

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

REPORT BASED ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD
MODULE OF THE APRIL 2007 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 2007 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 survey consisted of a random sample of addresses selected from the Valuation and Lands Agency list of private addresses, the most up-to-date listing of private households in Northern Ireland. At each address, one person aged 16 or over was selected to participate in the survey. From an eligible sample of 1,971 households, 1,149 interviews were achieved, giving a response rate of 58%. Interviews were conducted between 2 April and 4 May 2007. Analysis by religion is based only on those 1,062 respondents who said they were either Catholic or Protestant. Respondents who refused to answer the religion question or who said they were a religion other than Catholic or Protestant are excluded from this analysis.

The Northern Ireland Policing Board uses Omnibus Survey results 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 is empty |
| ■ | Category result less than 0.5% | - | Cell contains a zero (“0”) |

Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Statistical significance tests have been carried out on the findings between the April 2007 and October 2006 Northern Ireland Omnibus Surveys. These tests are used to establish the degree of confidence with which we can infer the observed findings as an accurate reflection of the views of the population. In this publication, where differences have emerged as being statistically significant, this has been reported at the 5% ($p < 0.05$) level of probability (two-tailed). This means that, for any observed result that is found to be statistically significant, one can be 95% confident that this has not happened by chance. Such statistically significant results are clearly noted in the text above each table.

1. PERFORMANCE OF THE POLICE

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

Just over three fifths of respondents (61%) in April 2007 thought that their local police were doing a very/fairly good job, compared to 52% in October 2006 – a statistically significant increase (Table 1). The proportion rating the performance of local police as very/fairly poor in April 2007 was 19%, compared to 25% in October 2006 – a statistically significant decrease. More Protestant respondents (65%) thought that the PSNI do a very/fairly good job in their area compared to Catholic respondents (56%). The comparable October 2006 findings were 54% and 49% respectively and both increases are statistically significant.

Table 1: Performance of local police

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly good	50	60	55	51	56	53	49	54	52	56	65	61
Neither good nor poor	21	22	22	25	21	23	24	21	22	20	17	19
Very/fairly poor	22	15	17	22	20	22	25	24	25	22	17	19
Don't know/refusal	6	3	5	2	3	2	1	1	2	2	1	1

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

Almost two thirds of respondents (65%) thought that the PSNI in Northern Ireland as a whole was doing a very/fairly good job, compared to 58% in October 2006 - a statistically significant increase (Table 2). The proportion rating the performance of the PSNI in Northern Ireland as a whole as very/fairly poor in April 2007 was 13%, compared to 20% in October 2006 – a statistically significant decrease. More Protestant respondents (69%) thought that the PSNI does a very/fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole than Catholic respondents (61%). The comparable October 2006 findings were 65% and 51% respectively and this latter increase is statistically significant.

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly good	50	68	60	56	61	58	51	65	58	61	69	65
Neither good nor poor	27	16	20	23	20	22	26	15	20	22	19	20
Very/fairly poor	19	13	16	18	17	17	21	18	20	13	13	13
Don't know/refusal	5	2	4	3	2	2	3	1	2	4	0	1

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

Two thirds of respondents (67%) were very/fairly satisfied that the PSNI treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole, compared to 63% in October 2006 - a statistically significant increase (Table 3). Approximately one in eight respondents (12%) were very/fairly dissatisfied, compared to 13% in October 2006. More Protestant respondents (72%) thought that the PSNI treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole (compared to 71% in October 2006) than did Catholic respondents (61%, compared to 55% in October 2006).

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very satisfied	5	11	9	7	15	11	8	16	12	8	13	12
Fairly satisfied	50	59	55	48	59	54	47	55	51	53	59	55
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22	18	20	26	15	20	27	17	22	20	17	19
Fairly dissatisfied	11	6	8	13	6	10	12	8	9	11	7	9
Very dissatisfied	5	2	3	5	3	4	4	3	4	5	2	3
Don't know/refusal	7	4	5	1	2	3	2	2	3	3	1	2

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

Almost two thirds of respondents (66%) were very/fairly satisfied that the PSNI treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole, up from 62% in October 2006 - a statistically significant increase (Table 4). One in seven respondents (15%) were very/fairly dissatisfied, compared to 14% in October 2006. More Protestant respondents (71%) were very/fairly satisfied that the police treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole (up from 68% in October 2006) than did Catholic respondents (60%, up from 54% in October 2006).

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)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very satisfied	6	11	9	6	15	10	8	14	11	10	14	13
Fairly satisfied	42	55	49	45	55	50	46	54	51	50	57	53
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	25	19	21	25	15	20	24	17	20	19	17	18
Fairly dissatisfied	12	7	9	15	10	12	15	9	11	13	8	10
Very dissatisfied	9	2	5	7	3	5	3	3	3	6	4	5
Don't know/refusal	7	6	7	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	1	2

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?

More than four out of five 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 79% October 2006 - a statistically significant increase (Table 5). Just under one sixth of respondents (16%) had little or no confidence at all, down from 20% in October 2006 - a statistically significant decrease. The proportion of Protestant respondents who had at least some confidence in ordinary day to day policing in April 2007 was 86%, compared to 80% in October 2006 - a statistically significant increase. The proportion of Catholic respondents with at least some confidence increased by two percentage points in April 2007 to 81%, up from 79% in October 2006.

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											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	5	9	7	6	6	6	4	9	7	8	9	8
A lot of confidence	28	30	29	27	32	29	25	33	29	29	40	34
Some confidence	42	43	42	43	42	42	50	38	43	44	37	41
Little confidence	17	12	14	18	15	17	16	15	16	13	11	12
No confidence at all	6	4	5	6	5	5	4	4	4	4	3	4
Don't know/refusal	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	1

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

Almost four out of five respondents (78%) had some, a lot, or total confidence in the police's ability to deal with public disorder situations – up from 75% in October 2006 (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 remained the same in April 2007 (72%) as in October 2006, whilst the proportion of Protestant respondents who had at least some confidence rose to 83% in April 2007 from 80% in October 2006.

Table 6: Confidence in the police's ability to deal with public disorder situations

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	6	8	7	8	6	6	5	10	7	9	10	10
A lot of confidence	19	25	22	23	34	29	24	35	30	26	36	31
Some confidence	36	40	38	34	35	35	43	35	38	37	37	37
Little confidence	24	19	21	24	15	20	20	12	16	17	11	13
No confidence at all	11	6	8	9	6	7	6	5	6	9	4	6
Don't know/refusal	5	2	4	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	1	2

Q7. How much confidence do you have in the PSNI's ability to deal with terrorist activity?

This question was asked for the first time in April 2007. Just over three quarters of respondents (76%) had some, a lot, or total confidence in the PSNI's ability to deal with terrorist activity (Table 7). A higher proportion of Protestant respondents (80%) had at least some confidence in the police's ability to deal with terrorist activity, compared to Catholic respondents (73%). One in five respondents (21%) had little or no confidence at all.

Table 7: Confidence in the police's ability to deal with terrorist activity

Rating	Percentage of respondents		
	2007 (April)		
	C	P	All
Total confidence	7	9	8
A lot of confidence	27	34	31
Some confidence	39	37	37
Little confidence	18	13	15
No confidence at all	5	6	6
Don't know/refusal	4	1	2

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

Just over two fifths of respondents (43%) were satisfied with the levels of police patrols in their area, compared to 35% in October 2006 - a statistically significant increase (Table 8). The percentage of Protestant respondents who were very/fairly satisfied with the levels of police patrols increased to 46% in April 2007 from 34% in October 2006 - a statistically significant increase. The percentage of Catholic respondents who were very/fairly satisfied with the levels of police patrols increased to 41% in April 2007 from 38% in October 2006. The proportion of Catholic respondents who were dissatisfied with levels of police patrols remained at 34% in April 2007, while the proportion of Protestant respondents who were dissatisfied decreased by nine percentage points to 32% from 41% in October 2006 – a statistically significant decrease.

Table 8: Satisfaction with the levels of police patrols

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly satisfied	36	40	38	36	42	38	38	34	35	41	46	43
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	27	24	26	27	18	22	26	24	25	22	22	22
Very/fairly dissatisfied	34	31	32	36	40	38	34	41	38	34	32	33
Don't know/refusal	3	4	4	2	0	1	1	1	1	3	0	1

Q9. Over the last year, has the overall standard of policing in your area...?

Seven tenths of respondents (70%) thought that the overall standard of policing had remained the same over the last year, 13% thought that it had got better and 13% thought that it had got worse (Table 9). Protestant respondents (82%) were less likely than Catholic respondents (87%) to think that overall policing had remained the same or improved, and more likely to think that it had got worse (15% compared to 10% for Catholic respondents).

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Got better	11	7	9	12	12	12	11	6	8	16	12	13
Remained the same	69	71	70	72	67	69	71	72	72	71	70	70
Got worse	12	16	14	13	18	16	15	18	16	10	15	13
Don't know/refusal	8	5	7	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	4	4

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

Almost one quarter of respondents (23%) had been in contact with the PSNI over the last year, down from 26% in October 2006 (Table 10). A higher proportion of Catholic respondents (25%) were in contact with the PSNI compared to Protestant respondents (22%).

Table 10: Contact with the PSNI												
Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	23	27	25	25	29	27	26	25	26	25	22	23
No	76	73	74	74	71	72	74	75	74	75	78	77
Don't know/refusal	1	0	1	0		0		0	0		0	0

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

The largest category for police contact in April 2007 was reporting a crime (27%), the same as in October 2006 (Table 11). Protestant respondents were more likely to have contact with the PSNI regards proof of driving documents or involved in road traffic accident than Catholic respondents (15% compared to 7%). Catholic respondents were more likely to have contact with the PSNI when reporting a crime than Protestant respondents (36% compared to 19%). Almost one fifth of respondents (19%) were in contact with the PSNI reporting anti-social behaviour.

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

Respondents who had contact with PSNI	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
You were the victim of a crime	19	22	23	18	19	18	26	13	18	25	20	22
You reported a crime	33	25	28	30	36	32	30	25	27	36	19	27
Giving a statement	17	15	17	20	19	19	13	13	14	18	12	15
Reporting anti-social behaviour	18	15	15	22	23	23	21	19	20	23	14	19
Proof of driving documents or involved in road traffic accident	11	10	11	13	18	15	8	7	8	7	15	12
Dispute with neighbour	1	3	3	3	4	3	5	3	4	3	2	2
Renewing firearms licence		3	2	2	4	3	4	5	4	4	5	5
Seeking advice or information	6	18	14	12	11	12	13	17	16	15	19	16
Other	17	20	19	19	13	16	18	20	19	26	24	24
Refusal		0	0		0	0						

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

Q14. How safe do you feel in your local community?

This question was asked for the first time in April 2007. Nine tenths (90%) of respondents felt very/fairly safe in their local community (Table 14). Only 5% of respondents felt very/fairly unsafe. Slightly more Protestant respondents (91%) felt very/fairly safe in their local community compared to Catholic respondents (88%).

Table 14: How safe do you feel in your local community?

Rating	Percentage of respondents		
	2007 (April)		
	C	P	All
Very safe	36	36	37
Fairly safe	52	55	53
Neither safe nor unsafe	5	6	5
Fairly unsafe	5	3	4
Very unsafe	1	1	1

2: DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs)

Q15. Have you heard of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)?

Two thirds of respondents (67%) had heard of DPPs in April 2007, compared to 63% in October 2006 - a statistically significant increase (Table 15). Protestant respondents were more likely to have heard of DPPs (72%), compared to Catholic respondents (62%).

Table 15: Have you heard of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)?

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	48	57	54	59	68	63	64	64	63	62	72	67
No	51	43	46	41	32	36	36	35	36	38	28	33
Don't know/refusal	1	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0

Q16. How much confidence do you have that DPPs will help address local policing problems?

Over four fifths of respondents (83%) who had heard of DPPs had some, a lot or total confidence that DPPs will help address local policing problems, compared to 71% in October 2006 (Table 16) – a statistically significant increase. One in eight respondents (12%) had little or no confidence at all, compared to 22% in October 2006 – a statistically significant decrease. Protestant respondents (84%) were slightly more confident than Catholic respondents (82%) that DPPs will help address local policing problems.

Table 16: Confidence that DPPs will help address local policing problems

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
All those who have heard of DPPs												
Total confidence	1	3	2	2	2	2	4	3	4	4	4	4
A lot of confidence	13	20	16	17	20	19	17	18	18	29	27	27
Some confidence	49	47	48	50	52	52	48	50	49	49	53	52
Little confidence	15	16	16	19	13	15	15	14	14	9	9	9
No confidence at all	9	8	8	6	6	6	9	6	8	4	3	3
Don't know/refusal	13	6	9	4	7	6	7	8	8	5	5	5

Q17. Are you prepared to contact your local DPP to raise issues/ask questions about local policing?

Of the 67% of respondents who had heard of DPPs, over half (55%) were prepared to contact their local DPP regarding local policing issues (Table 17), the same finding as in October 2006. Catholic respondents (57%) were more prepared than Protestant respondents (53%) to contact their local DPP.

Table 17: Prepared to contact local DPP about local policing?												
All those who have heard of DPPs	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	44	55	51	49	65	58	53	57	55	57	53	55
No	52	42	45	47	34	40	45	40	42	41	45	43
Don't know/refusal	3	3	3	3	1	2	2	3	3	2	2	2

Q18. Do you feel that your local DPP has helped to improve policing in your local area?

Just over one third of respondents (35%) believed that their local DPP has helped to improve policing in their local area, compared to 30% in October 2006 - a statistically significant increase (Table 18). Catholic and Protestant respondents (36%) equally thought this. One quarter of respondents (25%) did not know if their local DPP had helped to improve local policing, fewer than in October 2006 (27%).

Table 18: Has your local DPP helped to improve local policing?												
All those who have heard of DPPs	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	25	26	26	33	33	32	32	29	30	36	36	35
No	42	42	42	40	39	40	44	42	43	37	42	39
Don't know/refusal	32	32	33	27	28	27	24	29	27	26	22	25

3. THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

Q19. Have you heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB)?

Six out of seven respondents (86%) had heard of the NIPB – two percentage points up from the October 2006 finding (Table 19). Protestant respondents (88%) were more likely than Catholic respondents (84%) to have heard of the NIPB.

Table 19: Heard of the NIPB?												
Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	74	81	78	81	86	83	85	85	84	84	88	86
No	25	19	21	19	14	17	15	15	16	16	12	14
Don't know/refusal	2	0	0	0	0	0		0	0		0	0

Q20. How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on monitoring how the PSNI performs against annual Policing Plan targets?

Almost half of respondents (47%) thought the NIPB did well/very well in monitoring how PSNI performs against annual Policing Plan targets, compared to 34% in October 2006 - a statistical significant increase (Table 20). Protestant respondents (47%) were slightly more likely to think that the NIPB did well in this area than Catholic respondents (46%) and both saw a statistically significant increase on the October 2006 findings (Protestant 36% and Catholic 32%). More Catholic respondents (8%) rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in April 2007, compared to 5% of Protestant respondents.

Table 20: 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											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	6	6	6	3	5	4	5	7	6	6	5	6
Well	31	32	32	35	32	33	27	29	28	40	42	41
Neither well nor poor	22	27	25	32	30	32	32	29	30	27	30	29
Poor	7	6	7	6	5	5	6	6	6	6	5	5
Very poor	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	0	1
Don't know/refusal	32	28	30	22	26	24	29	27	28	18	17	18

Q21. 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 (49%) rated the NIPB's performance in questioning the Chief Constable as well/very well, compared to 41% in October 2006 - a statistically significant increase (Table 21). The same proportion of respondents (8%) rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in April 2007 and in October 2006. Both Protestant and Catholic respondents (50% and 48% respectively) were more confident that the NIPB did well/very well in questioning the Chief Constable on how he carries out his duties, compared to October 2006 (both 41%).

Table 21: How the NIPB does on questioning the Chief Constable

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	9	5	6	4	4	4	9	9	9	9	7	8
Well	31	40	36	33	39	36	32	32	32	39	43	41
Neither well nor poor	20	23	22	29	24	27	25	28	27	28	29	28
Poor	9	6	8	12	8	10	8	6	7	8	5	6
Very poor	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	2
Don't know/refusal	29	23	26	20	23	21	25	24	25	12	15	14

Q22. How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on holding the Chief Constable publicly to account?

Almost half of respondents (49%) thought that the NIPB was doing well/very well on holding the Chief Constable to account, compared to 40% in October 2006 - a statistically significant increase (Table 22). Both Catholic and Protestant respondents (49%) were more likely to think that the NIPB did well in this area compared to October 2006 (Catholic 42% and Protestant 40%).

Table 22: How the NIPB does on holding the Chief Constable to account

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	9	4	6	7	6	6	8	8	8	9	7	8
Well	30	36	33	30	36	33	34	32	32	40	42	41
Neither well nor poor	22	25	25	31	23	27	24	28	26	29	27	28
Poor	9	9	9	12	11	12	10	6	9	8	9	8
Very poor	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	3	1	2
Don't know/refusal	27	23	25	19	22	20	23	24	24	12	14	13

Q23. How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on consulting with the public about policing issues?

Over one third of respondents (35%) thought the NIPB did well/very well in consulting the public on policing issues, compared to 25% in October 2006 - a statistically significant increase (Table 23). The proportion of respondents who thought performance was poor/very poor in April 2007 was 21%, less than the October 2006 finding (24%). A higher proportion of Catholic respondents (38%) thought the NIPB did very well/well in consulting with the public about policing issues compared to Protestant respondents (31%). Both findings showed a statistically significant increase from the October 2006 findings of Catholic 27% and Protestant 22%.

Table 23: How the NIPB does on consulting the public on policing issues

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	6	2	4	3	2	2	4	2	3	6	2	4
Well	23	23	22	26	21	23	23	20	22	32	29	31
Neither well nor poor	24	27	26	30	31	31	30	35	32	30	34	33
Poor	17	21	20	18	17	18	21	18	19	16	18	16
Very poor	9	8	8	5	7	6	5	5	5	5	5	5
Don't know/refusal	22	19	20	17	21	19	15	20	18	11	12	12

Q24. Do you think that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job?

Almost three quarters of respondents (73%) thought that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job, compared to 63% in October 2006 - a statistically significant increase (Table 24). Protestant respondents (75%) were slightly more likely to think that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job compared to Catholic respondents (73%).

Table 24: Does the NIPB help to ensure that the PSNI do a good job?

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	62	59	59	63	61	62	62	64	63	73	75	73
No	22	27	25	22	25	24	25	20	23	13	16	15
Don't know/refusal	16	15	16	15	14	15	13	16	14	14	9	11

Q25. Do you think that the NIPB is part of the police or independent of the police?

Almost three quarters of respondents (73%) correctly thought that the NIPB is independent of the police, the same finding as in October 2006 (Table 25). Protestant respondents (75%) were more likely to know that the NIPB is independent of the police than Catholic respondents (70%).

Table 25: Is the NIPB part of the police or independent of the police?

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Part of the police	27	18	22	29	15	21	26	15	20	23	20	21
Independent of the police	63	75	70	67	80	74	68	77	73	70	75	73
Don't know/refusal	10	6	8	4	5	5	6	8	7	7	4	5

Q26. 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 26), compared to 77% in October 2006 - a statistically significant increase. More Protestant respondents (82%) were likely to know the NIPB's primary role, compared to Catholic respondents (78%).

Table 26: What do you think is the primary role of the NIPB?

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
To actively direct police operations	13	10	11	14	7	10	12	10	12	12	10	10
To oversee policing and hold the Chief Constable and the PSNI publicly to account	73	81	77	79	82	81	78	78	77	78	82	81
To tell the Chief Constable what to do	5	4	4	1	4	3	2	3	3	2	2	2
Other	2	2	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
Don't know/refusal	7	4	6	6	5	6	6	8	7	7	5	6

Q27. Do you think the NIPB is made up of ...?

Over seven out of ten respondents (72%) correctly thought that the NIPB is made up of “a mix of politicians and independently appointed members”, down one percentage point from the October 2006 finding (Table 27). Catholic and Protestant respondents (72%) were equally likely to know the correct composition of the NIPB.

Table 27: Do you think the NIPB is made up of...?

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (September)			2007 (April)		
	Rating	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P
Politicians	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	4	3	3
Independently appointed members	31	18	22	16	16	16	14	20	17	19	19	19
A mix of politicians and independently appointed members	59	72	67	74	76	76	77	70	73	72	72	72
Other	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know/refusal	8	6	8	5	5	5	5	7	7	6	5	6

Q28. Overall, how well do you think the NIPB is working?

Four fifths of respondents (82%) thought the NIPB is working at least adequately, compared to 75% in October 2006 - a statistically significant increase (Table 28). Of these, 43% of respondents thought the NIPB is working well/very well, compared to 34% in October 2006 - a statistically significant increase. One in ten of respondents (10%) thought the NIPB is performing poorly/very poorly, compared to 15% in October 2006 - a statistically significant decrease.

Table 28: Overall, how well do you think the NIPB is working?

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)			2007 (April)		
	Rating	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P
Very well	7	2	3	6	4	5	6	6	6	7	6	6
Well	23	29	26	29	27	28	29	28	28	39	37	37
Adequately	36	44	42	39	43	41	41	41	41	35	41	39
Poorly	17	13	14	13	12	13	15	11	13	10	9	9
Very poorly	3	3	3	2	4	3	2	2	2	2	1	1
Don't know/refusal	14	10	12	11	10	11	8	13	11	8	6	7

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