

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 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 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 2005 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 (NISRA) 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 2,088 addresses in Northern Ireland selected from the Valuation and Lands Agency list of addresses. A total sample of 1,165 persons aged 16 and over were interviewed between 11th April 2005 and 13th May 2005. A total of 1,086 of the 1,165 respondents stated their community background and therefore the breakdowns by religion are based on this sample of 1,086.

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

The following symbols are used in the accompanying results tables:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| n | Category not applicable | - | Cell contains a dash ("-") |
| n | 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?

Just under three fifths of respondents (57%) in April 2005 thought that their local police were doing a very/fairly good job – an increase of 5 percentage points on the October 2004 survey result (Table 1). The proportion rating the performance of local police as very/fairly poor in April 2005 was 15% - a 10 percentage point decrease from October 2004. Just over three fifths of Protestant respondents (62%) thought that the PSNI do a very/fairly good job in their locality (up from 57% in October 2004), as did 53% of Catholic respondents (up from 45% in October 2004).

Table 1: Performance of local police

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly good	50	59	56	46	52	48	45	57	52	53	62	57
Neither good nor poor	18	15	16	19	19	20	22	17	20	26	21	23
Very/fairly poor	30	25	27	34	26	28	31	23	25	17	13	15
Don't know/refusal	2	1	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	5	3	5

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

Just over three fifths (63%) of respondents thought that the PSNI in Northern Ireland as a whole were doing a very/fairly good job, up from 58% in October 2004 (Table 2). The proportion rating the performance of the PSNI in Northern Ireland as a whole as very/fairly poor in April 2005 was 12% - a decrease of 7 percentage points from October 2004. More Protestant respondents (69%) thought that the PSNI do a very/fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole (up from 64% in October 2004) than did Catholic respondents (55% - compared to 51% in October 2004).

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly good	55	67	62	52	61	57	51	64	58	55	69	63
Neither good nor poor	23	15	18	20	17	19	24	16	20	27	17	21
Very/fairly poor	19	18	18	27	20	22	23	17	19	15	12	12
Don't know/refusal	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	3	3

Q3. How do the PSNI treat Catholic and Protestant members of the public in your area?

Just under three quarters (73%) of respondents thought their local police treated both communities equally, up from 72% in October 2004 (Table 3). Just over three fifths of Catholic respondents (63%) thought that the police in their local area treated both communities equally, compared to 60% in October 2004. This compares to 82% of Protestant respondents who thought that both communities were treated equally (compared to 80% in October 2004). The proportion of Catholic respondents who believed Protestants receive better treatment was 14% - a decrease of 14 percentage points from October 2004.

Table 3: Perceived treatment of Catholics and Protestants by local police

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Catholics better	2	6	4	6	6	6	2	6	4	3	5	4
Both equally	59	84	73	58	79	70	60	80	72	63	82	73
Protestants better	28	3	14	26	4	12	28	2	13	14	3	8
Don't know/refusal	10	7	9	10	12	12	10	11	11	20	11	15

Q4. How do the PSNI treat Catholic and Protestant members of the public in Northern Ireland as a whole?

Just under two thirds of respondents (66%) thought that the PSNI in Northern Ireland as a whole treated both communities equally, an increase of 1 percentage point on the 65% recorded in October 2004 (Table 4). Over three quarters of Protestant respondents (77%) thought that the PSNI in Northern Ireland treated everyone equally (up from 75% in October 2004), whereas 55% of Catholic respondents thought there was equity of treatment (up from 51% in October 2004). Respondents were more likely to think that the PSNI treated the two communities equally in their area (73%) than in Northern Ireland as a whole (66%) (Tables 3 and 4).

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Catholics better	2	8	5	3	8	5	6	5	5	2	8	6
Both equally	52	80	68	49	75	64	51	75	65	55	77	66
Protestants better	37	6	19	37	7	20	31	10	18	27	4	14
Don't know/refusal	8	5	7	10	11	11	12	9	11	17	10	14

Q5. How satisfied are you that the PSNI treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole?

This question was asked for the first time in April 2005. Almost two thirds of respondents (66%) were very/fairly satisfied that the PSNI treated members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole (Table 5). Less than one in twelve respondents (8%) were very/fairly dissatisfied.

Table 5: Satisfaction that the police treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole

Rating	Percentage of respondents		
	2005 (April)		
	C	P	All
Very satisfied	8	13	11
Fairly satisfied	48	60	55
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	29	19	23
Fairly dissatisfied	6	4	5
Very dissatisfied	4	1	3
Don't know/refusal	5	3	4

Q6. 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 five out of every six respondents (83%) had some, a lot or total confidence in the police's ability to provide a day-to-day policing service for everyone in Northern Ireland compared to 77% in October 2004 (Table 6). 15% of respondents said they had little or no confidence at all, down from 21% in October 2004. The proportion of Protestant respondents who had at least some confidence in ordinary day to day policing rose by 6 percentage points to 86% in April 2005 from 80% in October 2004. The proportion of Catholic respondents with at least some confidence rose to 80% in April 2005 from 73% in October 2004.

Table 6: 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											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	7	10	9	5	8	7	6	9	8	6	9	7
A lot of confidence	20	33	28	21	29	26	24	29	27	25	30	28
Some confidence	48	38	42	43	40	42	43	42	42	49	47	48
Little confidence	19	15	17	22	18	19	17	13	15	14	11	13
No confidence at all	5	3	4	7	4	5	9	5	6	3	2	2
Don't know/refusal	1	0	1	1	0	1	2	1	2	3	1	2

Q7. How much confidence do you have in the PSNI's ability to deal with public disorder situations such as riots?

Almost four out of every five respondents (79%) had some, a lot or total confidence in the police's ability to deal with public disorder situations – up from 75% in October 2004 (Table 7). The proportion of Catholic respondents who had at least some confidence in the police's ability to provide a public order policing service rose to 73% in April 2005 from 68% in October 2004, whilst the proportion of Protestant respondents who had at least some confidence increased to 82% in April 2005 from 80% in October 2004.

Table 7: Confidence in the police's ability to provide a public order policing service for all the people of Northern Ireland

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	6	11	9	4	9	7	4	10	8	6	10	9
A lot of confidence	21	34	29	26	33	30	23	34	30	20	34	28
Some confidence	42	36	38	34	40	38	41	36	37	47	38	42
Little confidence	20	13	16	26	13	18	17	15	16	16	12	14
No confidence at all	8	4	6	9	4	6	12	4	7	8	3	5
Don't know/refusal	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	4	2	3

Q8. How satisfied are you with the levels of police patrols in your area?

Just over two fifths of respondents (42%) were satisfied with the levels of police patrols in their area, compared to 36% in October 2004 (Table 8). The percentage of Catholic respondents who were very/fairly satisfied with the levels of police patrols increased to 43% in April 2005 from 31% in October 2004. The percentage of Protestant respondents who were very/fairly satisfied with the levels of police patrols rose to 42% in April 2005 from 39% in October 2004. The proportion of Catholic respondents who were dissatisfied with levels of police patrols fell to 26% in April 2005 from 37% in October 2004 and the proportion of Protestant respondents who were dissatisfied with levels of police patrols fell to 36% in April 2005 from 40% in October 2004.

Table 8: Satisfaction with the levels of police patrols

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/Fairly Satisfied	38	35	36	35	35	34	31	39	36	43	42	42
Neither	25	18	21	23	18	21	30	20	24	28	21	25
Very/Fairly Dissatisfied	36	47	42	40	46	43	37	40	38	26	36	31
Don't know/refusal	1	0	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	3	1	2

Q9. Over the last year, has the overall standard of police service in your area...

Over two thirds of respondents (68%) thought that the overall standard of policing had remained the same over the last year, 14% thought that it had got worse and 12% thought that it had improved (Table 9). Protestant respondents (80%) were less likely than Catholic respondents (82%) to think that overall policing had remained the same or improved and more likely to think that it had got worse (16% compared to 12% for Catholic respondents).

Table 9: Perception of the overall standard of policing over the last year

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Improved	14	7	10	12	11	11	11	9	10	13	11	12
Remained the same	72	67	69	67	60	63	69	62	64	69	69	68
Got worse	12	23	18	17	24	20	17	24	21	12	16	14
Don't know/refusal	2	3	3	4	6	5	3	5	5	7	6	6

Q10. Have you been in contact with the PSNI over the past 12 months?

Just under one quarter of respondents (23%) had been in contact with the PSNI over the last year, down from 29% in October 2004 (Table 10). A higher proportion of Protestant respondents (23%) were in contact with the PSNI compared to Catholic respondents (21%).

Table 10: Contact with the PSNI

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	32	31	32	26	31	29	24	31	29	21	23	23
No	68	69	68	73	69	70	76	69	71	78	77	77
Refusal	-	-	0	1	-	0	-	0	0	0	-	0

Q11. What form(s) did the contact take?

The largest category for police contact in April 2005 was reporting a crime (28%) up from 26% in October 2004 (Table 11). Just under one fifth of respondents (19%) were in contact with the PSNI due to being a victim of crime, compared with 23% in October 2004. Protestant respondents were more likely to have contact with PSNI to report a crime than Catholic respondents (33% compared to 22%) or report anti-social behaviour (21% compared to 8%).

Table 11: What form(s) did the contact take?

Respondents who had contact with PSNI	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
You were a victim of crime	19	21	20	22	25	25	26	22	23	18	23	19
You reported a crime	30	34	32	19	39	30	33	24	26	22	33	28
Giving a statement	23	18	20	21	18	19	23	18	19	13	21	16
Reporting anti-social behaviour	15	21	18	13	23	19	23	15	17	8	21	17
Proof of driving documents or involved in road traffic accident	11	8	9	13	10	11	14	15	15	18	6	12
Dispute with a neighbour	4	2	3	5	1	3	5	4	4	1	4	3
Renewing firearms licence	5	4	4	4	2	3	7	5	7	3	5	5
Seeking advice or information	22	16	19	20	15	17	15	8	11	15	12	13
Other (please specify)	13	17	16	28	20	23	14	22	20	23	21	21
Refusal	-	-	0	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-

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

Q12. Were you satisfied with the PSNI during this contact?

Almost three quarters of respondents (73%) were satisfied in their contact with PSNI, compared to 71% in October 2004 (Table 12). Protestant respondents (72%) were more satisfied than Catholic respondents (69%).

Table 12: Were you satisfied with the PSNI during this contact?

Respondents who had contact with PSNI	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	68	69	69	70	59	64	63	73	71	69	72	73
No	32	31	31	30	41	36	37	27	29	28	28	26
Refusal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2

Q13. If you were a victim of a crime, how satisfied were you with how the PSNI kept you informed of developments during the investigation?

This question was asked for the first time in April 2005. Almost half of respondents (49%) were very/fairly satisfied with how the PSNI kept them informed of developments during the investigation (Table 13). Almost one third of respondents (32%) were very/fairly dissatisfied.

Table 13: Satisfaction with how the PSNI kept you informed of developments during the investigation

Respondents who said they were a victim of crime	Percentage of respondents		
	2005 (April)		
	C	P	All
Very satisfied	29	15	19
Fairly satisfied	12	36	30
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	18	21	19
Fairly dissatisfied	24	18	21
Very dissatisfied	18	9	11

Q14. Do you know the officer who is in charge of policing in your area?

This question was asked for the first time in April 2005. Over nine tenths of respondents (93%) did not know the officer who is in charge of policing in their area (Table 14).

Table 14: Do you know the officer who is in charge of policing in your area?

Rating	Percentage of respondents		
	2005 (April)		
	C	P	All
Yes	5	8	7
No	95	92	93
Don't know/refusal	0	-	0

Q15. Do you know how to contact the officer in charge of policing in your area?

This question was asked for the first time in April 2005. Almost all respondents (99%) who knew the officer in charge of local policing knew how to contact this officer (Table 15).

Table 15: Knowledge of how to contact the officer in charge of policing in your area.

Respondents who know the officer in charge of local policing	Percentage of respondents		
	2005 (April)		
	C	P	All
Yes	100	98	99
No	-	2	1

2. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs)

Q16. Have you heard of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)?

Almost three fifths of respondents (58%) had heard of DPPs in April 2005, compared to 60% in October 2004 (Table 16). Protestant respondents (61%) were more likely than Catholic respondents (53%) to have heard of DPPs.

Table 16: Have you heard of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)?

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	63	69	66	62	68	66	59	61	60	53	61	58
No	37	31	33	37	32	33	41	39	40	46	39	42
Don't know/refusal	-	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	0

Q17. How much confidence do you have that DPPs will help address local policing problems?

Just under three quarters of respondents (74%) who had heard of DPPs had some, a lot or total confidence that DPPs will help address local policing problems compared to 66% in October 2004 (Table 17). Almost one fifth of respondents (18%) said they had little or no confidence at all. Protestant respondents (74%) were slightly more confident than Catholic respondents (73%) that DPPs will help address local policing problems.

Table 17: Confidence that DPPs will help address local policing problems

All those who have heard of DPPs	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	5	4	4	3	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4
A lot of confidence	22	20	21	15	17	16	13	17	15	18	20	19
Some confidence	45	49	47	50	48	49	49	47	48	51	50	51
Little confidence	18	16	17	18	23	21	20	17	18	16	15	15
No confidence at all	4	4	4	9	4	6	7	8	8	4	3	3
Don't know/refusal	6	7	7	5	6	6	9	8	8	7	7	7

Q18. Are you prepared to contact your local DPP to raise issues/ask questions about local policing?

Of the 58% of respondents who had heard of DPPs' almost three fifths (59%) said they were prepared to contact their local DPP regarding local policing issues, compared to 52% in October 2004 (Table 18). Protestant respondents (61%) were more willing than Catholic respondents (58%) to contact their local DPP.

Table 18: Prepared to contact local DPP about local policing?

All those who have heard of DPPs	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	57	68	64	49	57	54	45	57	52	58	61	59
No	40	29	33	47	42	43	55	40	46	39	38	38
Don't know/refusal	2	3	3	4	1	3	1	3	2	4	2	3

Q21. How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on monitoring how the PSNI performs?

Over two fifths of respondents (44%) thought the NIPB did well/very well in monitoring how PSNI performs – the same as in October 2004 (Table 21). Proportionately less respondents rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in April 2005 (7%) than in October 2004 (11%). Protestant respondents (48%) were more likely to think that the NIPB did well in this area than Catholic respondents (41%).

Table 21: How NIPB does on monitoring how the PSNI performs

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Rating												
Very well	7	7	6	6	7	6	6	5	6	6	10	8
Well	39	46	43	36	39	37	36	39	38	35	38	36
Neither well nor poor	30	24	26	31	27	29	29	29	29	29	27	28
Poor	7	6	6	10	7	8	10	8	8	7	6	6
Very poor	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	1	1	1
Don't know	16	17	17	17	19	19	16	18	18	22	18	20

Q22. 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 (45%) thought that the NIPB was doing well/very well in questioning the Chief Constable - two percentage points up from the October 2004 finding (Table 22). Proportionately less respondents rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in April 2005 (7%) than in October 2004 (11%). Protestant respondents (49%) 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 (38%).

Table 22: How NIPB does on questioning the Chief Constable

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Rating												
Very well	8	7	7	4	8	6	6	6	6	6	10	8
Well	39	40	40	35	38	36	40	35	37	32	39	37
Neither well nor poor	25	26	25	28	28	29	22	29	25	29	23	25
Poor	7	7	7	10	7	8	11	6	8	8	5	6
Very poor	1	2	1	2	1	1	4	3	3	1	1	1
Don't know/refusal	20	18	19	20	19	20	18	21	20	25	21	23

Q23. How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on holding the Chief Constable to account?

This question was asked for the first time in April 2005. Over two fifths of respondents (43%) thought that the NIPB was doing very/fairly well on holding the Chief Constable to account (Table 23). Protestant respondents (46%) were more likely to think that the NIPB did well in this area compared to Catholic respondents (38%).

Table 23: How NIPB does on holding the Chief Constable to account

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents		
	2005 (April)		
	C	P	All
Rating			
Very Well	4	10	7
Well	34	36	36
Neither well nor poor	27	24	25
Poor	12	7	8
Very poor	1	1	1
Don't know/refusal	22	21	22

Q24. How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on consulting with the public about policing issues?

Over one quarter of respondents (27%) thought the NIPB did well/very well in consulting the public on policing issues compared to 26% in October 2004 (Table 24). Slightly more respondents thought performance was poor/very poor in April 2005 (28%) than in October 2004 (27%). A higher proportion of Protestant respondents (29%) thought the NIPB did very well/well in consulting with the public about policing issues compared to Catholic respondents (24%).

Table 24: How NIPB does on consulting the public on policing issues

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Rating												
Very well	4	3	3	4	3	3	5	4	4	2	5	4
Well	24	25	24	20	22	21	22	21	22	22	24	23
Neither well nor poor	29	30	29	29	28	28	30	32	31	27	26	26
Poor	23	23	23	26	23	24	19	19	19	22	22	22
Very poor	6	4	5	6	8	7	8	9	8	7	5	6
Don't know	14	15	15	15	17	17	15	16	16	20	19	19

Q25. Do you think that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job?

Just under two thirds of respondents (64%) thought that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job, compared to 61% in October 2004 (Table 25). Protestant respondents (67%) were more likely to think that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job compared to Catholic respondents (61%). The proportion of Protestant respondents who thought that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job rose from 61% in October 2004 to 67% in April 2005.

Table 25: Does the NIPB help to ensure that the PSNI do a good job?

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	73	69	70	60	61	60	62	61	61	61	67	64
No	16	17	17	22	24	23	23	22	23	21	17	18
Don't know	11	13	13	18	15	17	15	17	17	18	16	17

Q26. Do you think that the NIPB is part of the police/independent of the police?

Just under two thirds of respondents (66%) correctly thought that the NIPB is independent of the police, compared to 71% in October 2004 (Table 26). Protestant respondents (71%) were much more likely to know that the NIPB is independent of the police than Catholic respondents (58%).

Table 26: Is the NIPB part of the police/independent of the police?

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Part of the police	27	19	22	26	22	23	28	20	22	33	21	25
Independent of the police	66	76	72	64	71	68	67	73	71	58	71	66
Don't know	7	5	6	10	7	8	5	7	6	10	8	8

Q27. 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 27). This compares to 79% of respondents in October 2004 who knew the NIPB’s primary role. Protestant respondents (80%) were more likely to know the NIPB’s primary role than Catholic respondents (73%).

Table 27: What do you think is the primary role of the NIPB?

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
To actively direct police operations	12	11	11	13	11	12	10	12	11	13	10	11
To oversee policing and hold the Chief Constable and the PSNI publicly to account	77	80	79	74	78	77	80	77	79	73	80	77
To tell the Chief Constable what to do	5	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	4	3
Other	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	3	0	2
Don't know	5	4	4	6	6	6	5	6	5	7	6	6

Q28. Do you think the NIPB is made up of ...

Almost two thirds of respondents (66%) correctly thought that the NIPB is made up of “a mix of politicians and independently appointed members”, down 1 percentage point from the October 2004 finding (Table 28). Protestant respondents (68%) were slightly more likely to know the composition of the NIPB than Catholic respondents (64%).

Table 28: Do you think that the NIPB is made up of...

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Politicians	3	1	2	3	2	2	3	4	4	3	2	2
Independently appointed members	25	26	26	18	25	21	21	22	21	23	23	24
A mix of politicians and independently appointed members	63	67	65	71	64	67	67	66	67	64	68	66
Other	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Don't know	9	5	7	8	9	8	7	7	7	9	7	7

Q29. Overall, how well do you think the NIPB is working?

Three quarters (75%) of respondents thought the NIPB is working at least adequately, a two percentage point increase from the October 2004 finding (Table 29). Within this, 33% of respondents thought that the NIPB was working very well/well, compared to 30% in October 2004. Almost one in seven (13%) of respondents thought that the NIPB was performing poorly/very poorly, compared to 16% in October 2004.

Table 29: Overall, how well do you think the NIPB is working?

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)			2005 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	5	7	6	6	3	4	5	4	4	5	6	6
Well	31	28	28	26	24	24	25	26	26	26	28	27
Adequately	41	43	43	42	45	45	43	44	43	39	44	42
Poorly	12	9	10	13	13	13	14	12	13	16	9	11
Very poorly	3	2	2	4	2	3	4	2	3	1	3	2
Don't know	8	11	10	10	13	12	10	12	11	12	11	12

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