



Police Service
of Northern Ireland

Chief Constable's Accountability Report

to Northern Ireland
Policing Board

Report Date:

Covering Period of 30 May 2023 to
30 June 2023

Presented at Policing Board Meeting:

6 July 2023



**we care
we listen
we act**

Contents

Foreword	3
Finance and Resource Update	6
Our Performance	8
Outcome 1: We have a Safe Community	9
Outcome 2: We have confidence in Policing	12
Outcome 3: We have Engaged and Supportive Communities	15
Our People, Your Service	18
Forward Look	20

Unless otherwise stated the statistics in this report are unvalidated management information sources from administrative systems and are subject to change.

Foreword



The Chair and I recently attended an Attestation Ceremony of student officers which marks the successful completion of their initial training before deployment to operational police stations. The event was one of contrasting emotions. On the one hand a feeling of immense pride at seeing colleagues embark upon a career of public service, and on the other, seeing the stark reality of the impact of budget cuts with just seven officers being attested.

This trickle of new recruits, 97 of whom have been attested since January, is set against a total of 179 officers leaving the Service, mostly on retirement, since the start of the year and illustrates how quickly and profoundly the financial challenges we face are biting. If unresolved the community of Northern Ireland faces the very real prospect that by April 2025 the Service will drop beneath 6,000 officers. Our Resource Plan for 2023/24, agreed by our Strategic

Management Board and presented to the Resources Committee, lays out clearly these challenges and underscores the exceptional difficulty in reaching a balanced budget whilst upholding our statutory policing duties.

This unprecedented financial pressure comes at a time when we welcome the results of the Board's Policing Plan Survey which evidences the importance of policing to communities and captures the increased confidence achieved over recent years. 91% of those who took part in the survey feel confident contacting the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Importantly, 93% of people feel safe in their community, which when set alongside the fact that Northern Ireland has statistically the lowest overall crime rate in the United Kingdom, is an incredibly hopeful and positive finding. I remain concerned that the rapidly reducing size and shape of the Service, necessitated by our reduced budget, risks seeing those hard won gains subside, which should be a concern to all those with a stake in the stability and safety of Northern Ireland.

The murder of Chloe Mitchell has brought unthinkable loss to her family and friends and left a community in shock. One man has been charged with Chloe's murder and another with assisting an offender. It has brought forward a national sense of revulsion and renewed concern as to what

more society can do to protect women and girls from violence perpetrated by men. This month we have seen the offence of non-fatal strangulation become a standalone crime in its own right, plugging a previous gap in the law. This development builds upon the recently enacted stalking and harassment legislation. These steps forward in how the justice system is seeking to better serve and protect women are welcome but long overdue. As a Service, our Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Action Plan continues to challenge us to do more and more to understand the risks to women, and make sure we do our part in protecting them from harm.

The operational policing tempo in June has been high, with a wide range of public safety policing operations in place. On 16 June 2023 'Operation Subreference' saw an 'all out' day in which leaders from all across the many disciplines within the Service set aside their usual day to day duties to work together on a key public safety issue in a Service wide operation. This included 70 senior officers joining front line teams across the country. The operation focus was on maximising the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology to tackle crime and locate wanted people and resulted in 30 arrests, 10 vehicles seized and close to £100,000 of drugs recovered. After the success of this first operation, further 'all out' days are scheduled for later in 2023.

June also saw many thousands of music fans travel to events across the greater Belfast area to enjoy live music. We worked closely with event organisers and Councils to see these pass off safely and enjoyably, both for those attending and for nearby residents. We have also seen a number of sensitive parades take place, including the Whiterock Parade, which have passed with minimal concern. This hopefully sets a positive tone for the coming months.

The hot weather in June brought significant crowds to our beaches and coastal resorts. In anticipation, we surged our resources to focus on issues of anti-social behaviour and road safety, including the use of our Safer Transport Team on the rail network, in an effort to allow the public to make the most of the country's incredible coast whilst feeling safe. Looking ahead to the July and August period our Safer Summer Together Campaign was launched on 22 June 2023 and brings together a wide programme of public safety messages and activity to respond to what is always a period of high demand.

I am delighted to report that five Birthday Honours were awarded to colleagues in recognition of their extensive contribution to policing and beyond. Chief Superintendent Darrin Jones, Superintendent Kellie McMillan and Constable Valerie Robinson have all been honoured with the award of the King's Police Medal (KPM). Detective Superintendent Ewan Anderson has been made a Member of the Order of British Empire (MBE) and the British Empire Medal (BEM) was awarded to a retired staff member.

Finally, Board members are aware that at the end of July, Assistant Chief Constable Alan Todd KPM, retires after over 30 years of dedicated service.

Alan led the Police Service's response to COVID-19 and recently oversaw the policing operation following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the visit of His Majesty King Charles III. He has previously led a number of major policing events including, The Open Championship, G8, The Giro d'Italia and Olympic Torch Run.

On behalf of the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Service Executive Team and all officers and staff across the organisation, I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation and thanks for the contribution and dedication that Alan has made to policing in Northern Ireland. On a personal level, I would like to thank Alan for his support and encouragement during my time as Chief Constable. I wish him all the very best in his retirement.



Simon Byrne
Chief Constable
Police Service of Northern Ireland

Finance and Resource Update

Finance and Resources Update

Although it is early in the Financial year, after the two months to the end of May 2023, we are reporting an overspend of £6.3m. This reflects a busy start to the year, with officer overtime already overspent by £1.9m.

These costs are consistent with our Resource Plan and expanded on further in the following section.

Resource Plan 2023/24

Our draft Resource Plan 2023/24 was presented to the Resources Committee in June. It makes for stark reading.

The Plan sets out our deteriorating financial context, actions taken to reduce costs yet further and highlights the service implications.

Despite securing some improvement on the indicative budget, the budget for 2023/24 has been reduced by 1.7%. Combined with rising costs and pay awards, we are facing a substantial funding gap against our requirement of some £107m. As a result, we are implementing a range of significant cuts, including reductions in recruitment, overtime and the full range of non-pay support costs. We are reviewing and reshaping our operating model. But even

with these actions, we still face an unaddressed gap of £38m.

I am concerned that as things stand, even with our savings and planning it is difficult to see how further savings can actually be delivered in 2023/24. We simply cannot cut costs any further or faster to balance the budget.

We have already slowed or paused recruitment, and tightened control of future internal promotions and selections. As a result, the Police Service will shrink over the next three years. Last year, police officer numbers were reduced by 309 to 6,669 in March 2023. This is the lowest police officer numbers since the formation of the Police Service of Northern Ireland. We now expect officer numbers to fall further to 6,358 by March 2024 and staff numbers to 2,339. This is significantly less than the Government commitment in the New Decade, New Approach (NDNA) of growing officer numbers to 7,500 in Northern Ireland.

These cuts are happening at a time of an increasing workload. Our population here is growing, we have new Legislation coming online and investigations are becoming more complex. Serious crime and road deaths are increasing and the terrorist threat level has recently been raised to SEVERE. Police officers remain the primary target of that threat.



As your Chief Constable, I have already been very clear that with less police you get less policing. The Police Service of Northern Ireland will be smaller, less visible, less accessible and less responsive. Attendance times will deteriorate, non-emergency calls will take longer, investigations will slow down and intelligence gathering reduce. We will do what we can to protect our Neighbourhood Policing function – so crucial to much of what we are trying to achieve against the scourge of paramilitarism – but this too will shrink.

I recognise that for many people in Northern Ireland, Health and Education are the investment priorities. However, I have to be honest with the public about the sort of emergency response service we are moving towards as a result of budget decisions taken by political leaders. We are now at a crossroads and without intervention some very difficult and unpalatable decisions are going to be needed soon. Some of those decisions will take years to reverse. Without sustainable funding very soon the Police Service of Northern Ireland is going to be unrecognisable from the Service envisioned by Patten and by NDNA. It will be unrecognisable from that which the people of Northern Ireland have grown to expect and which has been so crucial at supporting societal change over the past 25 years.

Our Performance

The information in this section is extracted from our Official Statistics published reports. The full reports can all be accessed from the following link:

<https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics>

These are in-year provisional figures and may be subject to change

Recorded Crime

In the 12 months from 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023:

- There were 111,606 crimes recorded, an increase of 4,004 (3.7%) on the previous 12 months.
- There were 59 police recorded crimes per 1,000 population compared with 56 crimes in the previous 12 month period.
- Higher crime levels were seen in sexual offences, robbery, theft offences, criminal damage, drug offences, possession of weapons and miscellaneous crimes against society.
- Lower crime levels were seen in violence against the person, burglary and public order offences.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

In the 12 months from 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023:

- There were 47,815 ASB incidents, a decrease of 6,403 (-11.8%) on the previous 12 months.

Drug Seizures

With the exception of a slight fall in 2016/17, the number of drug seizure incidents has increased each year since 2006/07.

In the 12 months from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023:

- There were 8,867 drug seizure incidents, an increase of 271 (3.2%) on the previous 12 months .
- There was a rise in the number of Class A and Class C, and a fall in the number of Class B seizure incidents.
- Cannabis (Class B) was the most commonly seized drug, followed by cocaine (Class A), benzodiazepines (Class C) and pregabalin (Class C).
- The trend in drug seizure incidents is similar to that seen for the number of drug offences recorded by police over the same period. (Please note that as seizure incidents continue to be processed, this will lead to an increase in the number of drug seizures recorded since April 2022.)

Drug related Arrests

In the 12 months from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023:

- There were 3,246 drug-related arrests, an increase of 103 (3.3%) when compared with the previous 12 months.
- The trend in drug-related arrests is similar to that seen for the number of drug seizure incidents and drug offences recorded by police over the same period.



Outcome 1

We have a Safe Community

Crime Update

Organised Crime Branch

- Organised Crime Branch detectives and officers from our Auto Crime Team, along with partners in the UK Border Force, recovered 130kg of suspected herbal cannabis with an estimated street value of approximately £2m, in the Dargan Road area of Belfast.

One man was arrested and charged to court for a number of drug related offences.

- Detectives arrested two men following searches of a number of properties in the Omagh area. 15kg of cannabis and approximately 1,000 suspected MDMA tablets, with a combined estimated street value of £250,000, were recovered.

The two men, aged 23 and 24 were arrested on suspicion of a number of drug related offences and enquiries remain ongoing.

- During June, five men aged between 25 and 72 years old, received custodial sentences ranging between 14 and 19 months, for their involvement in the importation of 54kg of herbal cannabis in February 2020.

Paramilitary Crime Task Force (PCTF)

- Detectives from the Paramilitary Crime Task Force (PCTF) investigating criminality linked to the East Belfast UVF, have arrested and charged two men with drug related offences. This follows the recovery of suspected Class A Controlled Drugs with an estimated street value of £100,000, in the East Belfast area.
- Detectives investigating drugs-related criminality associated with the East Belfast UVF obtained a forfeiture order of £39,315 at Belfast Magistrate's Court on, Wednesday 7 June.
- June saw the sentencing of a man and woman for drug related offences and possession of criminal property. This follows a 2019 investigation into the organised criminality of the West Belfast UDA. They received respective sentences of 28 months, 10 to be served in custody and 18 months on licence; and 22 and a half months, suspended for two years.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit

- Detectives from the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit (MSHTU) arrested and charged a man with two counts of human trafficking, two counts of controlling prostitution for gain, two counts of paying for sexual services and sexual assault. This arrest came as a result of a proactive investigation into the Human Trafficking throughout Northern Ireland of local females for sexual exploitation.
- MSHTU, assisted by officers from Armagh Neighbourhood Policing Team, conducted a joint policing operation with colleagues from An Garda Síochána at a business premises in the Armagh area. This was in relation to potential forced labour offences and was part of a European-wide focus on labour exploitation during the month of June.

Three individuals took part in a screening process, which involves officers asking a series of questions to establish if they may be potential victims of human trafficking. Although there were no signs of human trafficking, the answers did result in referrals being made to partner agencies.

Violence Against Women and Girls



On Monday 26 June, non-fatal strangulation, or asphyxiation (under The Justice Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims Act NI 2022), has been made a specific criminal offence in Northern Ireland.

Previously, investigating officers needed evidence of intent to commit an indictable offence. For example, if someone had been strangled in what was believed to be a sexually motivated attack, the officer would have to show that the perpetrator intended to commit sexual assault before they could pursue prosecution. This new legislation means that if an individual's actions restrict, or could restrict breathing (and/or blood flow), they could be liable for prosecution for this offence.

Bespoke training has been provided to 1,700 officers and staff members, and our Tactical Training Faculty are updating the content of the First Aid Training course to provide students with the signs and symptoms of strangulation. Visual aids and internal guidance have been provided to investigators across the organisation, to ensure a thorough understanding of the offence and support investigations and preparation of criminal cases.

Operation Subreference



Operation Subreference took place on Friday 16 June, with the overarching objectives of promoting senior officer and staff visibility within their teams, and maximising the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology to tackle crime and locate wanted people.

Over 70 senior officers and staff joined their operational teams for this day of dedicated focus on proactive policing, with many more joining their office based teams, to provide increased visibility and support. Examples include visiting with investigation teams and attendance at planning meetings.



ACC Chris Todd conducting speed enforcement activity during Operational Subreference

We also took the opportunity to build on our work with partner agencies, such as, His Majesty's Revenue and Customs. On the day, our joint Exercise disruption activity resulted in significant seizures of counterfeit cigarettes

and fuel, including in Newry Mourne and Down, Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon, Mid Ulster and Fermanagh and Omagh.



Safe Transport Team

The Safe Transport Team (STT) has been working closely with Translink management and staff to address the concerning rise in the number of assaults on staff and wider anti-social behaviour.

Our response saw a period of increased patrolling across the network, with our policing presence enhanced through the use of Response Officers acting in support of those from STT. Partner and customer feedback has been largely positive.

Concert season is now upon us and the holiday season not far behind. We remain committed to working with our Translink colleagues to provide a high visible presence to ensure that everyone can use these services safely.

Outcome 2

We Have Confidence in Policing

Northern Ireland Affairs Committee



ACO Mark McNaughten and Chief Operating Officer Pamela McCreedy at the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee

On Wednesday 21 June, Chief Operating Officer Pamela McCreedy and Assistant Chief Officer Corporate Services, Mark McNaughten, appeared before the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee in London. They provided an update on the budget settlement for 2023/24 to the Committee's Inquiry into the funding and delivery of public services in Northern Ireland.

This was an important opportunity to brief Members of Parliament on the challenges facing our Service and the potential impact on the community as a result of budgetary pressures.

Chief Operating Officer McCreedy reiterated the stark message that without sustainable funding the Police Service will continue to shrink over the coming years and will soon be unrecognisable from the Service of 7,500 officers envisioned by Patten and by New

Decade, New Approach. Growing demand, and the unique challenges facing police in Northern Ireland, not least the severe terrorist threat, were also highlighted, along with the marked contrast of the 'uplift programme' for policing in England and Wales.

2022/23 Neighbourhood Policing Peer Review



In 2018, the National Police Chiefs' Council developed Neighbourhood Policing Guidelines to support the implementation of effective Neighbourhood Policing. The global impact of events such as the murder of Sarah Everard, and related international focus on Violence Against Women and Girls, and the murder of George Floyd and subsequent development of the Black Lives Matter movement, have brought significant changes in policing since 2018.

A number of peer reviews have taken place to gain an understanding of the progress on implementing the 2018 guidelines. The most recent of these commenced in April 2022 and included an updated review methodology and a renewed focus on engagement with hard to reach groups. 33 Police Services from across the UK took

part in this peer review process, providing a wealth of information, details on emerging and best practice, and the opportunity for shared learning.

The final findings of the review have now been published. We will carefully consider these and explore how we can continue to improve our engagement with, and service to, communities. However, we note with some professional pride the frequent references made in the report to examples of good practice within our Service. These included our 'Here for You' Engagement Strategy, District Profiles and Engagement Plans, the engagement activity of our Strategic Community Engagement Team and our approach to problem solving and use of Problem Solving Champions. Our development of Performance Dashboards, the use of Targeted Patrolling Areas, the Neighbourhood Policing Team Self-Assessment Surveys and revised Police and Community Safety Partnership Report Cards (used to reflect progress against Local Policing Plans), were also favourably commented upon.

Children and Young People: Strip Searching in Police Custody

On Tuesday 27 June, the Policing Board published their Human Rights review on 'Children and Young People: Strip Searching in Police Custody'. As a Police Service we recognise that this is a sensitive and important issue and we welcome the report.

In January this year we made changes to the guidance for our custody staff, and while there has been improvement in the process,

we acknowledge there is still work to do. We will continue to work closely with the Board to further improve our performance in this crucial area and will review our internal guidance in line with the recommendations made in this report.



ACC Alan Todd, NIPB Chair Deirdre Toner and Human Rights Advisor John Wadham

Criminal Justice Inspectorate – Case file quality

The Police Service welcomes the latest Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) report into file quality and disclosure, noting the associated recommendations.

Our Criminal Justice Branch has already made significant progress against these recommendations, including training delivery for new line managers and continuous professional development events for detectives. Work is also ongoing with partners in the Department of Justice and Public Prosecution Service in designing a number of speeding-up justice initiatives.

There are early indicators of success including, the number of case files being submitted within agreed time limits

increasing to 80.4%, up 5% on the previous financial year.

Average investigation time is down from 60 days in September 2022 to 54 in June 2023; and indications from the recent His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services inspection is they found the quality of investigations and supervision to be 'good' or 'very good' in over 90% of files.

Strategic Priorities for 2023/24

In accordance with National guidance, a Strategic Assessment process was developed to set out our Service Priorities for 2023/24 by providing an accurate picture of the nature and extent of crime and policing issues in Northern Ireland and identifying where the main threats and risks lie.

The Strategic Assessment was developed by considering all known issues across the Service and took cognisance of related information, such as that contained within the Organised Crime Strategic Assessment, Public Order Strategic Risk Assessment, Armed Policing Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment, Northern Ireland Policing Plan and the Service Management Statement.

At the Service Strategic Tasking and Coordinating Group meeting on 11 May 2023, members fully considered the Strategic Priorities that had been proposed for the year ahead. The following agreed priorities were shared with, and ratified by the Strategic Management Board on 14 June. These will now be included in district performance frameworks:

- Counter Terrorism
 - Violent Dissident Republicans
- Vulnerability
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Child Protection
 - Rape & Serious Sexual Offences
 - Violence Against Women & Girls
 - Hate Crime – with a focus on sectarian & race motivation
- Serious and Organised Crime
 - Highest Harm Organised Crime Groups
 - Drugs
 - PCTF Groupings
 - Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- Road Policing
 - Fatal Road Traffic Collisions

Outcome 3

We have Engaged and Supportive Communities

Key Campaigns and initiatives

Network Breakfast – Disability Sector

On 8 June the Chief Constable held the latest in his series of 'Breakfast Briefings', where he takes the opportunity to meet with individuals and representatives from groups with whom he may not typically have the opportunity to engage.

The meeting was attended by a number of deaf and disabled people and representatives from support organisations from across the disability sector. It was a really constructive opportunity to speak about the issues that are understandably of great importance to people with disabilities.

Issues discussed included public access to the Service, custody, call management and training. We will be undertaking some follow up engagement to identify areas where improvements in our service can be made.



Supporting Community Networks

Officers from Derry City and Strabane (DC&S), Causeway Coast and Glens (CC&G) and Mid and East Antrim have been working together to help support women from different cultures, some of whom are seeking asylum, build relationships with each other while they're living here in Northern Ireland.

To promote the strengthening of these connections, and help with the wider education and integration of immigrants, an engagement event bringing together a number of women's groups was held in Derry City on 7 June.

The day included a lunch with the new DC&S District Council Mayor, Patricia Logue, Hate Crime Advocate Nikki Yau, Hannah Graham from Suicide Prevention Development, Bonnie Cassidy from the Women's Centre and Lisa Young from Radius Housing.

This was a really positive event, with new friendships being made and information shared on available support within the community. Local officers gained a valuable insight on differing cultures, which will help us improve the service that we provide to these communities.

Crowded Places Forum

Security Branch has been working with partners to implement a Crowded Places Forum initiative, the aim of which is to build upon pre-existing relationships and promote information exchange between all members on items such as, new and existing threats to security, joint training opportunities and emerging security equipment.

The inaugural meeting was held at Hillsborough Castle on Tuesday 20 June. Security representatives from a range of Northern Ireland's main tourist attractions attended, including those from Hillsborough Castle, Titanic Visitor Centre, Game of Thrones Visitor Centre, Windsor Park, SSE Arena, Waterfront and Kingspan.

This engagement activity has greatly encouraged each site to review their own security practices. Going forward, the collaborative efforts will help prepare for the introduction of Martyn's Law, named after Martyn Hett who was one of the 22 killed in the Manchester Arena attack. This legislation is due to be introduced later this year.

Eid Festival

On 28 June, the Chief Constable attended the Belfast Multi-Cultural Association and Belfast Islamic Centre's Eid al-Adha celebration at Botanic Park in Belfast, alongside colleagues from Belfast City District, Ethnic Minority Police Association and our Strategic Community Engagement Team.

Eid al-Adha is one of the most important festivals in the Muslim calendar. The Eid Prayer is a special congregational prayer that Muslims perform on the morning of the first day of Eid al-Adha, which falls on the 10th day of Dhu al-Hijjah, the twelfth month of the Islamic calendar and marks the end of the yearly Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca.

Over 2,000 people were in attendance at the event which provided an important opportunity to meet with representatives from the Belfast Multi-Cultural Association and Belfast Islamic Centre as well as the wider community with prayers being held in Queen's PEC building ahead of the festival in Botanic Park showcasing a range of different cultures.



Concert Ticket Fraud



We have launched our concert ticket fraud campaign to raise awareness of ticket fraud during a time when there are a number of concerts taking place across Northern Ireland. The social media campaign will look to educate and empower the public to take preventative steps by urging them to be wary of scammers while booking tickets for concerts and other events.

This follows a national campaign and has been developed in partnership with local event promoters to run over the course of the Summer, alongside high profile events, where previously we have seen increased reports of fraudulent ticket scams.

Webpage: <https://www.psnl.police.uk/ticket-fraud>

Response Policing Week of Action



The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Response Policing Week of Action took place 26-30 June and provided an opportunity to highlight the vital role that Response Officers play in protecting the public and keeping people safe, along with thanking them for doing this.

The campaign promoted the work of Response Policing through social media across the week. Internal communications encouraged staff and officers to get involved in a series of NPCC webinars ranging from learning and development, networking, career paths and progression through to wellbeing.

It is worth remembering that last year the Police Service attended 37,031 emergency incidents. Over 80% of these were attended by Response Policing Teams, with average attendance times an impressive eight minutes.

Our People, Your Service

Race Action Plan

There have been further developments to our Race Action Plan since our update to the Board in February 2023.

The Race Action Plan Working Group met in March to review the draft plan and agree the actions and measures, ensuring they have deliverable timescales. In April, senior leads for each business area reviewed their proposed respective actions and took ownership. Wider engagement has now begun, including with the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.

The anticipated outcomes of the Action Plan include:

1. Increased trust and confidence from ethnic minority communities
2. Officers and staff have a better cultural awareness about our ethnically diverse communities in Northern Ireland
3. Striving for a more representative Police Service
4. Service delivery is increased through better scrutiny of policy and processes

Our Equality Scheme has been refreshed for 2023-2028 and has been published on our website. Work to progress an audit of inequalities is awaiting budgetary authorisation to progress to the next stage. This will inform future revisions to our Equality and Diversity Action Plans.

Part Time Reserve 50th Anniversary

On 3 June, the Chief Constable hosted an event at the Police College to mark 50 years of part time policing in Northern Ireland. The Part Time Reserve was formed in 1970, however, public health restrictions in place in 2020 prevented an event taking place to coincide with the anniversary.

This was an important opportunity to mark the service and sacrifice of our part time policing colleagues and many of our part time police officers attended along with a small number of special guests, including the Policing Board Chair, Deirdre Toner, former Chief Constable Sir Ronnie Flanagan and Viscount Brookeborough, whose mother was one of the very first Part Time Reserve officers.



L-R ACC Bobby Singleton, Chief Operating Officer Pamela McCreedy, Chief Constable Simon Byrne and Chair Northern Ireland Policing Board Deirdre Toner

Long Service Awards

On 22 June 2022, at the Police College, Garnerville, the Chief Constable hosted the first Long Service Ceremony since the Covid health pandemic.

The Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was introduced by King George VI in 1951 to recognise exemplary service and is awarded after 20 years' service. On 11 March 2022, a further amendment to the Royal Warrant provided for an award of an additional Long Service Clasp at 30 and 40 years' service. June's ceremony saw the first presentation of the 40-year clasps.

Police staff, on a par with their officer colleagues were awarded certificates for 20 and 40 years' service.

The Special Constabulary Long Service Medal was introduced by King George V in 1919 and recognises the contribution of Part Time Officers to policing in Northern Ireland. This Medal is awarded at 15 years' service and an additional Long Service Bar is awarded for each successive ten-year period served thereafter.

A total of 55 Police Officers, Police Staff and Part Time Officers, were recognised for attaining these significant service milestones, in the presence of family, friends and their senior management

Forward look

Parades and Bonfires

The Police Service continues to work with partners in the voluntary, statutory and community sectors to address the issue of bonfires. We remain a key partner on the Department of Justice led Bonfire Memorandum Of Understanding Group, which is aimed at addressing bonfires across all Council areas.

Positive progress has been made in some areas, with communities engaged in projects to reshape the bonfires into positive cultural celebrations. Some bonfires continue to present challenges and we will continue to engage and work with all parties to ensure public safety.

We are pleased to report that so far in 2023 there have been no significant parade-related issues. At the time of writing there are 1,085 parades and events listed on the Parades Commission website scheduled for the month of July, 38 of which have been marked as sensitive.

Safer Summer Together Campaign

Now launched, our Safer Summer Together Campaign aimed at encouraging members of the public to have an enjoyable summer whilst being mindful of safety issues, will run across our social media platforms throughout the summer.



This seeks to educate on issues such as staying safe on nights out, home security, scans, and safety on our roads. There will also be a strong focus on three main categories of anti-social behaviour: personal, nuisance, and environmental.

Dedicated webpage - www.psni.police.uk/summer

psni.police.uk

