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APRIL 2003
OMNIBUS SURVEY
NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD MODULE

The Northern Ireland Policing Board actively seeks views on any issues relating to the work of the Police Service of Northern Ireland or the Northern Ireland Policing Board. Contact us via E-Mail at : information@nipolicingboard.org.uk, or by writing to :

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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.

APRIL 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 1,240 persons aged 16 and over were interviewed between 7th April 2003 and 9th May 2003. A total of 1,171 of the 1,240 respondents stated their community background and therefore the breakdowns by religion are based on this sample of 1,171. Some questions commissioned by the Policing Board in the April 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 fulfil 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: 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 (56%) in April 2003 thought that their local police were doing a very/fairly good job compared to 57% in September 2002 (Table 1). The proportion rating the performance of local police as very/fairly poor in April 2003 was 23% - a slight increase from September 2002 (22%). Over three fifths of Protestants (61%) thought that the PSNI do a very/fairly good job in their locality (down from 63% in September 2002) as did 50% of Catholics (identical to September 2002).

Rating (%)	Omnibus Survey											
	2001 (Oct)			2002 (April)			2002 (Sept)			2003(April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly good	53	71	63	50	65	59	50	63	57	50	61	56
Neither good nor bad	19	12	15	18	16	17	20	17	18	20	17	18
Very/fairly poor	26	16	20	30	18	22	28	19	22	28	22	23
Don't know/refusal	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2

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

Almost two thirds (63%) of respondents thought that the police in Northern Ireland as a whole were doing a good job, up from 61% in September 2002 (Table 2). The proportion rating the performance of police in Northern Ireland as a whole as very/fairly poor in April 2003 was 16% - a decrease of 3 percentage points from September 2002 (19%). Almost three quarters of Protestants (71%) thought that the PSNI do a very/fairly good job in their locality (identical to September 2002) as did 50% of Catholics (up from 49% in September 2002).

Rating (%)	Omnibus Survey											
	2001 (Oct)			2002 (April)			2002 (Sept)			2003(April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	Cz	P	Tot
Very/fairly good	52	72	69	54	74	66	49	71	61	50	71	63
Neither good nor bad	20	10	14	23	15	18	21	15	18	28	14	20
Very/fairly poor	25	7	15	20	11	14	26	12	19	21	14	16
No answer/DK/refusal	2	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	1	2	1	2

Q3: How do the Police Service of Northern Ireland treat Protestant and Catholic members of the public in your area?

Over two thirds (69%) of respondents thought their local police treated both communities equally, down from 73% in September 2002 (Table 3). A minority of respondents (4%) thought that Catholics received better treatment, while the proportion of respondents thinking Protestants received better treatment remained steady at 13%. Almost three fifths of Catholic respondents (58%) thought that the police in their local area treated both communities equally, compared to 60% in September 2002. This compares to 79% of Protestant respondents who thought that both communities were treated equally (down from 83% in September 2002). Over one quarter of Catholic respondents (28%) believed Protestants receive better treatment in April 2003 compared to 25% in September 2002.

Rating (%)	Omnibus Survey											
	2001 (Oct)			2002 (April)			2002 (Sept)			2003(April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Catholics better	2	6	4	1	7	4	1	3	2	4	5	4
Both equally	58	83	73	58	78	70	60	83	73	58	79	69
Protestants better	29	4	14	32	4	15	25	3	13	28	4	13
No answer/DK/refusal	11	8	10	9	12	11	13	9	12	10	12	13

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

Just under two thirds of respondents (64%) believed that the police in Northern Ireland as a whole treated both communities equally, less than the 67% recorded in September 2002 (Table 4). Protestant respondents (76%) were much more likely than Catholic respondents (50%) to think that the police in Northern Ireland treat everyone equally. Over one third of Catholic respondents (38%) thought that Protestants were treated better than Catholics, down slightly from 39% in September 2002. Catholic respondents were also much more likely to think that the police treated the two communities equally in their area (58%) than in Northern Ireland as a whole (50%) (Tables 3 and 4).

Rating (%)	Omnibus Survey											
	2001 (Oct)			2002 (April)			2002 (Sept)			2003(April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Catholics better	1	9	5	1	10	6	1	5	4	2	8	5
Both equally	44	77	63	46	70	61	48	81	67	50	76	64
Protestants better	47	7	23	45	9	22	39	6	20	38	8	20
No answer/DK/refusal	8	7	8	8	11	10	13	7	10	10	9	11

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?

Three quarters of respondents (75%) 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 73% in September 2002 (Table 5). Under one quarter of respondents (23%) said they had little or no confidence at all, down from 25% in September 2002.

The proportion of Catholic respondents who had at least some confidence in the police’s ability rose from 68% in September 2002 to 70% in April 2003. The proportion of Protestant respondents who had total, a lot or some confidence in ordinary day to day policing rose from 79% in September 2002 to 81% in April 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 (%)	Omnibus Survey											
	2001 (Oct)			2002 (April)			2002 (Sept)			2003(April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Total confidence	5	23	16	8	13	12	5	12	8	6	9	8
A lot of confidence	23	37	31	21	36	30	19	30	25	24	33	28
Some confidence	41	30	35	40	36	37	44	37	40	40	39	39
Little confidence	21	7	13	22	12	16	21	17	19	21	16	18
None at all	8	2	5	8	3	5	8	4	6	8	3	5
No answer/DK/refusal	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	2

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 compared to 69% in September 2002 (Table 6). The proportion of respondents who had had little or no confidence at all fell from 29% in September 2002 to 22% in April 2003. The proportion of Catholic respondents who had total, a lot or some confidence in the police’s provision of a public order policing service rose from 63% in September 2002 to 66% in April 2003 whilst the proportion of Protestant respondents who had at least some confidence rose from 77% in September 2002 to 84% in April 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 (%)	Omnibus Survey											
	2001 (Oct)			2002 (April)			2002 (Sept)			2003(April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Total confidence	5	18	12	5	11	10	4	12	8	5	11	9
A lot of confidence	22	35	30	16	33	26	20	33	27	21	36	29
Some confidence	43	34	37	38	36	37	39	32	34	40	37	38
Little confidence	19	9	13	23	14	18	22	17	20	21	12	16
None at all	9	4	6	14	4	7	13	5	9	11	3	6
No answer/DK/refusal	2	0	2	4	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	2

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

Over one third of respondents (35%) were satisfied with the levels of police patrols in their area compared to 38% in September 2002 (Table 7). Protestant respondents (35%) were slightly more likely to be satisfied than Catholic respondents (33%) with levels of police patrols. The proportion of Catholic respondents who were dissatisfied with levels of police patrols rose from 31% in September 2002 to 38% in April 2003.

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

Rating (%)	Omnibus Survey											
	2001 (Oct)			2002 (April)			2002 (Sept)			2003(April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly satisfied	42	39	41	36	40	38	39	39	38	33	35	35
Neither	28	24	26	25	22	24	28	17	22	27	21	23
Very/fairly dissatisfied	30	36	34	37	36	37	31	43	38	38	44	40
Don't know/refusal	1	0	0	2	1	1	3	1	2	1	1	1

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

Two thirds of respondents (66%) thought that the overall standard of policing had remained the same over the last year, 21% thought that it had got worse and 9% felt that it had improved (Table 8). Protestant respondents (8%) were less likely than Catholic respondents (10%) to think that policing had improved over the year.

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

Rating (%)	Omnibus Survey											
	2001 (Oct)			2002 (April)			2002 (Sept)			2003(April)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Improved	9	6	8	9	4	6	11	6	8	10	8	9
Remained the same	74	70	71	74	68	71	71	66	69	71	63	66
Got worse	11	21	17	12	24	19	14	26	21	16	26	21
No answer/DK/refusal	6	2	4	5	4	4	4	2	3	2	3	3

Q9: Over the last year, has the level of police patrols in your area...

This question was included for the first time in April 2003. Results show that 9% of respondents thought that levels of police patrols in their area had improved, 26% thought levels had deteriorated and the majority (61%) levels had remained the same (Table 9). Protestants (33%) were much more likely than Catholics (18%) to think that the levels of police patrols had got worse in the past year.

TABLE 9: Perception of the overall standard of police patrols over last year

Rating (%)	Omnibus Survey		
	2003(April)		
	C	P	All
Got better	10	8	9
Remained the same	69	57	61
Got worse	18	33	26
No answer/DK/refusal	3	2	3

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

Under one third of respondents (29%) had been in contact with the PSNI over the last year compared with 32% in September 2002 and 33% in October 2001 (Table 10).

TABLE 10: Contact with PSNI

Rating (%)	Omnibus Survey								
	2001 (Oct)			2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Yes	33	33	33	30	32	32	29	29	29
No	67	67	66	70	68	68	71	71	70
No answer/DK/refusal	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	0	0

Q11: What form did the contact take?

Under one quarter of respondents (24%) were in contact with the PSNI due to being a victim of crime compared with 30% in September 2002 (Table 11). The largest category for police contact in April 2003 was reporting a crime (26%) up from 11% in September 2002.

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

Respondents who answered yes to Question 10. (%)	Omnibus Survey					
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
You were the victim of a crime	35	28	30	27	20	24
You reported a crime	13	10	11	26	26	26
Giving a statement	24	26	24	23	13	17
Reporting anti-social behaviour	-	-	-	15	17	16
Proof of driving documents or involved in road traffic accident	5	8	7	18	12	15
Dispute with neighbour*	-	-	-	6	2	4
Renewing firearms license*	-	-	-	5	5	5
Other (please specify)	39	40	41	24	32	28
Refusal	-	2	1	-	1	0

Percentages may add up to more than 100% due to multiple responses. *Categories not included before April 2003.

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

Three quarters of respondents (75%) were satisfied in their contact with PSNI compared to 74% in September 2002 (Table 12). Catholic respondents (75%) were slightly more likely to be satisfied than Protestant respondents (74%).

TABLE 12: Satisfaction with PSNI contact

Respondents who answered yes to Question 10. (%)	Omnibus Survey					
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Yes	74	74	74	75	74	75
No	26	25	25	25	26	25
Don't know/refusal	-	1	1	-	1	0

Q13: Have you heard of the terms "Community Policing/Policing with the Community"?

Almost four fifths of respondents (78%) had heard of the terms 'community policing/policing with the community' compared to 81% of respondents in September 2002 (Table 13). Protestant respondents (83%) were more likely than Catholic respondents (72%) to have heard of these terms.

TABLE 13: Heard of the terms "Community Policing/Policing with the Community"?

(%)	Omnibus Survey								
	2002 (April)			2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Yes	70	78	76	74	87	81	72	83	78
No	29	21	23	25	13	18	28	17	21
No answer/DK/refusal	1	1	0	1	-	0	0	0	0

2: DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs)

Q14: Have you heard of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)?

Over two fifths of respondents (41%) had heard of DPPs in April 2003 compared to 37% in September 2002 (Table 14). Protestant respondents (42%) were more likely than Catholic respondents (38%) to have heard of DPP's.

TABLE 14: Heard of District Policing Partnerships?

(%)	Omnibus Survey					
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Yes	35	38	37	38	42	41
No	64	62	62	62	58	59
Don't know/refusal	0	-	0	-	0	0

Q15: Are you prepared to contact your local DPP to raise issues/ask questions about local policing?

This question was asked for the first time in April 2003. Over half of respondents (57%) said they were prepared to contact their local DPP regarding local policing issues (Table 15). Protestant respondents (59%) were slightly more inclined than Catholic respondents (56%) to contact their local DPP.

TABLE 15: Prepared to contact local DPP about local policing?

All those who heard of DPPs (%)	Omnibus Survey		
	2003(April)		
	C	P	All
Yes	56	59	57
No	42	38	39
No answer/DK/refusal	2	4	3

3: THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD (NIPB)

Q16: Have you heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB)?

Over five sixths of respondents (87%) had heard of the NIPB— a slight increase from September 2002 (86%) (Table 16). Proportionately more Protestant respondents (90%) had heard of the NIPB than Catholic respondents (84%).

TABLE 16: Heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board?

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

Q17: How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on monitoring how the PSNI performs?

Almost half of respondents (45%) rated the NIPB's performance in monitoring how PSNI performs as well/very well compared to 48% in September 2002 (Table 17). Proportionately fewer respondents rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in April 2003 (9%) than in September 2002 (10%). Protestant respondents (46%) were slightly more likely to rate the NIPB's performance in this area as very well/well than Catholic respondents (44%).

TABLE 17: How Northern Ireland Policing Board does on monitoring how the PSNI performs

All those who have heard of the NIPB. Rating (%)	Omnibus Survey								
	2002 (April)			2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Very well	6	5	6	6	7	6	9	8	8
Well	42	40	40	39	43	42	35	38	37
Neither well nor poor	28	31	30	29	28	28	31	31	31
Poor	9	6	7	7	7	7	7	8	7
Very poor	1	3	2	5	3	3	2	1	2
Don't Know	15	15	15	14	13	13	16	15	16

Q18: 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 - compared to 44% in September 2002 (Table 18). Proportionately fewer respondents rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in April 2003 (10%) than in September 2002 (12%). Protestant respondents (48%) were slightly more likely to rate the NIPB's performance in this area very well/well than Catholic respondents (46%).

TABLE 18: How Northern Ireland Policing Board does on questioning the Chief Constable

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

Q19: How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on consulting with the public about policing issues?

Under one quarter of respondents (23%) rated the NIPB's performance in consulting the public on policing issues as well/very well compared to 27% in September 2002 (Table 19). Proportionately fewer respondents rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in April 2003 (31%) than in September 2002 (36%). Protestant and Catholic respondents (24%) had identical ratings on how well the NIPB performed.

TABLE 19: How Northern Ireland Policing Board does on consulting the public on policing issues

All those who have heard of the NIPB. Rating (%)	Omnibus Survey								
	2002 (April)			2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Very well	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
Well	25	21	22	24	24	24	21	21	20
Neither well nor poor	27	27	28	21	27	25	30	30	30
Poor	27	26	26	31	27	28	21	24	23
Very poor	6	11	9	10	7	8	7	9	8
Refusal/Don't know	12	12	12	12	12	12	18	13	15

Q20: How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on ensuring that the PSNI is adequately funded?

Over one quarter of respondents (28%) rated the NIPB's performance in ensuring that the PSNI is adequately funded as well/very well - a decrease from September 2002 (32%) (Table 20). Proportionately fewer respondents rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in April 2003 (19%) than in September 2002 (23%). Protestant respondents (28%) were slightly more likely to rate the NIPB's performance in this area very well/well than Catholic respondents (27%). It must be noted that a high proportion of respondents answered Don't know to this question.

TABLE 20: How Northern Ireland Policing Board does on ensuring that the PSNI is adequately funded

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

Q21: Do you think that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job?

Almost two thirds of respondents (64%) thought that the NIPB helps to ensure that the PSNI do a good job compared to 63% in September 2002 (Table 21). Protestant respondents (65%) were slightly more likely to think that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job compared to Catholic respondents (64%).

TABLE 21: Does the Northern Ireland Policing Board help to ensure that the PSNI do a good job?

All those who have heard of the NIPB. Rating (%)	Omnibus Survey					
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Yes	66	64	63	64	65	64
No	18	25	23	21	22	22
No answer/DK/refusal	16	11	13	15	13	14

Q22: Do you think that the NIPB is part of the police/independent of the police?

Over two thirds of respondents (69%) thought that the NIPB is independent of the police compared to 72% in September 2002 and 23% thought that the NIPB is part of the police compared to 22% in September 2002 (Table 22). Protestant respondents (74%) were much more likely to know that the NIPB is independent of the police than Catholic respondents (62%).

TABLE 22: Is the Northern Ireland Policing Board part of the police/independent of the police?

All those who have heard of the NIPB. Rating (%)	Omnibus Survey					
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Part of the police	25	21	22	29	20	23
Independent of the police	67	74	72	62	74	69
No answer/DK/refusal	8	5	6	9	6	7

Q23: 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 23). This compares to 81% of respondents in September 2002 who knew the NIPB’s primary role. Protestant respondents (79%) were more likely to know the NIPB’s primary role than Catholic respondents (75%).

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

Q24: Do you think the NIPB is made up of ...

Two thirds of respondents (66%) correctly thought that the NIPB is made up of “a mix of politicians and independently appointed members” compared to 68% of respondents in September 2002 who knew the NIPB’s composition (Table 24). Protestant respondents (67%) were slightly more likely to know the composition of NIPB than Catholic respondents (66%).

All those who have heard of the NIPB. Rating (%)	Omnibus Survey					
	2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Politicians	1	2	2	6	5	5
Independently appointed members	20	23	22	19	19	19
A mix of politicians and independently appointed members	69	68	68	66	67	66
Other (please specify)	2	0	1	0	1	1
Don't know	8	7	7	10	8	9

Q25: Are you aware that the NIPB holds a public meeting every month during which Members question the Chief Constable?

This question was asked in April 2003 for the first time. The majority of respondents (81%) were unaware that the NIPB holds a public meeting every month (Table 25). Protestant respondents (19%) were slightly more likely to know about the monthly public meeting than Catholic respondents (17%).

All those who have heard of the NIPB. Rating (%)	Omnibus Survey		
	2003 (April)		
	C	P	All
Yes	17	19	18
No	82	81	81
No answer/DK/refusal	1	0	1

Q26: Overall, how well do you think the NIPB is working?

Under three quarters (73%) of respondents thought the NIPB is working at least adequately compared to 71% in September 2002 (Table 27). Under one sixth (15%) of respondents thought that the NIPB was performing poorly/very poorly compared to 20% in September 2002. Protestant respondents (73%) were slightly more likely to think that the NIPB is working adequately or better than Catholic respondents (72%).

All those who have heard of the NIPB. Rating (%)	Omnibus Survey								
	2002 (April)			2002 (Sept)			2003 (April)		
	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot	C	P	Tot
Very well	5	2	3	5	3	4	4	5	5
Well	36	25	28	24	24	23	27	23	24
Adequately	32	43	39	42	46	44	41	45	44
Poor	14	15	14	15	14	15	11	13	12
Very poor	2	5	4	5	5	5	4	3	3
Refusal/Don't Know	11	10	11	8	7	8	13	11	12

