

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

REPORT BASED ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD
MODULE OF THE OCTOBER 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.

OCTOBER 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 1,072 persons aged 16 and over were interviewed between 18th September 2006 and 20th October 2006. A total of 1,013 of the 1,072 respondents stated their community background and therefore the breakdowns by religion are based on this sample of 1,013.

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 is empty
- 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 Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does a good job or a poor job in your area?

Over half of respondents (52%) in October 2006 thought that their local police were doing a very/fairly good job - a decrease of one percentage point on the April 2006 survey result (Table 1). The proportion rating the performance of local police as very/fairly poor in October 2006 was 25% - a three percentage point increase from April 2006. Just over a half of Protestant respondents (54%) thought that the PSNI do a very/fairly good job in their locality (down from 56% in April 2006), as did 49% of Catholic respondents (down from 51% in April 2006).

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly good	53	62	57	50	60	55	51	56	53	49	54	52
Neither good nor poor	26	21	23	21	22	22	25	21	23	24	21	22
Very/fairly poor	17	13	15	22	15	17	22	20	22	25	24	25
Don't know/refusal	5	3	5	6	3	5	2	3	2	1	1	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, the same rating as in April 2006 (Table 2). The proportion rating the performance of the PSNI in Northern Ireland as a whole as very/fairly poor in October 2006 was 20% - an increase of three percentage points from April 2006. More Protestant respondents (65%) thought that the PSNI do a very/fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole (up from 61% in April 2006) than did Catholic respondents (51% - compared to 56% in April 2006).

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly good	55	69	63	50	68	60	56	61	58	51	65	58
Neither good nor poor	27	17	21	27	16	20	23	20	22	26	15	20
Very/fairly poor	15	12	12	19	13	16	18	17	17	21	18	20
Don't know/refusal	4	3	3	5	2	4	3	2	2	3	1	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 (63%) were very/fairly satisfied that the PSNI treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole, down from 65% in April 2006 (Table 3). Almost one in seven respondents (13%) were very/fairly dissatisfied, down from 14% in April 2006. More Protestant respondents (71%) thought that the PSNI treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole (down from 74% in April 2006) than did Catholic respondents (55% - the same finding as in April 2006).

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)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very satisfied	8	13	11	5	11	9	7	15	11	8	16	12
Fairly satisfied	48	60	55	50	59	55	48	59	54	47	55	51
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	29	19	23	22	18	20	26	15	20	27	17	22
Fairly dissatisfied	6	4	5	11	6	8	13	6	10	12	8	9
Very dissatisfied	4	1	3	5	2	3	5	3	4	4	3	4
Don't know/refusal	5	3	4	7	4	5	1	2	3	2	2	3

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

Just over three fifths of respondents (62%) were very/fairly satisfied that the PSNI treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole, up from 60% in April 2006 (Table 4). One in seven respondents (14%) were very/fairly dissatisfied, down from 17% in April 2006. Substantially more Protestant respondents (68%) were very/fairly satisfied that the police treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole (down from 70% in April 2006) than did Catholic respondents (54%, up from 51% in April 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)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very satisfied	6	11	9	6	15	10	8	14	11
Fairly satisfied	42	55	49	45	55	50	46	54	51
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	25	19	21	25	15	20	24	17	20
Fairly dissatisfied	12	7	9	15	10	12	15	9	11
Very dissatisfied	9	2	5	7	3	5	3	3	3
Don't know/refusal	7	6	7	2	2	3	3	3	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 every five 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 Northern Ireland, compared to 77% in April 2006 (Table 5). 20% of respondents said they had little or no confidence at all, down from 22% in April 2006. The proportion of Protestant respondents who had at least some confidence in ordinary day to day policing in October 2006 was 80%, the same rating as in April 2006. The proportion of Catholic respondents with at least some confidence increased by three percentage points in October 2006 to 79%, from 76% in April 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 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	6	9	7	5	9	7	6	6	6	4	9	7
A lot of confidence	25	30	28	28	30	29	27	32	29	25	33	29
Some confidence	49	47	48	42	43	42	43	42	42	50	38	43
Little confidence	14	11	13	17	12	14	18	15	17	16	15	16
No confidence at all	3	2	2	6	4	5	6	5	5	4	4	4
Don't know/refusal	3	1	2	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1

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

Three quarters of respondents (75%) had some, a lot or total confidence in the police's ability to deal with public disorder situations - up from 70% in April 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 increased to 72% in October 2006 from 65% in April 2006, whilst the proportion of Protestant respondents who had at least some confidence rose to 80% in October 2006 from 75% in April 2006.

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											
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	6	10	9	6	8	7	8	6	6	5	10	7
A lot of confidence	20	34	28	19	25	22	23	34	29	24	35	30
Some confidence	47	38	42	36	40	38	34	35	35	43	35	38
Little confidence	16	12	14	24	19	21	24	15	20	20	12	16
No confidence at all	8	3	5	11	6	8	9	6	7	6	5	6
Don't know/refusal	4	2	3	5	2	4	2	3	2	3	2	3

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

Just over one third of respondents (35%) were satisfied with the levels of police patrols in their area, down three percentage points when compared with April 2006 (Table 7). The percentage of Catholic respondents who were very/fairly satisfied with the levels of police patrols increased to 38% in October 2006 from 36% in April 2006. The percentage of Protestant respondents who were very/fairly satisfied with the levels of police patrols decreased to 34% in October 2006 from 42% in April 2006. The proportion of Catholic respondents who were dissatisfied with levels of police patrols decreased to 34% in October 2006 from 36% in April 2006 and the proportion of Protestant respondents who were dissatisfied with levels of police patrols increased to 41% in October 2006 from 40% in April 2006.

Table 7 : Satisfaction with the levels of police patrols

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly satisfied	43	42	42	36	40	38	36	42	38	38	34	35
Neither	28	21	25	27	24	26	27	18	22	26	24	25
Very/fairly dissatisfied	26	36	31	34	31	32	36	40	38	34	41	38
Don't know/refusal	3	1	2	3	4	4	2	0	1	1	1	1

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

Nearly three quarters of respondents (72%) thought that the overall standard of policing had remained the same over the last year, 16% thought that it had got worse and 8% thought that it had got better (Table 8). Protestant respondents (78%) 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 (18% compared to 15% for Catholic respondents).

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Got better	13	11	12	11	7	9	12	12	12	11	6	8
Remained the same	69	69	68	69	71	70	72	67	69	71	72	72
Got worse	12	16	14	12	16	14	13	18	16	15	18	16
Don't know/refusal	7	6	6	8	5	7	3	3	3	3	3	4

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

Just over one quarter of respondents (26%) had been in contact with the PSNI over the last year, down from 27% in April 2006 (Table 9). A higher proportion of Catholic respondents (26%) were in contact with the PSNI compared to Protestant respondents (25%).

Table 9: Contact with the PSNI

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	21	23	23	23	27	25	25	29	27	26	25	26
No	78	77	77	76	73	74	74	71	72	74	75	74
Don't know/refusal	0		0	1	0	1	0		0		0	0

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

The largest category for police contact in April 2006 was reporting a crime (27%), down from 32% in April 2006 (Table 10). Protestant respondents were more likely to have contact with the PSNI seeking advice or information than Catholic respondents (17% compared to 13%). Catholic respondents were more likely to have contact with the PSNI as the victim of a crime than Protestant respondents (26% compared to 13%). One fifth of respondents (20%) were in contact with the PSNI reporting anti-social behaviour compared with 23% in April 2006.

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

Respondents who had contact with PSNI	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
You were the victim of a crime	18	23	19	19	22	23	18	19	18	26	13	18
You reported a crime	22	33	28	33	25	28	30	36	32	30	25	27
Giving a statement	13	21	16	17	15	17	20	19	19	13	13	14
Reporting anti-social behaviour	8	21	17	18	15	15	22	23	23	21	19	20
Proof of driving documents or involved in road traffic accident	18	6	12	11	10	11	13	18	15	8	7	8
Dispute with neighbour	1	4	3	1	3	3	3	4	3	5	3	4
Renewing firearms licence	3	5	5		3	2	2	4	3	4	5	4
Seeking advice or information	15	12	13	6	18	14	12	11	12	13	17	16
Other	23	21	21	17	20	19	19	13	16	18	20	19
Refusal					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 (73%) were satisfied in their contact with the PSNI compared to 76% in April 2006 (Table 11). Protestant respondents (76%) were more satisfied than Catholic respondents (73%).

Table 11: Satisfaction with PSNI contact

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

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

Just over two fifths of respondents (42%) were very/fairly satisfied with how the PSNI kept them informed of developments during the investigation down from 58% in April 2006 (Table 12). Just over half of respondents (51%) were very/fairly dissatisfied, up from 32% in April 2006.

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

Respondents who said they were a victim of a crime	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very satisfied	29	15	19	19	20	21	18	29	28	11	39	22
Fairly satisfied	12	36	30	19	22	23	45	21	30	25	11	20
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	18	21	19	19	12	15	5	15	10	7	6	6
Fairly dissatisfied	24	18	21	25	10	14	9	15	12	32	11	24
Very dissatisfied	18	9	11	19	34	26	23	21	20	25	33	27
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 October 2006, the same as in April 2006 (Table 13). Protestant and Catholic respondents (64%) were equally as likely to have heard of DPPs.

Table 13: Have you heard of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)?												
Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	53	61	58	48	57	54	59	68	63	64	64	63
No	46	39	42	51	43	46	41	32	36	36	35	36
Don't know/refusal	0		0	1	0	0		0	0		0	0

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

Almost three quarters of respondents (71%) who had heard of DPPs had some, a lot or total confidence that DPPs will help address local policing problems compared to 73% in April 2006 (Table 14). Over one fifth of respondents (22%) said they had little or no confidence at all. Protestant respondents (71%) 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												
Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	4	4	4	1	3	2	2	2	2	4	3	4
A lot of confidence	18	20	19	13	20	16	17	20	19	17	18	18
Some confidence	51	50	51	49	47	48	50	52	52	48	50	49
Little confidence	16	15	15	15	16	16	19	13	15	15	14	14
No confidence at all	4	3	3	9	8	8	6	6	6	9	6	8
Don't know/refusal	7	7	7	13	6	9	4	7	6	7	8	8

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, just over half (55%) said they were prepared to contact their local DPP regarding local policing issues (Table 15), compared to 58% in April 2006. Protestant respondents (57%) were more willing than Catholic respondents (53%) to contact their local DPP.

Table 15: Prepared to contact local DPP about local policing?												
Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	58	61	59	44	55	51	49	65	58	53	57	55
No	39	38	38	52	42	45	47	34	40	45	40	42
Don't know/refusal	4	2	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	2	3	3

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

Just under one third of respondents (30%) believed that their local DPP has helped to improve policing in their local area, compared to 32% in April 2006 (Table 16). Catholic respondents (32%) were more likely than Protestant respondents (29%) to think this. Just over one quarter of respondents (27%) did not know if the local DPP had helped to improve local policing, the same finding as in April 2006.

Table 16: Has your local DPP helped to improve local policing?												
Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	29	33	31	25	26	26	33	33	32	32	29	30
No	38	36	36	42	42	42	40	39	40	44	42	43
Don't know/refusal	33	31	33	32	32	33	27	28	27	24	29	27

3. THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

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

Over four fifths of respondents (84%) had heard of the NIPB - one percentage point up from the April 2006 finding (Table 21). Protestant and Catholic respondents (85%) were equally as likely to have heard of the NIPB.

Table 17: Heard of the NIPB?

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	78	86	82	74	81	78	81	86	83	85	85	84
No	22	14	18	25	19	21	19	14	17	15	15	16
Don't know/refusal	0		0	2	0	0	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?

Just over one third of respondents (34%) thought the NIPB did well/very well in monitoring how PSNI performs against annual Policing Plan targets - down three percentage points from April 2006 (Table 18). Both 7% of Protestant and Catholic respondents rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in October 2006, broadly the same findings as in April 2006 (7% and 8% respectively). Protestant respondents (36%) were slightly more likely to think that the NIPB did well in this area than Catholic respondents (32%).

Table 18: How the NIPB does on monitoring how the PSNI performs against annual Policing Plan targets

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

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

Just over two fifths of respondents (41%) rated the NIPB's performance in questioning the Chief Constable as well/very well - one percentage point up from the April 2006 finding (Table 23). Proportionately less respondents rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in October 2006 (8%) than in April 2006 (12%). Protestant and Catholic respondents (41%) were equally confident that the NIPB did well/very well in questioning the Chief Constable on how he carries out his duties.

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	6	10	8	9	5	6	4	4	4	9	9	9
Well	32	39	37	31	40	36	33	39	36	32	32	32
Neither well nor poor	29	23	25	20	23	22	29	24	27	25	28	27
Poor	8	5	6	9	6	8	12	8	10	8	6	7
Very poor	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Don't know/refusal	25	21	23	29	23	26	20	23	21	25	24	25

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

Two fifths of respondents (40%) thought that the NIPB was doing well/very well on holding the Chief Constable to account, up one percentage point compared with April 2006 (Table 20). Catholic respondents (42%) were more likely to think that the NIPB did well in this area compared to Protestant respondents (40%).

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	4	10	7	9	4	6	7	6	6	8	8	8
Well	34	36	36	30	36	33	30	36	33	34	32	32
Neither well nor poor	27	24	25	22	25	25	31	23	27	24	28	26
Poor	12	7	8	9	9	9	12	11	12	10	6	9
Very poor	1	1	1	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	2	1
Don't know/refusal	22	21	22	27	23	25	19	22	20	23	24	24

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, the same finding as in April 2006 (Table 21). The proportion of respondents who thought performance was poor/very poor in October 2006 was 24%, the same finding as in April 2006. A higher proportion of Catholic respondents (27%) thought the NIPB did very well/well in consulting with the public about policing issues compared to Protestant respondents (22%).

Table 21: How the NIPB does on consulting the public on policing issues												
All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	2	5	4	6	2	4	3	2	2	4	2	3
Well	22	24	23	23	23	22	26	21	23	23	20	22
Neither well nor poor	27	26	26	24	27	26	30	31	31	30	35	32
Poor	22	22	22	17	21	20	18	17	18	21	18	19
Very poor	7	5	6	9	8	8	5	7	6	5	5	5
Don't know/refusal	20	19	19	22	19	20	17	21	19	15	20	18

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

Almost two thirds of respondents (63%) thought that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job, compared to 62% in April 2006 (Table 22). Protestant respondents (64%) were more likely to think that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job compared to Catholic respondents (62%).

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											
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	61	67	64	62	59	59	63	61	62	62	64	63
No	21	17	18	22	27	25	22	25	24	25	20	23
Don't know/refusal	18	16	17	16	15	16	15	14	15	13	16	14

Q23. 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, compared to 74% in April 2006 (Table 23). Protestant respondents (77%) were much more likely to know that the NIPB is independent of the police than Catholic respondents (68%).

Table 23: Is the NIPB part of the police or independent of the police?												
All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Part of the police	33	21	25	27	18	22	29	15	21	26	15	20
Independent of the police	58	71	66	63	75	70	67	80	74	68	77	73
Don't know/refusal	10	8	8	10	6	8	4	5	5	6	8	7

Q24. 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 24), a decrease of 4 percentage points on the April 2006 finding. Catholic and Protestant respondents (78%) were equally as likely to know the NIPB's primary role.

Table 24: What do you think is the primary role of the NIPB?												
All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2005 (April)			2005 (September)			2006 (April)			2006 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
To actively direct police operations	13	10	11	13	10	11	14	7	10	12	10	12
To oversee policing and hold the Chief Constable and the PSNI publicly to account	73	80	77	73	81	77	79	82	81	78	78	77
To tell the Chief Constable what to do	3	4	3	5	4	4	1	4	3	2	3	3
Other	3	0	2	2	2	2	0	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know/refusal	7	6	6	7	4	6	6	5	6	6	8	7



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