



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 2006**

PUBLISHED JUNE 2006

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

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

REPORT BASED ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD
MODULE OF THE APRIL 2006 OMNIBUS SURVEY

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, 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.

APRIL 2006 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 current survey was taken from a random selection of 2,200 addresses in Northern Ireland selected from the Valuation and Lands Agency list of addresses. A total sample of 1,108 persons aged 16 and over were interviewed between 20th March 2006 and 21st April 2006. A total of 1,048 of the 1,108 respondents stated their community background and therefore the breakdowns by religion are based on this sample of 1,048.

The results of Omnibus Surveys are used by the Northern Ireland Policing Board 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 Board in the Annual Policing Plan.

The following symbols are used in the accompanying results tables:

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

Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

1. PERFORMANCE OF THE POLICE

Q1. Do you think that the PSNI does a good job or a poor job in your area?

Over half of respondents (53%) in April 2006 thought that their local police were doing a very/fairly good job - a decrease of two percentage points on the September 2005 survey result (Table 1). The proportion rating the performance of local police as very/fairly poor in April 2006 was 22% - a 5 percentage point increase from September 2005. Almost three fifths of Protestant respondents (56%) thought that the PSNI do a very/fairly good job in their locality (down from 60% in September 2005), as did 51% of Catholic respondents (up from 50% in September 2005).

Table 1: Performance of local police

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly good	45	57	52	53	62	57	50	60	55	51	56	53
Neither good nor poor	22	17	20	26	21	23	21	22	22	25	21	23
Very/fairly poor	31	23	25	17	13	15	22	15	17	22	20	22
Don't know/refusal	2	2	2	5	3	5	6	3	5	2	3	2

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

Almost three fifths of respondents (58%) thought that the PSNI in Northern Ireland as a whole were doing a very/fairly good job, down from 60% in September 2005 (Table 2). The proportion rating the performance of the PSNI in Northern Ireland as a whole as very/fairly poor in April 2006 was 17% - an increase of one percentage point from September 2005. More Protestant respondents (61%) thought that the PSNI do a very/fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole (down from 68% in September 2005) than did Catholic respondents (56% - compared to 50% in September 2005).

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly good	51	64	58	55	69	63	50	68	60	56	61	58
Neither good nor poor	24	16	20	27	17	21	27	16	20	23	20	22
Very/fairly poor	23	17	19	15	12	12	19	13	16	18	17	17
Don't know/refusal	2	2	2	4	3	3	5	2	4	3	2	2

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

Almost two thirds of respondents (65%) were very/fairly satisfied that the PSNI treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole, up from 64% in September 2005 (Table 3). Almost one in seven respondents (14%) were very/fairly dissatisfied, up from 11% in September 2005. More Protestant respondents (74%) were satisfied that the PSNI treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole (up from 70% in September 2005) than Catholic respondents (55% - the same finding as in September 2005).

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents								
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very satisfied	8	13	11	5	11	9	7	15	11
Fairly satisfied	48	60	55	50	59	55	48	59	54
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	29	19	23	22	18	20	26	15	20
Fairly dissatisfied	6	4	5	11	6	8	13	6	10
Very dissatisfied	4	1	3	5	2	3	5	3	4
Don't know/refusal	5	3	4	7	4	5	1	2	3

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

Three fifths of respondents (60%) were very/fairly satisfied that the PSNI treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole, up from 58% in September 2005 (Table 4). One in six respondents (17%) were very/fairly dissatisfied, up from 14% in September 2005. Substantially more Protestant respondents (70%) were very/fairly satisfied that the police treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole (up from 66% in September 2005) than did Catholic respondents (51%, up from 48% in September 2005).

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents					
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very satisfied	6	11	9	6	15	10
Fairly satisfied	42	55	49	45	55	50
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	25	19	21	25	15	20
Fairly dissatisfied	12	7	9	15	10	12
Very dissatisfied	9	2	5	7	3	5
Don't know/refusal	7	6	7	2	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?

Almost four out of five respondents (77%) 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, compared to 78% in September 2005 (Table 5). 22% of respondents said they had little or no confidence at all, up from 19% in September 2005. The proportion of Protestant respondents who had at least some confidence in ordinary day to day policing fell by two percentage points to 80% in April 2006 from 82% in September 2005. The proportion of Catholic respondents with at least some confidence increased by one percentage point to 76% in April 2006 from 75% in September 2005.

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											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	6	9	8	6	9	7	5	9	7	6	6	6
A lot of confidence	24	29	27	25	30	28	28	30	29	27	32	29
Some confidence	43	42	42	49	47	48	42	43	42	43	42	42
Little confidence	17	13	15	14	11	13	17	12	14	18	15	17
No confidence at all	9	5	6	3	2	2	6	4	5	6	5	5
Don't know/refusal	2	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	3	1	1	1

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

Over two thirds of respondents (70%) had some, a lot or total confidence in the police's ability to deal with public disorder situations – up from 67% in September 2005 (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 increased to 65% in April 2006 from 61% in September 2005, whilst the proportion of Protestant respondents who had at least some confidence rose to 75% in April 2006 from 73% in September 2005.

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	4	10	8	6	10	9	6	8	7	8	6	6
A lot of confidence	23	34	30	20	34	28	19	25	22	23	34	29
Some confidence	41	36	37	47	38	42	36	40	38	34	35	35
Little confidence	17	15	16	16	12	14	24	19	21	24	15	20
No confidence at all	12	4	7	8	3	5	11	6	8	9	6	7
Don't know/refusal	2	1	2	4	2	3	5	2	4	2	3	2

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

Just under two fifths of respondents (38%) were satisfied with the levels of police patrols in their area, the same level as in September 2005 (Table 7). The percentage of Catholic respondents who were very/fairly satisfied with the levels of police patrols remained unchanged at 36% in April 2006 when compared with September 2005. The percentage of Protestant respondents who were very/fairly satisfied with the levels of police patrols increased to 42% in April 2006 from 40% in September 2005. The proportion of Catholic respondents who were dissatisfied with levels of police patrols increased to 36% in April 2006 from 34% in September 2005 and the proportion of Protestant respondents who were dissatisfied with levels of police patrols increased to 40% in April 2006 from 31% in September 2005.

Table 7: Satisfaction with the levels of police patrols

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/Fairly Satisfied	31	39	36	43	42	42	36	40	38	36	42	38
Neither	30	20	24	28	21	25	27	24	26	27	18	22
Very/Fairly Dissatisfied	37	40	38	26	36	31	34	31	32	36	40	38
Don't know/refusal	2	1	1	3	1	2	3	4	4	2	0	1

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

Over two thirds of respondents (69%) thought that the overall standard of policing had remained the same over the last year, 16% thought that it had got worse and 12% thought that it had improved (Table 8). Protestant respondents (79%) were less likely than Catholic respondents (84%) to think that overall policing had remained the same or improved and more likely to think that it had got worse (18% compared to 13% for Catholic respondents).

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Improved	11	9	10	13	11	12	11	7	9	12	12	12
Remained the same	69	62	64	69	69	68	69	71	70	72	67	69
Got worse	17	24	21	12	16	14	12	16	14	13	18	16
Don't know/refusal	3	5	5	7	6	6	8	5	7	3	3	3

Q9. 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, up from 25% in September 2005 (Table 9). A higher proportion of Protestant respondents (29%) were in contact with the PSNI compared to Catholic respondents (25%).

Table 9: Contact with the PSNI over the last 12 months

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	24	31	29	21	23	23	23	27	25	25	29	27
No	76	69	71	78	77	77	76	73	74	74	71	72
Don't know/refusal	-	0	0	0	-	0	1	0	1	0	-	0

Q10. What form(s) did the contact take?

The largest category for police contact in April 2006 was reporting a crime (32%), up from 28% in September 2005 (Table 10). Protestant respondents were more likely to have contact with the PSNI to report a crime than Catholic respondents (36% compared to 30%). Almost one quarter of respondents (23%) were in contact with the PSNI reporting anti-social behaviour compared with 15% in September 2005.

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

Respondents who had contact with PSNI	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
You were the victim of a crime	26	22	23	18	23	19	19	22	23	18	19	18
You reported a crime	33	24	26	22	33	28	33	25	28	30	36	32
Giving a statement	23	18	19	13	21	16	17	15	17	20	19	19
Reporting anti-social behaviour	23	15	17	8	21	17	18	15	15	22	23	23
Proof of driving documents or involved in road traffic accident	14	15	15	18	6	12	11	10	11	13	18	15
Dispute with neighbour	5	4	4	1	4	3	1	3	3	3	4	3
Renewing firearms licence	7	5	7	3	5	5	-	3	2	2	4	3
Seeking advice or information	15	8	11	15	12	13	6	18	14	12	11	12
Other	14	22	20	23	21	21	17	20	19	19	13	16
Refusal	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	0	0

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

Q11. Were you satisfied with the PSNI during this contact?

Almost three quarters of respondents (76%) were satisfied in their contact with the PSNI compared to 72% in September 2005 (Table 11). Catholic respondents (82%) were more satisfied than Protestant respondents (72%).

Table 11: Satisfaction with PSNI contact

Respondents who had contact with PSNI	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	63	73	71	69	72	73	64	77	72	82	72	76
No	37	27	29	28	28	26	35	22	27	18	28	24
Don't know/refusal	-	-	-	2	1	2	1	1	1	-	-	-

Q12. If you were the victim of a crime, how satisfied were you with how the PSNI kept you informed of developments during the investigation?

Nearly three fifths of respondents (58%) were very/fairly satisfied with how the PSNI kept them informed of developments during the investigation up from 44% in September 2005 (Table 12). Just under one third of respondents (32%) were very/fairly dissatisfied, down from 40% in September 2005.

Table 12: Satisfaction with how the PSNI kept you informed of developments during the investigation

Respondents who said they were the victim of a crime	Percentage of respondents								
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very satisfied	29	15	19	19	20	21	18	29	28
Fairly satisfied	12	36	30	19	22	23	45	21	30
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	18	21	19	19	12	15	5	15	10
Fairly dissatisfied	24	18	21	25	10	14	9	15	12
Very dissatisfied	18	9	11	19	34	26	23	21	20
Don't know/refusal	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-

2. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs)

Q13. Have you heard of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)?

Just under two thirds of respondents (63%) had heard of DPPs in April 2006, compared to 54% in September 2005 (Table 13). Protestant respondents (68%) were more likely than Catholic respondents (59%) to have heard of DPPs.

Table 13: Have you heard of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)?

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	59	61	60	53	61	58	48	57	54	59	68	63
No	41	39	40	46	39	42	51	43	46	41	32	36
Don't know/refusal	-	0	0	0	-	0	1	0	0	-	0	0

Q14. How much confidence do you have that DPPs will help address local policing problems?

Almost three quarters of respondents (73%) who had heard of DPPs had some, a lot or total confidence that DPPs will help address local policing problems compared to 66% in September 2005 (Table 14). Over one fifth of respondents (21%) said they had little or no confidence at all. Protestant respondents (74%) were more confident than Catholic respondents (69%) that DPPs will help address local policing problems.

Table 14: Confidence that DPPs will help address local policing problems

All those who have heard of DPPs	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	3	3	3	4	4	4	1	3	2	2	2	2
A lot of confidence	13	17	15	18	20	19	13	20	16	17	20	19
Some confidence	49	47	48	51	50	51	49	47	48	50	52	52
Little confidence	20	17	18	16	15	15	15	16	16	19	13	15
No confidence at all	7	8	8	4	3	3	9	8	8	6	6	6
Don't know/refusal	9	8	8	7	7	7	13	6	9	4	7	6

Q15. Are you prepared to contact your local DPP to raise issues/ask questions about local policing?

Of the 63% of respondents who have heard of DPPs, almost three fifths (58%) said they were prepared to contact their local DPP regarding local policing issues (Table 15), compared to 51% in September 2005. Protestant respondents (65%) were more willing than Catholic respondents (49%) to contact their local DPP.

Table 15: Prepared to contact local DPP about local policing?

All those who have heard of DPPs	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	45	57	52	58	61	59	44	55	51	49	65	58
No	55	40	46	39	38	38	52	42	45	47	34	40
Don't know/refusal	1	3	2	4	2	3	3	3	3	3	1	2

Q16. Do you feel that your local DPP has helped to improve policing in your local area?

Just under one third of respondents (32%) believed that their local DPP has helped to improve policing in their local area, compared to 26% in September 2005 (Table 16). One third (33%) of Protestant and Catholic respondents were likely to think this. Just over one quarter of respondents (27%) did not know if the local DPP had helped to improve local policing, a decrease of 6 percentage points on September 2005.

Table 16: Has your local DPP helped to improve local policing?

All those who have heard of DPPs	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	26	24	24	29	33	31	25	26	26	33	33	32
No	52	46	49	38	36	36	42	42	42	40	39	40
Don't know/refusal	22	30	27	33	31	33	32	32	33	27	28	27

3. THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

Q17. Have you heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB)?

Over four fifths of respondents (83%) had heard of the NIPB – 5 percentage points up from the September 2005 finding (Table 21). More Protestant respondents (86%) had heard of the NIPB than Catholic respondents (81%).

Table 17: Heard of the NIPB?

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	83	84	83	78	86	82	74	81	78	81	86	83
No	17	16	16	22	14	18	25	19	21	19	14	17
Don't know/refusal	0	0	0	0	-	0	2	0	0	0	0	0

Q18. How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on monitoring how the PSNI performs against annual Policing Plan targets?

Under two fifths of respondents (37%) thought the NIPB did well/very well in monitoring how the PSNI performs against annual Policing Plan targets – down one percentage point from September 2005 (Table 18). Proportionately fewer respondents rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in April 2006 (7%) than in September 2005 (9%). Catholic respondents (38%) were slightly more likely to think that the NIPB did well in this area than Protestant respondents (37%).

Table 18: 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											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	6	5	6	6	10	8	6	6	6	3	5	4
Well	36	39	38	35	38	36	31	32	32	35	32	33
Neither well nor poor	29	29	29	29	27	28	22	27	25	32	30	32
Poor	10	8	8	7	6	6	7	6	7	6	5	5
Very poor	3	2	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Don't know/refusal	16	18	18	22	18	20	32	28	30	22	26	24

Q19. How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on questioning the Chief Constable on how he carries out his duties?

Two fifths of respondents (40%) rated the NIPB's performance in questioning the Chief Constable as well/very well - two percentage points down from the September 2005 finding (Table 23). Proportionately more respondents rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in April 2006 (12%) than in September 2005 (10%). Protestant respondents (43%) 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 (37%).

Table 19: How the NIPB does on questioning the Chief Constable

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	6	6	6	6	10	8	9	5	6	4	4	4
Well	40	35	37	32	39	37	31	40	36	33	39	36
Neither well nor poor	22	29	25	29	23	25	20	23	22	29	24	27
Poor	11	6	8	8	5	6	9	6	8	12	8	10
Very poor	4	3	3	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	2
Don't know/refusal	18	21	20	25	21	23	29	23	26	20	23	21

Q20. How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on holding the Chief Constable publicly to account?

Almost two fifths of respondents (39%) thought that the NIPB was doing well/very well on holding the Chief Constable to account, the same level as in September 2005 (Table 20). Protestant respondents (42%) were more likely to think that the NIPB did well in this area compared to Catholic respondents (37%).

Table 20: How the NIPB does on holding the Chief Constable to account

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents								
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	4	10	7	9	4	6	7	6	6
Well	34	36	36	30	36	33	30	36	33
Neither well nor poor	27	24	25	22	25	25	31	23	27
Poor	12	7	8	9	9	9	12	11	12
Very poor	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	2	2
Don't know/refusal	22	21	22	27	23	25	19	22	20

Q21. How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on consulting with the public about policing issues?

One quarter of respondents (25%) thought the NIPB did well/very well in consulting the public on policing issues compared to 26% in September 2005 (Table 21). The proportion of respondents who thought performance was poor/very poor in April 2006 was 24%, a decrease of four percentage points from September 2005 (28%). A higher proportion of Catholic respondents (29%) thought the NIPB did very well/well in consulting with the public about policing issues compared to Protestant respondents (23%).

Table 21: How the NIPB does on consulting the public on policing issues

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	5	4	4	2	5	4	6	2	4	3	2	2
Well	22	21	22	22	24	23	23	23	22	26	21	23
Neither well nor poor	30	32	31	27	26	26	24	27	26	30	31	31
Poor	19	19	19	22	22	22	17	21	20	18	17	18
Very poor	8	9	8	7	5	6	9	8	8	5	7	6
Don't know/refusal	15	16	16	20	19	19	22	19	20	17	21	19

Q22. Do you think that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job?

Just over three fifths of respondents (62%) thought that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job, compared to 59% in September 2005 (Table 22). Catholic respondents (63%) were more likely to think that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job compared to Protestant respondents (61%).

Table 22: Does the NIPB help to ensure that the PSNI do a good job?

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	62	61	61	61	67	64	62	59	59	63	61	62
No	23	22	23	21	17	18	22	27	25	22	25	24
Don't know/refusal	15	17	17	18	16	17	16	15	16	15	14	15

Q23. Do you think that the NIPB is part of the police/independent of the police?

Almost three quarters of respondents (74%) correctly thought that the NIPB is independent of the police, compared to 70% in September 2005 (Table 23). Protestant respondents (80%) were much more likely to know that the NIPB is independent of the police than Catholic respondents (67%).

Table 23: Is the NIPB part of the police/independent of the police?

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Part of the police	28	20	22	33	21	25	27	18	22	29	15	21
Independent of the police	67	73	71	58	71	66	63	75	70	67	80	74
Don't know/refusal	5	7	6	10	8	8	10	6	8	4	5	5

Q24. What do you think is the primary role of the NIPB?

Over four fifths of respondents (81%) 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 24), an increase of four percentage points on the September 2005 finding. Protestant respondents (82%) were more likely to know the NIPB's primary role than Catholic respondents (79%).

Table 24: What do you think is the primary role of the NIPB?

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
To actively direct police operations	10	12	11	13	10	11	13	10	11	14	7	10
To oversee policing and hold the Chief Constable and the PSNI publicly to account	80	77	79	73	80	77	73	81	77	79	82	81
To tell the Chief Constable what to do	3	4	3	3	4	3	5	4	4	1	4	3
Other	2	1	1	3	0	2	2	2	2	0	1	1
Don't know/refusal	5	6	5	7	6	6	7	4	6	6	5	6

Q25. Do you think the NIPB is made up of ...

Just over three quarters of respondents (76%) correctly thought that the NIPB is made up of "a mix of politicians and independently appointed members", up nine percentage points from the September 2005 finding (Table 25). Protestant respondents (76%) were more likely to know the composition of the NIPB than Catholic respondents (74%).

Table 25: Do you think that the NIPB is made up of...

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Politicians	3	4	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2
Independently appointed members	21	22	21	23	23	24	31	18	22	16	16	16
A mix of politicians and independently appointed members	67	66	67	64	68	66	59	72	67	74	76	76
Other	2	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
Don't know/refusal	7	7	7	9	7	7	8	6	8	5	5	5

Q26. Overall, how well do you think the NIPB is working?

Almost three quarters of respondents (74%) thought the NIPB is working at least adequately, a three percentage point increase from the September 2005 finding (Table 26). Within this, 33% of respondents thought that the NIPB was working very well/well compared to 29% in September 2005. One in six respondents (16%) thought that the NIPB was performing poorly/very poorly, compared to 17% in September 2005.

Table 26: Overall, how well do you think the NIPB is working?

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2004 (October)			2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	5	4	4	5	6	6	7	2	3	6	4	5
Well	25	26	26	26	28	27	23	29	26	29	27	28
Adequately	43	44	43	39	44	42	36	44	42	39	43	41
Poorly	14	12	13	16	9	11	17	13	14	13	12	13
Very poorly	4	2	3	1	3	2	3	3	3	2	4	3
Don't know/refusal	10	12	11	12	11	12	14	10	12	11	10	11

