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**PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF THE
POLICE AND THE NORTHERN
IRELAND POLICING BOARD**
REPORT BASED ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD
MODULE OF THE OCTOBER 2003 OMNIBUS SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

The Northern Ireland Policing Board is an independent public body whose job it is to oversee policing in Northern Ireland. It was set up on 4 November 2001 as a result of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000. The Policing Board is not controlled by Government and has strong independent powers to carry out its work. The Policing Board consists of 19 Members, ten political members of the Northern Ireland Assembly and nine Independent Members appointed through open competition.

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

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

The Board must also keep itself informed as to:

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

and assess:

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

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

OCTOBER 2003 OMNIBUS SURVEY

Northern Ireland Omnibus Surveys are carried out several times a year by Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and seek the views of the public on a range of issues including policing.

The sample for this current survey was taken from a random selection of 2000 addresses in Northern Ireland selected from the Valuation and Lands Agency list of addresses. A total sample of 1,308 persons aged 16 and over were interviewed between 29th September 2003 and 31st October 2003. A total of 1,229 of the 1,308 respondents stated their community background and therefore the breakdowns by religion are based on this sample of 1,229. Some questions commissioned by the Policing Board in the October 2003 Omnibus Survey were asked for the first time so there is no comparison with previous surveys. The results of Omnibus Surveys are used by the Northern Ireland Policing Board 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 Annual Policing Plan.

The following symbols are used in the accompanying results tables :

- Category not applicable - Cell is empty
- Category result less than 0.5% - Cell contains a 0

RESULTS

1: POLICING PRIORITIES

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

Over half of respondents (56%) in October 2003 thought that their local police were doing a very/fairly good job which is identical to April 2003 survey result (Table 1). The proportion rating the performance of local police as very/fairly poor in October 2003 was 27% - an increase from April 2003 (23%). Almost three fifths of Protestant respondents (59%) thought that the PSNI do a very/fairly good job in their locality (down from 61% in April 2003) as did 50% of Catholic respondents (identical to April 2003).

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (April)			2002 (September)			2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Very/fairly good	50	65	59	50	63	57	50	61	56	50	59	56
Neither good nor bad	18	16	17	20	17	18	20	17	18	18	15	16
Very/fairly poor	30	18	22	28	19	22	28	22	23	30	25	27
Don't know/refusal	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2

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

Over three fifths (62%) of respondents thought that the PSNI in Northern Ireland (NI) as a whole were doing a very/fairly good job, down from 63% in April 2003 (Table 2). The proportion rating the performance of the PSNI in NI as a whole as very/fairly poor in October 2003 was 18% - an increase of 2 percentage points from April 2003 (16%). More Protestant respondents (67%) thought that the PSNI do a very/fairly good job in NI as a whole (down from 71% in April 2003) than did Catholic respondents (55% - compared to 50% in April 2003).

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (April)			2002 (September)			2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Very/fairly good	54	74	66	49	71	61	50	71	63	55	67	62
Neither good nor bad	23	15	18	21	15	18	28	14	20	23	15	18
Very/fairly poor	20	11	14	26	12	19	21	14	16	19	18	18
No answer/DK/refusal	3	1	2	3	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1

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

Almost three quarters (73%) of respondents thought their local police treated both communities equally, up from 69% in April 2003 (Table 3). Almost three fifths of Catholic respondents (59%) thought that the police in their local area treated both communities equally, compared to 58% in April 2003. This compares to 84% of Protestant respondents who thought that both communities were treated equally (compared to 79% in April 2003). Exactly the same proportion of Catholic respondents (28%) believed Protestants receive better treatment in the October 2003 and April 2003 surveys.

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (April)			2002 (September)			2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Catholics better	1	7	4	1	3	2	4	5	4	2	6	4
Both equally	58	78	70	60	83	73	58	79	69	59	84	73
Protestants better	32	4	15	25	3	13	28	4	13	28	3	14
No answer/DK/refusal	9	12	11	13	9	12	10	12	13	10	7	9

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

Over two thirds of respondents (68%) believed that the PSNI in NI as a whole treat both communities equally, an increase of 4 percentage points on the 64% recorded in April 2003 (Table 4). Four fifths of Protestant respondents (80%) thought that the PSNI in NI treat everyone equally (up from 76% in April 2003) compared to 52% of Catholic respondents who thought there was equity of treatment (up from 50% in April 2003). 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 (68%) (Tables 3 and 4).

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (April)			2002 (September)			2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Catholics better	1	10	6	1	5	4	2	8	5	2	8	5
Both equally	46	70	61	48	81	67	50	76	64	52	80	68
Protestants better	45	9	22	39	6	20	38	8	20	37	6	19
No answer/DK/refusal	8	11	10	13	7	10	10	9	11	8	5	7

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

Over three quarters of respondents (79%) had some, a lot or total confidence in the police's ability to provide a day to day policing service for everyone in NI compared to 75% in April 2003 (Table 5). Over one fifth of respondents (21%) said they had little or no confidence at all, down from 23% in April 2003. The proportion of Protestant respondents who had at least some confidence in the police was identical in the April and October 2003 surveys at 81%. The proportion of Catholic respondents with at least some confidence in ordinary day to day policing rose from 70% in April 2003 to 75% in October 2003.

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

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (April)			2002 (September)			2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Total confidence	8	13	12	5	12	8	6	9	8	7	10	9
A lot of confidence	21	36	30	19	30	25	24	33	28	20	33	28
Some confidence	40	36	37	44	37	40	40	39	39	48	38	42
Little confidence	22	12	16	21	17	19	21	16	18	19	15	17
None at all	8	3	5	8	4	6	8	3	5	5	3	4
No answer/DK/refusal	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	1

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

Just over three quarters of respondents (76%) had some, a lot or total confidence in the police's ability to deal with public disorder situations - identical to April 2003 (Table 6). The proportion of Catholic respondents who had at least some confidence in the police's ability to provide a public order policing service rose from 66% in April 2003 to 69% in October 2003 whilst the proportion of Protestant respondents who had at least some confidence dropped from 84% in April 2003 to 81% in October 2003.

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

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (April)			2002 (September)			2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Total confidence	5	11	10	4	12	8	5	11	9	6	11	9
A lot of confidence	16	33	26	20	33	27	21	36	29	21	34	29
Some confidence	38	36	37	39	32	34	40	37	38	42	36	38
Little confidence	23	14	18	22	17	20	21	12	16	20	13	16
None at all	14	4	7	13	5	9	11	3	6	8	4	6
No answer/DK/refusal	4	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	2

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

Over one third of respondents (36%) were satisfied with the levels of police patrols in their area compared to 35% in April 2003 (Table 7). Catholic respondents (38%) were slightly more satisfied with the levels of police patrols than Protestant respondents (35%). The proportion of Protestant respondents who were dissatisfied with levels of police patrols rose from 44% in April 2003 to 47% in October 2003.

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

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (April)			2002 (September)			2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Very/Fairly satisfied	36	40	38	39	39	38	33	35	35	38	35	36
Neither	25	22	24	28	17	22	27	21	23	25	18	21
Very/Fairly dissatisfied	37	36	37	31	43	38	38	44	40	36	47	42
No answer/DK/refusal	2	1	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	1

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

Over two thirds of respondents (69%) thought that the overall standard of policing had remained the same over the last year, 18% thought that it had got worse and 10% felt that it had improved (Table 8). These findings are more positive than in April 2003. Protestant respondents (7%) were much less likely than Catholic respondents (14%) to think that overall policing had improved over the year and much more likely to think that it had got worse (23% compared to 12% for Catholic respondents).

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

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (April)			2002 (September)			2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Improved	9	4	6	11	6	8	10	8	9	14	7	10
Remained the same	74	68	71	71	66	69	71	63	66	72	67	69
Got worse	12	24	19	14	26	21	16	26	21	12	23	18
No answer/DK/refusal	5	4	4	4	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	3

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

Just under one third of respondents (32%) had been in contact with the PSNI over the last year compared with 29% in April 2003 and 32% in September 2002 (Table 9). A slightly higher proportion of Catholic respondents (32%) were in contact with the PSNI compared to Protestant respondents (31%)

TABLE 9: Contact with PSNI

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey								
	2002 (September)			2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Yes	30	32	32	29	29	29	32	31	32
No	70	68	68	71	71	70	68	69	68
No answer/DK/refusal	0	-	0	-	0	0	-	-	0

Q10: What form did the contact take?

The largest category for police contact in October 2003 was reporting a crime (32%) up from 26% in April 2003 (Table 10). In addition, one fifth of respondents (20%) were in contact with the PSNI contact due to being a victim of crime compared with 24% in April 2003 and a further 20% of respondents were in contact to give a statement (up from 17% in April 2003). Catholic respondents (22%) were more likely to have contact with PSNI for the newly included category of seeking advice/information than Protestant respondents (16%).

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

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

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

* Categories not included before April 2003.

Category not included before October 2003.

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

Over two thirds of respondents (69%) were satisfied in their contact with PSNI compared to 75% in April 2003 (Table 11). Catholic respondents (68%) were slightly less satisfied than Protestant respondents (69%).

TABLE 11: Satisfaction with PSNI contact.

Respondents who had contact with PSNI Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey								
	2002 (September)			2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Yes	74	74	74	75	74	75	68	69	69
No	26	25	25	25	26	25	32	31	31
No answer/DK/refusal	-	1	1	-	1	0	-	-	-

2. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs)

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

Two thirds of respondents (66%) had heard of DPPs in October 2003 compared to 41% in April 2003, an increase of 25 percentage points (Table 12). Protestant respondents (69%) were more likely than Catholic respondents (63%) to have heard of DPPs.

TABLE 12: Heard of District Policing Partnerships?

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey								
	2002 (September)			2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Yes	35	38	37	38	42	41	63	69	66
No	64	62	62	62	58	59	37	31	33
No answer/DK/refusal	0	-	0	-	0	0	-	0	0

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

This question was asked for the first time in October 2003. Almost three quarters of respondents (72%) had some, a lot or total confidence that DPPs will help address local policing problems (Table 13). Over one fifth of respondents (21%) said they had little or no confidence at all. Protestant respondents (73%) were slightly more confident than Catholic respondents (72%) that DPPs will help address local policing problems.

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

All those who have heard of DPPs. Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey		
	2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot
Total confidence	5	4	4
A lot of confidence	22	20	21
Some confidence	45	49	47
Little confidence	18	16	17
None at all	4	4	4
No answer/DK/refusal	6	7	7

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

Almost two thirds of respondents (64%) said they were prepared to contact their local DPP regarding local policing issues (Table 14). This compares to 57% in April 2003. Protestant respondents (68%) were more willing than Catholic respondents (57%) to contact their local DPP.

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

All those who have heard of DPPs. Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey					
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Yes	56	59	57	57	68	64
No	42	38	39	40	29	33
No answer/DK/refusal	2	4	3	2	3	3

3. THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

Q15: Have you heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB)?

Over five sixths of respondents (87%) had heard of the NIPB - identical to the April 2003 finding (Table 15). Proportionately more Protestant respondents (89%) had heard of the NIPB than Catholic respondents (84%).

TABLE 15: Heard of the NIPB?

Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (April)			2002 (September)			2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Yes	84	86	86	82	89	86	84	90	87	84	89	87
No	16	14	14	17	11	13	16	10	13	16	11	13
No answer/DK/refusal	1	0	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	0

Q16: How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on monitoring how the PSNI performs?

Almost half of respondents (49%) thought the NIPB did well/very well in monitoring how PSNI performs compared to 45% in April 2003 (Table 16). Proportionately fewer respondents rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in October 2003 (7%) than in April 2003 (9%). Protestant respondents (53%) were slightly more likely to rate the NIPB's performance in this area as very well/well than Catholic respondents (46%).

TABLE 16: How NIPB does on monitoring how the PSNI performs

All those who have heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board. Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (April)			2002 (September)			2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Very well	6	5	6	6	7	6	9	8	8	7	7	6
Well	42	40	40	39	43	42	35	38	37	39	46	43
Neither well nor poor	28	31	30	29	28	28	31	31	31	30	24	26
Poor	9	6	7	7	7	7	7	8	7	7	6	6
Very poor	1	3	2	5	3	3	2	1	2	1	1	1
Don't know	15	15	15	14	13	13	16	15	16	16	17	17

Q17: How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on questioning the Chief Constable on how he carries out his duties?

Almost half of respondents (47%) rated the NIPB's performance in questioning the Chief Constable as well/very well - identical to the April 2003 finding (Table 17). Proportionately fewer respondents rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in October 2003 (8%) than in April 2003 (10%). Identical proportions of Catholic and Protestant respondents (47%) thought the NIPB did very well/well in questioning the Chief Constable.

TABLE 17: How NIPB does on questioning the Chief Constable

All those who have heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board. Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (April)			2002 (September)			2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Very well	5	7	6	8	9	8	8	8	8	8	7	7
Well	37	35	36	34	39	36	38	40	39	39	40	40
Neither well nor poor	24	29	28	26	26	27	24	24	24	25	26	25
Poor	17	10	12	12	6	9	10	8	8	7	7	7
Very poor	6	4	4	6	2	3	1	2	2	1	2	1
Refusal/Don't know	12	14	13	15	17	16	19	19	19	20	18	19

Q18: 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 23% in April 2003 (Table 18). Proportionately fewer respondents thought performance was poor/very poor in October 2003 (28%) than in April 2003 (31%). Protestant and Catholic respondents (28%) had identical views on how well the NIPB performed.

TABLE 18: How NIPB does on consulting the public on policing issues

All those who have heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board. Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (April)			2002 (September)			2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Very well	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3
Well	25	21	22	24	24	24	21	21	20	24	25	24
Neither well nor poor	27	27	28	21	27	25	30	30	30	29	30	29
Poor	27	26	26	31	27	28	21	24	23	23	23	23
Very poor	6	11	9	10	7	8	7	9	8	6	4	5
Refusal/Don't know	12	12	12	12	12	12	18	13	15	14	15	15

Q19: How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on ensuring that the PSNI is adequately funded?

Under one third of respondents (31%) thought that the NIPB did well/very well in ensuring that the PSNI is adequately funded - an increase from April 2003 (28%) (Table 19). Proportionately fewer respondents rated performance as poor/very poor in October 2003 (18%) than in April 2003 (19%). Catholic respondents (35%) were more likely to think that the NIPB did well/very well in this area than Protestant respondents (28%). It must be noted that a high proportion of respondents answered "Don't know" to this question.

TABLE 19: How NIPB does on ensuring that the PSNI is adequately funded

All those who have heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board. Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (April)			2002 (September)			2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Very well	5	4	4	6	3	4	4	5	5	7	4	5
Well	29	23	25	34	26	28	23	23	23	28	24	26
Neither well nor poor	31	28	29	22	26	24	28	27	27	23	25	24
Poor	7	18	14	14	19	17	9	18	15	12	16	14
Very poor	2	5	4	2	8	6	3	4	4	1	7	4
Refusal/Don't know	26	22	23	24	18	20	33	23	28	29	24	26

Q20: Do you think that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job?

Over two thirds of respondents (70%) thought that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job compared to 64% in April 2003 (Table 20). Catholic respondents (73%) were more likely to think that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job compared to Protestant respondents (69%). The proportion of Catholic respondents who thought that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job increased from 64% in April 2003 to 73% in October 2003.

TABLE 20: Does the NIPB help to ensure that the PSNI do a good job?

All those who have heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board. Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey								
	2002 (September)			2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Yes	66	64	63	64	65	64	73	69	70
No	18	25	23	21	22	22	16	17	17
No answer/DK/refusal	16	11	13	15	13	14	11	13	13

Q21: Do you think that the NIPB is part of the police/independent of the police?

Almost three quarters of respondents (72%) correctly thought that the NIPB is independent of the police compared to 69% in April 2003 (Table 21). Protestant respondents (76%) were much more likely to know that the NIPB is independent of the police than Catholic respondents (66%).

TABLE 21: Is the NIPB is part of the police/independent of the police?

All those who have heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board. Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey								
	2002 (September)			2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Part of the police	25	21	22	29	20	23	27	19	22
Independent of the police	67	74	72	62	74	69	66	76	72
No answer/DK/refusal	8	5	6	9	6	7	7	5	6

Q22: What do you think is the primary role of the NIPB ?

Over three quarters of respondents (79%) 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 22). This compares to 77% of respondents in April 2003 who knew the NIPB’s primary role. Protestant respondents (80%) were more likely to know the NIPB’s primary role than Catholic respondents (77%).

TABLE 22: What do you think is the primary role of the NIPB?

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

Q23: Do you think the NIPB is made up of...

Almost two thirds of respondents (65%) correctly thought that the NIPB is made up of “a mix of politicians and independently appointed members” compared to 66% of respondents in April 2003 (Table 23). Protestant respondents (67%) were more likely to know the composition of NIPB than Catholic respondents (63%).

TABLE 23: Do you think that the NIPB is made up of...

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

Q24: Overall, how well do you think the NIPB is working?

Over three quarters (77%) of respondents thought the NIPB is working at least adequately compared to 73% in April 2003 (Table 24). Within this, 34% of respondents thought that the NIPB was working very well/well compared to 29% in April 2003. Under one eighth (12%) of respondents thought that the NIPB was performing poorly/very poorly compared to 15% in April 2003. Protestant respondents (78%) were slightly more likely to think that the NIPB is working at least adequately than Catholic respondents (77%).

TABLE 24: Overall, how well do you think the NIPB is working?

All those who have heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board. Rating/Percentage	Omnibus Survey											
	2002 (April)			2002 (September)			2003 (April)			2003 (October)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Very well	5	2	3	5	3	4	4	5	5	5	7	6
Well	36	25	28	24	24	23	27	23	24	31	28	28
Adequately	32	43	39	42	46	44	41	45	44	41	43	43
Poor	14	15	14	15	14	15	11	13	12	12	9	10
Very poor	2	5	4	5	5	5	4	3	3	3	2	2
Refusal/Don't know	11	10	11	8	7	8	13	11	12	8	11	10