



PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF THE POLICE AND THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**REPORT BASED ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD
MODULE OF THE OCTOBER 2004 OMNIBUS SURVEY**



INTRODUCTION

THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

The Northern Ireland Policing Board is an independent public body whose job it is to oversee policing in Northern Ireland. It was set up on 4 November 2001 as a result of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000. The Policing Board is not controlled by Government and has strong independent powers to carry out its work. The Policing Board consists of 19 Members, ten political members 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 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 2004 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 (NISRA) 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 2,000 addresses in Northern Ireland selected from the Valuation and Lands Agency list of addresses. A total sample of 1,293 persons aged 16 and over were interviewed between 20th September 2004 and 22nd October 2004. A total of 1,194 of the 1,293 respondents stated their community background and therefore the breakdowns by religion are based on this sample of 1,194.

The results of Omnibus Surveys are used by the Northern Ireland Policing Board to fulfill its responsibilities under Section 3(3)(d) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 and to measure some targets set by the Board in the Annual Policing Plan.

The following symbols are used in the accompanying results tables :

- Category not applicable - Cell is empty
- Category result less than 0.5% - Cell contains a zero ("0")

RESULTS

1. PERFORMANCE OF THE POLICE

Q1: Do you think that the PSNI does a good job or a poor job in your area?

Just over half of respondents (52%) in October 2004 thought that their local police were doing a very/fairly good job – an increase of 4 percentage points on the April 2004 survey result (Table 1). The proportion rating the performance of local police as very/fairly poor in October 2004 was 25% - a decrease from April 2004. Just under three fifths of Protestant respondents (57%) thought that the PSNI do a very/fairly good job in their locality (up from 52% in April 2004), as did 45% of Catholic respondents (down from 46% in April 2004).

TABLE 1: Performance of local police

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly good	50	61	56	50	59	56	46	52	48	45	57	52
Neither good nor bad	20	17	18	18	15	16	19	19	20	22	17	20
Very/fairly poor	28	22	23	30	25	27	34	26	28	31	23	25
Don't know/refusal	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	3	3	2	2	2

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

Just under three fifths (58%) of respondents thought that the PSNI in NI as a whole were doing a very/fairly good job, up from 57% in April 2004 (Table 2). The proportion rating the performance of the PSNI in NI as a whole as very/fairly poor in October 2004 was 19% - a decrease of 3 percentage points from April 2004. More Protestant respondents (64%) thought that the PSNI do a very/fairly good job in NI as a whole (up from 61% in April 2004) than did Catholic respondents (51% - compared to 52% in April 2004).

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly good	50	71	63	55	67	62	52	61	57	51	64	58
Neither good nor bad	28	14	20	23	15	18	20	17	19	24	16	20
Very/fairly poor	21	14	16	19	18	18	27	20	22	23	17	19
Don't know/refusal	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2

Q3: How do the PSNI treat Catholic and Protestant members of the public in your area?

Just under three quarters (72%) of respondents thought their local police treated both communities equally, up from 70% in April 2004 (Table 3). Three fifths of Catholic respondents (60%) thought that the police in their local area treated both communities equally, compared to 58% in April 2004. This compares to 80% of Protestant respondents who thought that both communities were treated equally (compared to 79% in April 2004). Just over one quarter of Catholic respondents (28%) believed Protestants receive better treatment compared to 26% in the April 2004 survey.

TABLE 3: Perceived treatment of Catholics and Protestants by local police

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Catholics better	4	5	4	2	6	4	6	6	6	2	6	4
Both equally	58	79	69	59	84	73	58	79	70	60	80	72
Protestants better	28	4	13	28	3	14	26	4	12	28	2	13
Don't know/refusal	10	12	13	10	7	9	10	12	12	10	11	11

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

Under two thirds of respondents (65%) believed that the PSNI in NI as a whole treat both communities equally, an increase of 1 percentage point on the 64% recorded in April 2004 (Table 4). Three quarters of Protestant respondents (75%) thought that the PSNI in NI treat everyone equally (the same as in April 2004) compared to 51% of Catholic respondents who thought there was equity of treatment (up from 49% in April 2004). Respondents were more likely to think that the PSNI treated the two communities equally in their area (72%) than in Northern Ireland as a whole (65%) (Tables 3 and 4).

TABLE 4: Perceived treatment of Catholics and Protestants by police in Northern Ireland

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Catholics better	2	8	5	2	8	5	3	8	5	6	5	5
Both equally	50	76	64	52	80	68	49	75	64	51	75	65
Protestants better	38	8	20	37	6	19	37	7	20	31	10	18
Don't know/refusal	10	9	11	8	5	7	10	11	11	12	9	11

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?

Over three quarters of respondents (77%) had some, a lot or total confidence in the police's ability to provide a day-to-day policing service for everyone in NI compared to 75% in April 2004 (Table 5). Over one fifth of respondents (21%) said they had little or no confidence at all, down from 24% in April 2004. The proportion of Protestant respondents who had at least some confidence in ordinary day-to-day policing rose by 3 percentage points from 77% in April 2004 to 80% in October 2004. The proportion of Catholic respondents with at least some confidence rose from 69% in April 2004 to 73% in October 2004.

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											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	6	9	8	7	10	9	5	8	7	6	9	8
A lot of confidence	24	33	28	20	33	28	21	29	26	24	29	27
Some confidence	40	39	39	48	38	42	43	40	42	43	42	42
Little confidence	21	16	18	19	15	17	22	18	19	17	13	15
None at all	8	3	5	5	3	4	7	4	5	9	5	6
Don't know/refusal	1	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	2	1	2

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 – no change from the April 2004 finding (Table 6). The proportion of Catholic respondents who had at least some confidence in the police's ability to provide a public order policing service rose from 64% in April 2004 to 68% in October 2004 whilst the proportion of Protestant respondents who had at least some confidence decreased from 82% in April 2004 to 80% in October 2004.

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											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	5	11	9	6	11	9	4	9	7	4	10	8
A lot of confidence	21	36	29	21	34	29	26	33	30	23	34	30
Some confidence	40	37	38	42	36	38	34	40	38	41	36	37
Little confidence	21	12	16	20	13	16	26	13	18	17	15	16
None at all	11	3	6	8	4	6	9	4	6	12	4	7
Don't know/refusal	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2

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

Just over one third of respondents (36%) were satisfied with the levels of police patrols in their area compared to 34% in April 2004 (Table 7). The percentages of Catholic respondents who were very/fairly satisfied with the levels of police patrols fell from 35% in April 2004 to 31% in October 2004. However the percentage of Protestant respondents who were very/fairly satisfied with the levels of police patrols rose from 35% in April 2004 to 39% in October 2004. The proportion of Catholic respondents who were dissatisfied with levels of police patrols fell from 40% in April 2004 to 37% in October 2004 and the proportion of Protestant respondents who were dissatisfied with levels of police patrols fell from 46% in April 2004 to 40% in October 2004.

TABLE 7: Satisfaction with the levels of police patrols

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/Fairly Satisfied	33	35	35	38	35	36	35	35	34	31	39	36
Neither	27	21	23	25	18	21	23	18	21	30	20	24
Very/Fairly Dissatisfied	38	44	40	36	47	42	40	46	43	37	40	38
Don't know/refusal	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	1	2	2	1	1

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

Under two thirds of respondents (64%) thought that the overall standard of policing had remained the same over the last year, 21% thought that it had got worse and 10% felt that it had improved (Table 8). Protestant respondents (71%) were much less likely than Catholic respondents (80%) to think that overall policing had remained the same or improved and much more likely to think that it had got worse (24% compared to 17% for Catholic respondents).

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Improved	10	8	9	14	7	10	12	11	11	11	9	10
Remained the same	71	63	66	72	67	69	67	60	63	69	62	64
Got worse	16	26	21	12	23	18	17	24	20	17	24	21
Don't know/refusal	2	3	3	2	3	3	4	6	5	3	5	5

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

Just under one third of respondents (29%) had been in contact with the PSNI over the last year, which is similar to the April 2004 finding (Table 9). A higher proportion of Protestant respondents (31%) were in contact with the PSNI compared to Catholic respondents (24%).

TABLE 9: Contact with PSNI

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	29	29	29	32	31	32	26	31	29	24	31	29
No	71	71	70	68	69	68	73	69	70	76	69	71
Refusal	-	0	0	-	-	0	1	-	0	-	0	0

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

The largest category for police contact in October 2004 was reporting a crime (26%) down from 30% in April 2004 (Table 10). Just under one quarter of respondents (23%) were in contact with the PSNI due to being a victim of crime compared with 25% in April 2004. Catholic respondents were more likely to have contact with PSNI to report a crime than Protestant respondents (33% compared to 24%) or report anti-social behaviour (23% compared to 15%).

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

Respondents who had contact with PSNI	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
You were the victim of a crime	27	20	24	19	21	20	22	25	25	26	22	23
You reported a crime	26	26	26	30	34	32	19	39	30	33	24	26
Giving a statement	23	13	17	23	18	20	21	18	19	23	18	19
Reporting anti-social behaviour	15	17	16	15	21	18	13	23	19	23	15	17
Proof of driving documents or involved in road traffic accident	18	12	15	11	8	9	13	10	11	14	15	15
Dispute with neighbour*	6	2	4	4	2	3	5	1	3	5	4	4
Renewing firearms licence*	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	2	3	7	5	7
Seeking advice or information#	-	-	-	22	16	19	20	15	17	15	8	11
Other (please specify)	24	32	28	13	17	16	28	20	23	14	22	20
Refusal	-	1	0	-	-	0	-	-	-	2	-	1

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

* Categories not included before April 2003.

Category not included before October 2003.

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

Over two thirds of respondents (71%) were satisfied in their contact with PSNI compared to 64% in April 2004 (Table 11). Protestant respondents (73%) were much more satisfied than Catholic respondents (63%).

TABLE 11: Satisfaction with PSNI contact

Respondents who had contact with PSNI	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	75	74	75	68	69	69	70	59	64	63	73	71
No	25	26	25	32	31	31	30	41	36	37	27	29
Refusal	-	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs)

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

Three fifths of respondents (60%) had heard of DPPs in October 2004, compared to 66% in April 2004 (Table 12). Protestant respondents (61%) were more likely than Catholic respondents (59%) to have heard of DPPs.

TABLE 12: Have you heard of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)?

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	38	42	41	63	69	66	62	68	66	59	61	60
No	62	58	59	37	31	33	37	32	33	41	39	40
Refusal	-	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0

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

Just under two thirds of respondents (66%) who had heard of DPPs had some, a lot or total confidence that DPPs will help address local policing problems compared to 67% in April 2004 (Table 13). Over one quarter of respondents (26%) said they had little or no confidence at all. Protestant respondents (67%) were slightly more confident than Catholic respondents (65%) that DPPs will help address local policing problems.

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

All those who have heard of DPPs Rating	Percentage of respondents								
	2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	5	4	4	3	2	2	3	3	3
A lot of confidence	22	20	21	15	17	16	13	17	15
Some confidence	45	49	47	50	48	49	49	47	48
Little confidence	18	16	17	18	23	21	20	17	18
None at all	4	4	4	9	4	6	7	8	8
Don't know/refusal	6	7	7	5	6	6	9	8	8

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

Over half of respondents (52%) said they were prepared to contact their local DPP regarding local policing issues (Table 14) compared to 54% in April 2004. Protestant respondents (57%) were more willing than Catholic respondents (45%) to contact their local DPP.

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

All those who have heard of DPPs Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	56	59	57	57	68	64	49	57	54	45	57	52
No	42	38	39	40	29	33	47	42	43	55	40	46
Don't know/refusal	2	4	3	2	3	3	4	1	3	1	3	2

Q15: Do you feel that your local DPP has helped to improve policing in your local area?

Under one quarter of respondents (24%) believed that their local DPP has helped to improve policing in their local area compared to 22% in April 2004 (Table 15). Catholic respondents (26%) were more likely to think that their local DPP has helped to improve policing in their local area than Protestant respondents (24%). Over a quarter of respondents (27%) did not know if the local DPP had helped to improve local policing.

TABLE 15: Local DPP has helped to improve local policing?

All those who have heard of DPPs	Percentage of respondents					
	2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All
Rating						
Yes	23	21	22	26	24	24
No	45	52	48	52	46	49
Don't Know	32	27	30	22	30	27

3. THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

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

Five sixths of respondents (83%) had heard of the NIPB – 1 percentage point down from the April 2004 finding (Table 16). Slightly more Protestant respondents (84%) had heard of the NIPB than Catholic respondents (83%).

TABLE 16: Heard of the NIPB?

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	84	90	87	84	89	87	86	84	84	83	84	83
No	16	10	13	16	11	13	14	16	15	17	16	16
Don't know/refusal	0	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Over two fifths of respondents (44%) thought the NIPB did well/very well in monitoring how PSNI performs compared to 43% in April 2004 (Table 17). Proportionately more respondents rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in October 2004 (11%) than in April 2004 (9%). Protestant respondents (44%) were more likely to think that the NIPB did well in this area than Catholic respondents (42%).

TABLE 17: How NIPB does on monitoring how the PSNI performs

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	9	8	8	7	7	6	6	7	6	6	5	6
Well	35	38	37	39	46	43	36	39	37	36	39	38
Neither well nor poor	31	31	31	30	24	26	31	27	29	29	29	29
Poor	7	8	7	7	6	6	10	7	8	10	8	8
Very poor	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	3
Don't know	16	15	16	16	17	17	17	19	19	16	18	18

Q18: How well or poorly do you think the NIPB does on questioning the Chief Constable on how he carries out his duties?

Over two fifths of respondents (43%) rated the NIPB's performance in questioning the Chief Constable as well/very well - one percentage point up from the April 2004 finding (Table 18). Proportionately more respondents rated the NIPB's performance as poor/very poor in October 2004 (11%) than in April 2004 (9%). Catholic respondents (46%) were more confident that the NIPB did very well/well in questioning the Chief Constable on how he carries out his duties compared to Protestant respondents (41%).

TABLE 18: How NIPB does on questioning the Chief Constable

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	8	8	8	8	7	7	4	8	6	6	6	6
Well	38	40	39	39	40	40	35	38	36	40	35	37
Neither well nor poor	24	24	24	25	26	25	28	28	29	22	29	25
Poor	10	8	8	7	7	7	10	7	8	11	6	8
Very poor	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	4	3	3
Don't know/Refusal	19	19	19	20	18	19	20	19	20	18	21	20

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

Over one quarter of respondents (26%) thought the NIPB did well/very well in consulting the public on policing issues compared to 24% in April 2004 (Table 19). Proportionately fewer respondents thought performance was poor/very poor in October 2004 (27%) than in April 2004 (31%). 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 (25%).

TABLE 19: How NIPB does on consulting the public on policing issues

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	5	4	4
Well	21	21	20	24	25	24	20	22	21	22	21	22
Neither well nor poor	30	30	30	29	30	29	29	28	28	30	32	31
Poor	21	24	23	23	23	23	26	23	24	19	19	19
Very poor	7	9	8	6	4	5	6	8	7	8	9	8
Don't know	18	13	15	14	15	15	15	17	17	15	16	16

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

Almost one third of respondents (32%) thought that the NIPB did well/very well in ensuring that the PSNI is adequately funded – up one percentage point on the April 2004 finding (Table 20). Catholic respondents (36%) were more likely to think that the NIPB did well/very well in this area than Protestant respondents (31%). A high proportion of respondents (26%) answered 'Don't Know' to this question.

TABLE 20: How NIPB does on ensuring that the PSNI is adequately funded

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	4	5	5	7	4	5	7	2	4	6	4	4
Well	23	23	23	28	24	26	30	26	27	30	27	28
Neither well nor poor	28	27	27	23	25	24	25	23	24	28	25	27
Poor	9	18	15	12	16	14	9	18	14	7	13	10
Very poor	3	4	4	1	7	4	3	5	4	2	6	4
Don't know	33	23	28	29	24	26	26	26	27	27	25	26

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

Just over three fifths of respondents (61%) thought that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job compared to 60% in April 2004 (Table 21). Catholic respondents (62%) were slightly more likely to think that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job compared to Protestant respondents (61%). The proportion of Catholic respondents who thought that the NIPB helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job rose from 60% in April 2004 to 62% in October 2004.

TABLE 21: Does the NIPB help to ensure that the PSNI do a good job?

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Rating												
Yes	64	65	64	73	69	70	60	61	60	62	61	61
No	21	22	22	16	17	17	22	24	23	23	22	23
Don't know	15	13	14	11	13	13	18	15	17	15	17	17

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

Over two thirds of respondents (71%) correctly thought that the NIPB is independent of the police compared to 68% in April 2004 (Table 22). Protestant respondents (73%) were much more likely to know that the NIPB is independent of the police than Catholic respondents (67%).

TABLE 22: Is the NIPB part of the police/independent of the police?

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Rating												
Part of the police	29	20	23	27	19	22	26	22	23	28	20	22
Independent of the police	62	74	69	66	76	72	64	71	68	67	73	71
Don't know	9	6	7	7	5	6	10	7	8	5	7	6

Q23: What do you think is the primary role of the NIPB?

Over three quarters of respondents (79%) correctly thought that the primary role of the NIPB is “to oversee policing and hold the Chief Constable and the PSNI publicly to account” (Table 23). This compares to 77% of respondents in April 2004 who knew the NIPB’s primary role. Catholic respondents (80%) were more likely to know the NIPB’s primary role than Protestant respondents (77%).

TABLE 23: What do you think is the primary role of the NIPB?

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
To actively direct police operations	12	11	11	12	11	11	13	11	12	10	12	11
To oversee policing and hold the Chief Constable and the PSNI publicly to account	75	79	77	77	80	79	74	78	77	80	77	79
To tell the Chief Constable what to do	6	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3
Other (please specify)	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Don't know	5	3	4	5	4	4	6	6	6	5	6	5

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

Two thirds of respondents (67%) correctly thought that the NIPB is made up of “a mix of politicians and independently appointed members”, identical to the April 2004 finding (Table 24). Catholic respondents (67%) were slightly more likely to know the composition of the NIPB than Protestant respondents (66%).

TABLE 24: Do you think that the NIPB is made up of...

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Politicians	6	5	5	3	1	2	3	2	2	3	4	4
Independently appointed members	19	19	19	25	26	26	18	25	21	21	22	21
A mix of politicians and independently appointed members	66	67	66	63	67	65	71	64	67	67	66	67
Other	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	1	1
Don't know	10	8	9	9	5	7	8	9	8	7	7	7

Q25: Overall, how well do you think the NIPB is working?

Under three quarters (73%) of respondents thought the NIPB is working at least adequately, identical to the April 2004 finding (Table 25). Within this, 30% of respondents thought that the NIPB was working very well/well compared to 28% in April 2004. One sixth (16%) of respondents thought that the NIPB was performing poorly/very poorly, identical to the April 2004 finding.

TABLE 25: Overall, how well do you think the NIPB is working?

All those who have heard of the NIPB	Percentage of respondents											
	2003 (April)			2003 (October)			2004 (April)			2004 (October)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Rating												
Very well	4	5	5	5	7	6	6	3	4	5	4	4
Well	27	23	24	31	28	28	26	24	24	25	26	26
Adequately	41	45	44	41	43	43	42	45	45	43	44	43
Poor	11	13	12	12	9	10	13	13	13	14	12	13
Very poor	4	3	3	3	2	2	4	2	3	4	2	3
Don't know	13	11	12	8	11	10	10	13	12	10	12	11



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A large rectangular area with a light purple background and horizontal white lines, resembling a text box or a form for handwritten notes.



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