA Centre concerned was under refurbishment. The premises, as I understand it from military colleagues, had been completely handed over under the terms of the refurbishment contract to the contractors, who were, as part of that contract themselves, responsible for the security of the site. That was all part of the refurbishment package the entire thing had been put out on a contract. I know that sort of contractual arrangement will now be reviewed by the Ministry of Defence. I do not know what the outcome of that review is, but I know that they are reviewing it. So that was the security background in terms of that particular incident and the tragic consequences need no further emphasis, they have already been mentioned several times today.

In terms of the resource issue, at various points during this summer, regrettably it has not been exceptional to be taking resources from the two other regions into Belfast. There have probably been more occasions when we have had to that. To be quite frank with you and that was in part one of

my objectives in making the comments to the Policy Committee that I did a fortnight ago, was to get the message across, that wherever you live in Northern Ireland these interface tensions and the way they soak up resources is having an affect on you. It is diminishing the quality of service that we are able to provide. Those resources are being redirected and that is a consistent message that I think Members will agree you have heard from me pretty much over five months now.

**Mr William Hay:**

Mr Chairman, Chief Constable, just recapping on what Mr Dougherty said about the killing of David Caldwell in Derry. I know there has been a number of serious terrorist incidents going back a number of months and there seems to be a feeling in the city that some of these terrorists have been able to get very close to our businesses and, of course, penetrating and killing David Caldwell. Is there a review of security in and around these bases? The terrorists seem to be getting too close and the other issue, are we any closer in bringing the people responsible for the murder of David Caldwell? I know there has been a number of high profile arrests and questioning of people and I think that there is a hope within people living in the city, people can be made amenable very quickly.

The Assistant Chief Constable touched on Belfast and I know of complaints around rioting, baton rounds fired, people arrested, officers hurt, and one issue that certainly did worry us, the rioting in and around Belfast. You have a number of baton rounds discharged, and a number of officers hurt, but in all of that there seems to be very little people arrested either during the riot or after. You take the number of officers seriously hurt, and you take four hundred people rioting there does not seem to be any form of arrest. A little amount of people seem to have been arrested.

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

Thank you, I will deal with the broad stretch, I will hand you over to my colleagues who I think may be able to help you in more detail.

Firstly on your issue on baton rounds, I think its important firstly to stress baton rounds, the officers fire literally as a last resort because they are under such severe attack, or a community is under such a severe attack. I am reassured to see on the last seven occasions we have had to fire them and the Ombudsman been investigating on every single occasion without exception, she has found that they were properly fired and that there was that level of threat. I think that reinforces how professional the officers are in terms of dealing with these matters.

In terms of the arrests, we discussed this briefly before. A number of people have been arrested, is the first point and no doubt the Assistant Chief Constable will give you figures if it is helpful. So we are not just simply dealing with the issue and then going away, it is very hard when you are under attack to deploy officers in arrest teams. The point you make quite properly is, what do you do afterwards. Well what we do afterwards is we do investigate the CCTV footage. We do look at prime suspects and indeed someone was arrested very recently in relation to Drumcree and charged with a very serious offence, so yes it is happening. If the evidence is such that we can charge with substantial criminal offences that carry severe terms of imprisonment, that is exactly what we will do, it is what we have done where the evidence has suited it. There are occasions obviously when we had to charge at lower level crime, but we will charge people with the offences that fit the activity we identify. In terms of detail, Deputy Chief Constable I do not know if you want to give some detail?

**Deputy Chief Constable, Colin Cramphorn:**

Can I just pick up your issue about the David Caldwell murder before we pass to the Assistant Chief Constable on the detail. We are talking about a fairly difficult process of case building in that particular case. There has been some

good evidence recovered, but that now has to be built into a case which will pass scrutiny with the prosecuting authorities, as the Chief Constable has already indicated in response to another question. That takes time, and I am afraid there is no instant quick hit to delivering that, so I share your frustration and the wider communities frustration that you express, but what is important is that things are not sacrificed by undue haste at the front end. These things have to be done meticulously and carefully and that is the way that particular investigation is being progressed.

In terms of the serious rioting, before I pass on to the Assistant Chief Constable, who will no doubt give you the exact statistics, I remember briefing Members a couple of months ago. I think it was in response to a question from yourself Mr Paisley where we were discussing how is it that in a football match type riot of those numbers in England and Wales, you would see 'x' number of arrests and in Northern Ireland you did not see 'x' number of arrests. I pointed out, that actually the difference was the level of ballistic threat and the level of violence that a crowd here in those circumstances demonstrates, which is not what you would get with a football crowd and members identified with that immediately. The Assistant Chief Constable has reiterated that point this morning. The level of ballistic threat that we face in public order situations in Northern Ireland is not totally unique in these islands, but its certainly extreme. That limits the tactical options open to the Commanders on the ground and in particular exposing people, our own people to go forward and make arrests in circumstances where, in fact they would be at severe ballistical blast risk. To do that would be to commit offences under health and safety legislation and common law duty of care.

**Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Alan McQuillan:**

Chairman, if I could just give some figures for Belfast and I appreciate that these are just a snap shot. Over the last three months which is effectively the marching season, in East Belfast we have arrested thirty eight people and charged them in connection with disorder, nine of those were nationalists and

twenty nine loyalists. In North Belfast we have arrested fifty six people in connection with disorder, twenty nine nationalists and twenty seven loyalists. That is a total of ninety four people over the last three months.

I described earlier the issues about dealing with CCTV. There is a long trail of CCTV footage still to be viewed and converted into evidence. Those are the totals to date. We have people in North and East Belfast working on that. It is, however, extremely resource intensive and a critical issue is to be able to put the resources in to do that and those can only be done if they come from other areas. I am in negotiations with my District Commanders at the moment about a massive increase in the number of detectives in the city and at the moment our CID are stretched to breaking point because of the number of enquiries that they are doing, so it is a resource issue as well and we are doing everything to address that.

**Mr Joe Byrne:**

I want to welcome the Chief Constable and wish him good luck on the job. Chief Constable given the constraints that there are pertaining to detectives, what are the immediate steps you intend taking to try and be sure that the whole criminal investigation performance improves. Can I draw your attention to the fact that we have had four particular murders in the last year, we had a young student in Glengormley a year ago, we had a postal worker in North Belfast within the last year, we have had a young man in North Belfast who was wearing a particular sports T shirt and we have then recently had the worker in Derry. There are two Protestants and two Catholics. What reassurance can you give to the public that the people that pursue those sort of crimes will be apprehended?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

Well, the reassurance that I can give first of all is this. What I can assure you is that the commitment of the officers employed at the moment is one

hundred percent. We still have detectives leading all our murder investigations. I have, albeit a small number, probably some of the world's most experienced CID officers, simply because of the nature of the experience they have had to have over the last ten, twenty years. What I do not have, is the volume of officers to progress those enquiries quickly. It is the case in North Belfast for example, where I was yesterday, we have more lines of enquiry than I have officers to deal with them. So therefore it takes time to get to those lines of enquiry and as all detectives will tell you, the quicker you react the more likely you are to be successful, so there is a cost to the resource situation I have. We are working very hard on a human resource strategy which we will present to the sub-committee in a couple of weeks time. This will give a vision for the future, which is a more decentralised police service with more grip at the local level supported by professional and a well organised centre, where we could add value at the centre in terms of organised crime and in terms of murder investigations. The reassurance I give is, that until we get to that level we will do everything we can to make sure we investigate the crimes as professionally and as quickly as we can.

The Assistant Chief Constable mentioned the hours officers are working, that is not peculiar to Belfast, that is across Northern Ireland. Officers are working very long hours because they want to serve the communities and they want to deliver results, because result is what makes us look good and that is what convinces communities we can make a difference. We are carrying a far higher number of major crimes than other police services in the United Kingdom, quite frankly in terms of the riots and murder, the major crime rate is a lot higher here than it is even in London. So we are under pressure, the resourcing issues we will discuss with the Board at length on the 27 September and we will bring all of that to the Board hopefully the following week.

**Mr Sammy Wilson:**

Chief Constable, one of the first things you said when you took up your post was, you were going to go after those in paramilitary groups who had been causing the difficulties that we have had over the summer period. The Assistant Chief Constable has told us only last week that both loyalists and the IRA are carrying on a war by other means in the interfaces. Given that this must be based on some evidence that leading figures within the IRA and loyalists groups are involved in these, can we expect fairly imminent arrests of IRA personnel in the near future?

Just on the war on terror, how does your commitment sit with today's decision not to open a police clinic in Rathcoole as a result of a war being carried out by the IRA?

What steps will you take to ensure that the practice, which seems to have appeared over the summer only, from the police where the Full-Time Reserve, whose contracts have expired or told at one day's notice, "do not be turning into work again, your contract is over". Will you ensure that Full-Time Reserve officers are not treated in this way in future?

**Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:**

Thank you, if I can deal with your questions in reverse order.

Full-Time Reserve, my position is already documented and again it forms part of a human resource strategy which I will bring to the Board. Very briefly, operationally, the point I made on Monday was, that without the Full-Time Reserve I would be in severe policing difficulty. I do recognise Patten fully and Patten is absolutely clear and unequivocal in terms of recommendation 103 to 105 for long term. The issue is one of timing for me and that is a matter that I will raise with the Board. In terms of speaking as a police officer, which is what I do, I do not intend to be a politician, in Derry, I believe it is eighty

Full-Time Reserve officers are fully redeployed on the front line of policing. In North Belfast it is over one hundred. Those are the figures. Those are the simple facts and these are officers who are at the front end, not the back end of policing. So the other point you make, you are absolutely right, they have a right to certainty. It is the point I made. I will give them that certainty in four weeks subject to the Board's views. I met the Federation also yesterday to discuss this issue with them.

In terms of the comments made by the Assistant Chief Constable and others in terms of criminal activity, be it terrorist or not, yes we will pursue criminals whichever flag of convenience they fly under. There is a difference however between intelligence and evidence. If I get evidence then we will be arresting people, rest assured on that. Intelligence for all sorts of reasons is not admissible unless I can actually firm it up. So the issues are not around who am I meant to be arresting, it will be when. I will arrest people, or my officers will arrest people when they have sufficient evidence to convince the prosecuting authorities and the courts that these people are guilty of offences. We do far more damage to ourselves bringing people in and having to let them go. When I bring someone in, or one of my officers bring someone in, they really want to make sure they go the whole nine yards, they are charged, they go to court and they are convicted. That is really what is successful and I think that is what the communities want.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

Can we bring this session to an end? Could I say that at this morning's meeting we also welcomed our new Chief Executive, Bob McCann to the meeting and to the Board. We said goodbye to our Interim Chief Executive, Ivan Wilson and we thanked him for his contribution to the setting up of this Board which has been considerable.

We also at that meeting condemned unequivocally the attack on our Member, Viscount Brookborough's home, which occurred during the summer.

Could I also add that these gentlemen you see at the end, they represent, two of them the Police Federation for Northern Ireland and two of them the Superintendents' Association. They are most welcome to these meetings and for the benefit of the wider public we would simply state who they are and the importance of their presence at these sessions. Deputy Chief Constable, you have got something to present to us.

**Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Colin Cramhorn**

Chairman you will recall at the last meeting of this Board, before the summer recess you asked me if we would, as a Service, produce you a report on the summer marching season, if I can call it that. This report covers the primary six weeks of that season, it gives a lot of local detail. Rather than try and speak to it, I would simply like to leave the copies with you and you will no doubt make whatever arrangements you wish to circulate them.

**Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:**

Thank you Chief Constable and your colleagues for contributing to this session today.

