

## Northern Ireland Policing Board Consultation with Muslim Community

Key Point Summary Report  
7<sup>th</sup> March 2011



## 1 PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

- Around 60 attendees from the Muslim Community. However, the reader should note that:
  - A few participants arrived after the start time, hence some of the earlier questions have less votes than this.
  - Also, some participants stepped out (e.g. for comfort breaks) during the session, and so we do not always have a full 60 votes where a full set of votes might otherwise have been anticipated.
- Range of age bands, gender and areas of residence in attendance. (See demographic data in s/sheet that has been forwarded)

1.) Are you...	Responses	
Male	42	72%
Female	16	28%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100%</b>

2.) Which one of the following age bands are you in?	Responses	
18 – 30	18	31%
31 - 40	15	25%
41 - 50	11	19%
51 - 60	9	15%
61 – 70	4	7%
70+	2	3%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100%</b>

3.) What area do you live in?	Responses	
Belfast	48	79%
Craigavon	5	8%
Newtownards	1	2%
Ballymena	2	3%
Other	5	8%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>100%</b>

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<b>4.) What area do you work in?</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Belfast	28	50%
Craigavon	6	11%
Newtownards	0	0%
Ballymena	1	2%
Other	21	38%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 2 SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES EMERGING

*(Please note that whilst the sample size is small, and would not be regarded as statistically representative, the insights gleaned here could be cross-referenced with findings elsewhere.)*

### GENERAL

- Well over half, 34 out of 59 (58%), were fairly worried or very worried about becoming a victim of crime
- Opinion was split on what had happened to the level of crime where participants live in recent years. Almost half (48%) 20 out of 62, thought it has gone up a little or a lot, just over one third (35%) 22 out of 62 thought it had stayed the same, whilst (16%) 10 out of 62 thought it had stayed the same.
- There was also differing patterns in terms of what participants perceived had happened to the level of crime where they work. Just under a third (30%) 18 out of 62 thought it had gone up a little or a lot, over half (58%) 33 out of 60, whilst (15%) 9 out of 60 thought it gone down a little or a lot.
- Top three issues of concern where people live:
  - Burglary (31 out of the 150 responses (21%) submitted related to this)
  - Anti-social behaviour (28 out of the 150 responses (19%) submitted related to this)
  - Racial Attacks/abuse (25 out of the 150 responses (17%) submitted related to this)
- Top three issues of concern where people work:
  - Racial Attacks/abuse (35 out of the 154 responses (23%) submitted related to this)
  - Anti-social behaviour (33 out of the 154 responses (21%) submitted related to this)
  - Assaults (20 out of the 154 responses (13%) submitted related to this)
- Top three issues of concern in relation to organized crime:
  - Labour exploitation (41 out of the 154 responses (21%) submitted related to this)
  - Sexual exploitation (34 out of the 154 responses (22%) submitted related to this)
  - Extortion (31 out of the 154 responses (20%) submitted related to this)
- Top three issues participants would like police to focus on:
  - Responding to emergency calls (34 out of the 184 responses (18%) submitted)
  - Detecting and arresting offenders (33 out of the 184 responses (18%) submitted).
  - Working with schools and young people (28 out of the 184 responses (15%) submitted)
- 20 participants (out of 63 that responded to this question (32%)) indicated that they had been stopped in the street by the police in the last twelve months. However, the responses to the subsequent question are problematic to analyse

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since 30 (not 20) participants then proceeded to rate how satisfied they were with how the police treated them. (Of these, a slight majority 16 out of 30 were satisfied or very satisfied; 6 were ‘Neither satisfied not dissatisfied’ and 8 were either ‘a bit dissatisfied or very dissatisfied’).

- 22 participants (out of 62 that responded to this question (35%)) indicated that the police had come to their home in the last twelve months. However, again, the responses to the subsequent question are problematic to analyse since 24 (not 22) participants then proceeded to rate how satisfied they were with how the police treated them. (Of these, the almost two thirds, 15 out of 24 were satisfied or very satisfied; 4 were ‘Neither satisfied not dissatisfied’ and 5 were a ‘a bit dissatisfied or very dissatisfied’).
- Participants indicated they had very high levels of confidence that the police are there to help them – (79%) 48 out of 61 responses to this question indicated that they were ‘fairly confident’ or ‘very confident’ about this.
- Without dialing 999, just over two fifths (25 out of 60 responses, 42%) would contact the police by looking up the phone book for the nearest police station.
- The vast majority (51 out of 60 responses, 85%) did not know any police officers well enough to talk to or by name.

## VICTIMS OF CRIME

- Close to two fifths (23 out of 61 responses, 38%) reported having been a victim of crime in the last 12 months.

*However, again, the responses to the subsequent question are slightly problematic to analyse since 24 and 25 (not 23) participants then proceeded to respond to the following:*

- (24 participants responding) Experience was split in terms of where the incidents had occurred:
  - 10 occurred where they lived
  - 9 occurred ‘somewhere else’
  - 5 occurred where they worked.
- (25 participants responding) The vast majority (15 out of 25) indicated that they did report it to the police. However, a significant minority (10 out of 25 did not).

### Experience of reporting crime to the police

The responses to the subsequent questions are problematic to analyze since differing numbers of respondents (all more than 15) answered and there was no way of controlling for this at the event. For example:

- 20 participants answered the question, “If you were a victim of crime in the last 12 months, and you did report it to the police, how satisfied were you with the way the police treated you?” Of these 20, opinion was split with half (10 out of 20) indicating that they were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ and almost half (9 out of 20) reporting that they were ‘a bit dissatisfied’ or ‘very dissatisfied’.
- Again 20 participants answered the question, “If you were a victim of crime in the last 12 months, and you did report it to the police, how satisfied were you with the way the police dealt with your problem/concern?” Again, of these 20, opinion was split with half (10 out of 20) indicating that they were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ and almost half (8 out of 20) reporting that they were ‘a bit dissatisfied’ or ‘very dissatisfied’.
- Again 20 participants answered the question, “If you were a victim of crime in the last 12 months, and you did report it to the police, how satisfied were you with the way police kept you informed about what was happening? Of these, almost two thirds (65%) 12 out 20 said they were ‘a bit dissatisfied’ or ‘very dissatisfied’ and only (25%) 5 out 20 indicated that they were ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’.

### Reasons why crime is not reported to the police

- The responses to this are again, problematic to analyze because only 10 participants indicated that they had been a victim of crime and had not reported it to the police. However, 15 respondents answered the question, “If you were a victim of crime in the last 12 months, and you did not report it to the police? What was your main reason for not doing so”? The single biggest reason why victims of crime did not report incidents to the police was the perception that there was ‘no point’, i.e. that police would not investigate it (7 out of 15, 47%) gave this as their reason.

## EVALUATION RESULTS

The figures below show very high levels of satisfaction with the event overall and the processes used. This is very encouraging in terms of organizing future similar events.

- **The overwhelming majority, 88%** (53 out of 60) were **satisfied or very satisfied** with how **clearly the information was presented**; 4 were neutral and 3 were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.
- **The vast majority, 80%** (48 out of 60) thought the **questions were relevant or very relevant**; 7 were neutral and 5 thought they were not very relevant or not at all relevant.
- Almost everyone, **97%** (58 out of 60) found the **digital voting helpful** or very helpful; 0 were neutral and 2 thought it was unhelpful or very unhelpful.
- **The overwhelming majority, 85%** (51 out of 60) were **comfortable or very comfortable** with this **type of consultation**; 5 were neutral and 4 thought it was either a bit uncomfortable or very uncomfortable.
- **The vast majority, 80%** (49 out of 60) indicated that they would be **willing or very willing to participate in future consultations**; 6 were neutral and 6 indicated that they was not very willing or not at all willing.

## **POSSIBLE POINTS FOR REFLECTIONS FOR FUTURE SIMILAR EVENTS**

### **What worked well?**

- Intensive and high quality preparation and planning by all parties involved.
- Excellent co-ordination of all parties by Community Engagement Branch of Policing Board in the lead up to and on the day of the event.
- Excellent team work before and during the event by all members of the team within PSNI, Islamic Centre, Muslim Community Facilitators the AV team and SRC.
- Excellent levels of engagement by Muslim Community.
- Back projection worked well as did the large screens in different languages.
- Giving individual facilitators responsibility for a batch of voting devices helped ensure a secure return of this expensive equipment.
- Evaluation ratings were excellent.

### **Some possible ways we might improve. For reflection...**

- Explore different ways to minimise the risk of people responding to questions that do not apply to them.
- Acoustics at the event were problem at times.