



Police Service
of Northern Ireland

Chief Constable's Accountability Report

to Northern Ireland
Policing Board

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August 2025

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4 September 2025



**we care
we listen
we act**

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Foreword

I am pleased to present this report to the Board as we reflect on a demanding period of policing activity over the summer months and look ahead to the continued challenges whilst seeking to shape opportunities for the organisation. The report highlights the dedication of our officers and staff and demonstrates our commitment to being victim focused, community focused and workforce focused.

I want to begin by recognising the outstanding work of all officers and staff who contributed to the successful policing operation that ensured a safe event took place at the 153rd Open Golf Championship in Portrush. This major international event was watched by a global audience of at least 25 million people and was broadcast in 200 countries with 280,000 spectators attending in person. This required meticulous planning, extensive partnership working, and long hours of dedicated policing. The professionalism displayed, not only ensured the safety of thousands of spectators and participants but also demonstrated to the world the capability, resilience, and pride of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). On a similar vein I would like to commend the officers and staff, who while not directly involved in the policing of this event, had their shifts changed and worked long hours to maintain business as usual within the organisation. Our record low police officer numbers, resulting from years of underinvestment mean policing such events in the future will require careful consideration.

This summer also brought serious challenges. Following the awful and unacceptable violence in June, which saw law-abiding members of our vibrant diverse communities attacked and 107 police officers assaulted, the Twelfth of July parades and associated events passed off largely peacefully. I

commend the combined efforts of organisers, community leaders, elected representatives, partner agencies, and our policing teams across the organisation, for ensuring these significant cultural events could be enjoyed safely and respectfully. As I said prior to the Twelfth, mutual respect is the foundation of strong, safe communities, and I was pleased to see this reflected across the vast majority of celebrations.

As of 22 August 2025, 62 individuals have been arrested and 57 charged in connection with the disturbances in June. I was also pleased to see the first convictions arising from the similarly vile disorder witnessed last August in Northern Ireland, with fourteen people sentenced to date for offences linked to the rioting, which sadly, included three juveniles. We saw the sentencing of Matthew Brogan, who received a 20-month custodial sentence after admitting to rioting in the Sandy Row area. His image was released to the media following conviction. I welcome the strong message this outcome sends, that such racially motivated violence and attacks on police will not be tolerated.

Notwithstanding, the relative success of the 11th and 12th, officers responded to a range of bonfire-related incidents between 11 and 12 July, including one declared a major incident due to its proximity to critical infrastructure. In Moygashel, an effigy-laden bonfire prompted understandable concern across communities and was rightly recorded and investigated as a hate-motivated incident. As an organisation, we continue to emphasise that our role is to keep people safe. However, the repeated failure of others to take meaningful responsibility for addressing the wider issues associated with bonfires leaves policing to step in at the last



minute, often becoming the focus of criticism. I want to be clear that bonfires which display items intended to threaten, intimidate or cause offence are unacceptable, and it is not right that policing alone is left to confront the consequences.

The violence and intimidation in Ballymena in June, directed at ethnic minority families, was among the most shameful behaviour witnessed in recent memory. These families contribute positively to their communities and they deserve to live free from fear. The targeting they endured was nothing less than racist criminality, and as you have seen from our response, it will not be tolerated. Everyone across society in Northern Ireland needs to call out the violence and intimidation that we witnessed. There is no place for it.

It was in that context that we also launched our Race and Ethnicity Action Plan (REAP). This plan sets out our continued commitment to working with ethnic minority communities to tackle hate crime and counter rising anti-migrant sentiment, both on the ground and online ensuring that everyone feels safe, supported and respected. The plan sets out how we will continue to listen to, partner with, and stand up for minority communities, making clear that our organisation will always protect the vulnerable and uphold fairness and equality. We are confident that this will drive the work of the PSNI and help us work even more effectively with ethnic minority communities and partners.

Our role as a Police Service is not only to protect life in the present but also to address the legacy of the past with honesty and integrity. In that spirit, I recently met with Eugene Thompson, brother of a man murdered in 1994, and delivered a personal apology for past investigative failings. It was deeply important to me that Mr Thompson, who was terminally ill, heard directly from the Chief Constable that his family had been

failed and that we are committed to doing better. His subsequent passing reinforced to me the human impact of our work and the need for openness, empathy, and respect in all that we do across all communities.

Alongside our operational responsibilities, we must also always uphold the highest standards of integrity and professionalism. The public rightly expects us to embody the values we promote in society. While community background plays no part in misconduct decisions, I want to assure the public and our workforce that we will continue to monitor these patterns closely and transparently, to ensure fairness, proportionality, and confidence in the system. Where behaviour falls short of our high ethical standards expected of those who work within policing, swift, proportionate and decisive action will follow.

I have continually outlined the challenges of delivering policing services in the face of a crippling funding position. I remain deeply concerned about the financial position of the Service. Officer numbers remain significantly below what is required for safe and effective delivery. Legacy costs totalling over £20 million annually continue to be absorbed from core budgets, directly reducing our ability to invest in neighbourhood policing, response capability, and specialist functions. While short-term interventions have been welcome, they cannot substitute for a long-term, sustainable resourcing model and it goes without question that this will have an impact on victims, the community and the workforce. Everyone can be assured that I will continue to do all that I can to keep the people of Northern Ireland safe.

In an interesting comparison, Greater Manchester Police (GMP) faced huge criticism in 2020 that caused the force to be placed into what is commonly referred to as 'special measures' due to its ineffective



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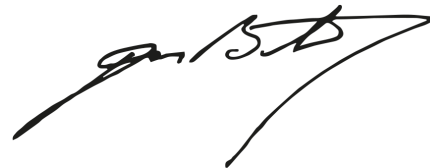
delivery of policing services. At that time the organisation had circa 6,400 officers which was dangerously below what was required. Recognising the risk to communities, recent investment in the force has resulted in the police officer headcount increasing to some 8,300 officers today and the force moving out of monitoring with more confidence in policing being reflected in local communities. Why should the communities in Greater Manchester receive better policing support than the communities of Northern Ireland, where it is universally accepted policing issues are more complex and have the unique challenges presented by a post conflict society. The events of this summer reflect the unique challenges the PSNI face compared with other police services.

We also continue to prioritise the critical issue of tackling violence against women and girls. In recent times, communities were shaken by the murder of Sarah Montgomery in Donaghadee, who was expecting a child at the time, and by the murders in Maguiresbridge, in which Vanessa Whyte and her two children, a son and a daughter tragically lost their lives. Too many lives have been lost to such violence. Women are not responsible for preventing harassment or misogyny against them. It is time that we all, but especially men reflect on our behaviours and attitudes to make our society a safer place. Guided by the Executive-led "Ending Violence Against Women and Girls" strategy, we are challenging harmful attitudes, strengthening prevention, investigative consistency, and building trust with victims and survivors.

Despite all of these pressures facing policing in Northern Ireland, I remain inspired every day by the courage, professionalism, and dedication of officers and staff across the organisation. They come to work each day and respond to incidents and face experiences that most people will never encounter in their lifetime. Whether policing major events, responding to critical incidents, supporting

victims, or strengthening community trust, all against a unique national security backdrop of a dissident republican threat, our incredible officers and staff continue to demonstrate the very best there is of public service. It goes without saying that I am proud to be their Chief Constable. Notwithstanding the lack of support from a funding perspective, the PSNI remains hugely respected globally, nationally and locally. In my humble opinion the men and women of the PSNI with the current numbers are delivering a policing miracle. I remain focused on getting political figures to deliver on undertakings made to support the PSNI recovery business plan returning us initially to 7,000 officers (still considerably below what is required) during the October finance monitoring round.

I look forward to discussing this report with the Board and to continuing our shared commitment to delivering a modern, trusted, and accountable police service for everyone in Northern Ireland.



Jon Boutcher QPM
Chief Constable
Police Service of Northern Ireland



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Finance and Resource Update

Consistent with the Resource Plan for 2025-26 presented to the Board, we are currently projecting a £23 million unaddressed shortfall against budget this financial year. The initial estimate of £21 million has been increased to reflect new pressures emerging for supporting the initial stages of the Omagh Bomb Inquiry.

As the Board is aware, I lobbied intensively around the June Monitoring Round in an attempt to secure the additional funding required to close the gap. Despite some words of comfort, PSNI was allocated just £5 million to address the immediate and unanticipated cost pressures that arose as a direct result of the disorder in June 2025. There was no additional funding to address the now £23 million projected deficit this year or any practical support provided for the restoration of police numbers which are dangerously low.

The stark reality is I continue to face a projected shortfall in funding this year, simply to maintain numbers and prevent further decline. In addition, I am under increasing pressure to explain how this deficit will be managed downwards.

In response, I have now submitted our October Monitoring return and again bid for the £23 million necessary to close the gap. Policing deserves to be funded as a priority public service and I am seeking support from all stakeholders, political parties and others, to reflect carefully when contributing to decisions about resource allocation in October. Although it feels like small comfort, the Department of Justice was promised first call to access up to £7 million to support the Recovery Business Case in future Monitoring Rounds.

Looking beyond this year, PSNI has provided input to the Five-Year Departmental Plan. Based on a flat budget from 2025-26 forward and implementing the Recovery Business Case, future pressures are estimated as £84m in 2026-27, £154m in 2027-28, £216m in 2028-29 and £269m in 2029-30 when we would reach 7,000 officers. This profile further underscores the structural funding deficit currently facing the organisation.

It is difficult to understand, but the critical arguments in support of policing do not seem to be having the impact required and the ongoing support of the Board at all levels would be appreciated.



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 1st August 2024 to 31st July 2025:

- There were 93,948 crimes recorded in Northern Ireland, a decrease of 6,304 (-6.3 per cent) on the previous 12 months.
- There were 49 police recorded crimes per 1,000 population¹ in the 12 months August 2024 to July 2025 compared with 52 in the previous 12 months.
- When compared with the previous year, crime levels have been lower in all of the months since August 2024. November 2024 shows the smallest decline of 102 offences (-1.3 per cent).
- All crime classifications have recorded lower levels, with the exception of an increase in sexual offences (+375) and an increase in homicide from 14 to 19. Theft offences (excluding burglary) fell by 1,356, with decreases also seen in criminal damage (-1,101), stalking and harassment (-924)², violence with injury (-869), violence without injury (-795), and drug offences (-811).

- All policing districts experienced a lower level of crime.
- Lower crime levels were seen in violence against the person. The largest volume and percentage decrease was in stalking and harassment (9,092 crimes recorded), with smaller decreases seen in violence with injury and violence without injury.
- Lower crime levels were also seen across robbery, burglary, theft, criminal damage, drug offences, public order offences, possession of weapons offences and miscellaneous crimes against society.
- Higher crime levels were seen in sexual offences

Anti-Social Behaviour

In the 12 months from 1st August 2024 to 31st July 2025:

- There were 44,821 anti-social behaviour incidents in Northern Ireland, an increase of 925 (2.1 per cent) on the previous 12 months. Despite the increase, this remains one of the lowest 12 month figures since the data series began in 2006/07.
- Between August 2024 and July 2025, six of the months recorded lower levels of anti-social behaviour when compared with the same month in the previous year: August and October 2024, and January, February, May and June 2025.
- When comparing the current and previous 12 months, six policing districts showed higher levels of anti-social behaviour. All eleven policing districts showed higher

¹Crime per 1,000 population based on mid-year population estimate of 1,920,382 for 2023, the latest mid-year estimate available at time of compilation. Mid-year population estimates are available from the NISRA website (opens in a new window). ² Full details are available in points to note on page 3 of The Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland Statistical Bulletin, which describes the changes in the recording of these 'behavioural offences' since April 2017 with the latest change from May 2023 requiring fewer such offences to be recorded.



levels in July 2025 compared with June 2025.

- Six of the months between August 2024 and July 2025 recorded the lowest levels of anti-social behaviour for those months since the start of the data series in April 2006. September and November 2024 and April 2025, each recorded their second lowest levels in the data series, while December 2024, and March and July 2025 recorded their third lowest levels in the data series.
- The latest month (July 2025) was 582 incidents higher than June 2025. Levels in July have been higher than those in June for each year since 2011, with the exception of 2023.

Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes

In the 12 months from 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025:

- There were 29,740 domestic abuse incidents recorded by the police in Northern Ireland, showing a decrease of 2,200 (-6.9 per cent) on the previous 12 months.
- The number of domestic abuse crimes recorded by the police fell to 18,246, a decrease of 1,072 (-5.5 per cent) on the previous 12 months.
- There were 15 domestic abuse incidents and 10 domestic abuse crimes per 1,000 population², compared with 17 domestic abuse incidents and 10 domestic abuse crimes recorded during the previous 12 months.
- When comparing the current and previous 12 months, ten policing districts showed a decrease in the number of domestic abuse incidents, and nine policing districts showed

a decrease in the number of domestic abuse crimes. Belfast City policing district, which accounts for more than a quarter of all domestic abuse incidents and crimes recorded in Northern Ireland, showed a 1.7% decrease in the number of incidents and a 1.8% decrease in the number of crimes.

- Levels fell across all major offence classifications, with the exception of sexual offences.
- The largest volume decrease in domestic abuse crimes was seen within Violence against the person which showed a fall of 787 (-5.2 per cent). The largest percentage fall of 20.7 per cent was within Theft (including burglary). Sexual offences increased by 110 (12.0 per cent).
- Between July 2024 and June 2025, the number of domestic abuse incidents was lower in each months when compared with the equivalent months in the previous 12 month period, with the exception of April 2025. Domestic abuse crimes were lower in all months except for September 2024 and November 2024 which were 15 and 132 higher than September 2023 and November 2023 respectively.

Domestic abuse homicide: In the 12 months from 1st August 2024 to 31st July 2025 there were ten homicides with a domestic abuse motivation recorded by the police, compared with four domestic abuse homicides recorded in the previous 12 months³. Eight of the victims were female and two were male, compared with two female and two male victims during the previous 12 months. All ten domestic abuse homicides were murder offences.

² Crime per 1,000 population based on mid-year population estimate of 1,920,382 for 2023, the latest mid-year estimate available at time of compilation. Mid-year population estimates are available from the NISRA website ([opens in a new window](#)).

³ Homicide consists of the offences of murder, manslaughter, infanticide and corporate manslaughter.



What is the difference between a domestic abuse incident and crime recorded by the police?

Not all domestic abuse incidents will result in the recording of a crime, as what has occurred in the incident may not be of the level of severity that would result in a domestic abuse crime being recorded. Some domestic abuse incidents will result in multiple crimes being recorded. Domestic abuse crimes are included in the incident count and the two should not be added together.

Incidents and Crimes with a Hate Motivation

In the 12 months from 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025:

- The number of incidents recorded fell across four of the six hate motivations (sexual orientation, sectarian, disability and transgender identity) when compared with the previous 12 months.
- The number of incidents with a race motivation reached the highest 12 month level since the recording of these motivations began in 2004/05.
- The number of crimes recorded increased across three of the six motivations (race, sectarian, and faith/religion) when compared with the previous 12 months.
- The number of crimes with a race motivation reached the highest 12 month level since the recording of these motivations began in 2004/05.
- Incidents and crimes with a race motivation showed the largest increases (646 more race incidents and 434 more race crimes).
- Incidents with a sectarian motivation showed the largest decrease (48 fewer incidents) while the largest decrease in the number of crimes recorded was for those with a sexual orientation motivation (25 fewer crimes).

Overall summary of hate motivated incidents and crime

	Incidents Jul'23-Jun'24	Incidents Jul'24-Jun'25	Incidents Change	Crimes Jul'23-Jun'24	Crimes Jul'24-Jun'25	Crimes Change
Race	1,403	2,049	646	895	1,329	434
Sexual Orientation	376	355	-21	230	205	-25
Sectarian	969	921	-48	610	611	1
Disability	88	69	-19	47	43	-4
Faith/Religion	94	94	0	59	71	12
Transgender Identity	73	60	-13	41	34	-7

Drug Seizures and Arrests

Drug Seizures - In the 12 months from 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025:

- There were 6,769 drug seizure incidents, a decrease of 1,442 (-17.6 per cent) on the previous 12 months when 8,211 were recorded.
- When comparing the current and previous 12 months, ten policing districts showed a decrease in drug seizure incidents.
- There was a fall in the number of seizures incidents across all drug classes.
- Cannabis (Class B) was the most commonly seized drug, followed by cocaine (Class A), pregabalin (Class C) and benzodiazepines (Class C).
- Drug seizure incidents and drug offences recorded by the police generally track each other closely in both volume and trend. However between March 2024 and January 2025 a higher number of outstanding drug seizure incidents in Belfast City Policing District has contributed to drug seizure incidents tracking recorded drug offences at a lower level during this time period. Please note that seizure incidents since April 2024 can continue to be processed until figures are finalised for the annual publication and may lead to an increase in the number of drug seizures recorded.

Drug related Arrests - In the 12 months from 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025:

- There were 3,049 drug-related arrests, a decrease of 588 (16.2 per cent) when compared with the previous 12 months.
- When comparing the current and previous 12 months, ten policing districts showed a decrease in drug-related arrests. Belfast City showed the largest decrease of 332 (21.6 per cent) when compared with the

previous 12 months. Belfast City accounted for around two fifths of all drug-related arrests during the latest 12 months.

- While note should be taken of the higher than usual number of drug seizure details outstanding within 2024/25, the trend in drug-related arrests is fairly similar to that seen for the number of drug seizure incidents and drug offences recorded by police over the same time period.
- Drug-related arrests were lower in every month between July 2024 and June 2025 when compared with the previous 12 month period, with July 2024, August 2024 and February 2025 showing the largest decreases of 123, 96 and 83 respectively.
- There were 386 drug-related arrests in July 2023, the highest monthly figure seen during the time period April 2020 to June 2025.

Security Situation

In the 12 months from 1st August 2024 to 31st July 2025:

- There were no security related deaths, compared to one during the previous 12 months.
- There were fewer shootings and paramilitary style attacks than during the previous 12 months, but more bombings.
- There were 9 bombing incidents, compared to 6 during the previous 12 months and 14 shooting incidents, compared to 20.
- There were 20 casualties of paramilitary style assaults, compared to 25 during the previous 12 months. The greatest number of assaults occurred in Belfast (11). All 20 casualties were aged 18 years or older.



- There were 6 casualties of paramilitary style shootings, compared to 10 during the previous 12 months. Ards and North Down experienced 3 such attacks, while Causeway Coast and Glens experienced 2 and Derry City and Strabane experienced one. All 6 casualties were aged 18 years or older.
- There were 27 security related arrests under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000, compared to 83 during the previous 12 months.
- 3 persons were subsequently charged, compared to 13 during the previous 12 months.

Finds of Firearms, Explosives and Ammunition; *these refer to the seizure or recovery of all illegal firearms, ammunition, explosives, rocket/mortar launchers, detonators and bomb making material/equipment. Replica/blank firing firearms, petrol bombs and petrol bomb making materials, grenades and munitions from World War 1 or World War 2 found on the beach or in attics etc. are not recorded as finds.*

Firearms Finds

There were 6 firearms found during the past 12 months, compared to 18 during the previous 12 months.

Explosive Finds

There were 0.01kg of explosives found during the past 12 months compared to 3.12kg during the previous 12 months.

Ammunition Finds

There were 235 rounds of ammunition found during the past 12 months compared to 820 rounds found in the previous 12 months.

** alone or in combination with other powers.*

Stop and Search

During the 12 months between 1st July 2024 and 30th June 2025:

- 18,632 persons were stopped and searched/questioned, 18% fewer than the previous 12 months.
- 73% of stops were conducted under the Misuse of Drugs Act* and 13% of stops were conducted under the Police and Criminal Evidence Order*.
- 10% of stops were conducted under the Justice and Security Act Section 24* and 2% under the Justice and Security Act Section 21*.
- There was a decrease in the use of counter-terrorism powers compared to the previous 12 months; the use of the Justice and Security Act* decreased by 38% (from 3,655 to 2,270), while the use of the Terrorism Act* decreased by 6% (from 597 to 559).
- The use of the Misuse of Drugs Act* decreased by 15% (from 15,970 to 13,524) compared to the previous 12 months. The use of the Police and Criminal Evidence Order also decreased by 15% (from 2,777 to 2,373). The use of the Firearms Order decreased, albeit by a smaller amount (55 to 31). The use of other less frequently used powers increased from 27 to 61 compared to the previous 12 months.
- 24% of stops resulted in some form of outcome. The arrest rate was 8%, compared to 7% in the previous 12 months.
- 9% (1,596) of those stopped were aged 17 and under. Of these, nearly two-thirds (63%) were stopped and searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act*.



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- 85% of those stopped were male, while 35% were aged 18 to 25.
- There were 10 persons stopped for every 1,000 people in Northern Ireland, compared to 12 for every 1,000 people in the previous 12 months.

Motoring Offence Statistics

In the 12 months from 1st June 2024 to 31st May 2025:

- There were 34,031 detections for motoring offences in Northern Ireland, of which 97% were dealt with by means of a fixed penalty notice or referral for prosecution.
- The remaining 3% (982) resulted in the completion of a speed awareness or safer driver course.
- Total detections decreased by 16% on the 40,566 detections recorded in the previous 12 months, with notable reductions across a number of offence groups including insurance, speeding, driving licence and careless driving offences.
- Only one of the 19 offence groups showed an increase in detections over the year – breach of signs and signals, which rose slightly (18) to 212 detections.
- The largest offence group was insurance offences with 5,354 which along with speeding (4,625) accounted for under one-third of the total detections.
- The highest speed detected by PSNI officers in the latest 12 months was 137mph, on the A1 Northbound, Newry.

Injury Road Traffic Collisions and Casualties

Between 1st January 2025 and 31st May 2025:

- There were 1,900 road traffic collisions recorded by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), compared with 1,855 between January and May 2024 – an increase of 45 collisions (2.4%).
- There were 18 fatalities, 382 people seriously injured and a further 2,632 people slightly injured. Total fatalities were down by 9 when compared to the same period of 2024.
- Three road user groups showed a decrease in KSIs (killed and seriously injured) between January to May 2024 and January to May 2025, most notably drivers which decreased by 34.
- Derry City and Strabane district recorded zero road deaths between January and May 2025. Belfast City district had the most people seriously injured with 59 recorded during this period.
- Single vehicle collisions resulted in 4 fatalities or 22.2% of all fatalities during January to May 2025. In the equivalent period of 2024 there were 11 single vehicle collision fatalities or 40.7% of all fatalities.
- The most common principal causation factors for KSI casualties during the reporting period were 'inattention or attention diverted' (42 KSI casualties), 'wrong course/position' (38) and 'impairment by drugs or alcohol - driver/rider' (33).



Outcome 1: Victim Focused

Everything we do as a Police Service begins with victims. When people come to us for help at the most difficult times in their lives, they deserve to know they will be listened to, supported, and treated with dignity. Our duty is to seek justice on their behalf while keeping them at the centre of the process. In this part of the report, we show how we have delivered for victims, bringing offenders to justice, dismantling high harm networks and introducing new ways of giving victims a stronger voice and greater choice in how they engage with us.

Crime Department

Organised Crime Branch

Investigations

- On Monday 30 June, detectives from Organised Crime Branch carried out a series of searches in the Londonderry area as part of an investigation into drugs related criminality linked to the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA). Two men, aged 33 and 40, were arrested on suspicion of a number of drug-related offences. Officers, supported by specialist teams, seized suspected Class A and Class B drugs, cash, mobile phones and drug-related paraphernalia. Both individuals were released on investigative bail as enquiries continue.
- On Wednesday 2 July, a 40-year-old man appeared before Londonderry Crown Court in relation to offences linked to EncroChat, an encrypted phone network used by criminals. He was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment, half of which is to be spent in custody and half to be served on licence.

EncroChat was an encrypted phone network used by organised crime groups to plan illegal activity, typically drug importation and the movement of cash. The investigation and subsequent sentencing stems from Operation Venetic which, led by the National Crime Agency and backed by European law enforcement agencies, successfully infiltrated the EncroChat network.

- On Wednesday 2 July, police searched land and buildings at an address in Strabane, dismantling what was believed to be one of the biggest suspected cannabis operations in the North West in recent years.

As a result of this operation, a number of seizures were made, including 195kgs of herbal cannabis and 575 well established cannabis plants. The estimated street value of these drugs combined is over £3.6 million. Two men were arrested, charged and remanded into prison due to their suspected involvement in the cultivation and supply of Class B controlled drugs.



- On Thursday 3 July, five men were sentenced at Belfast Crown Court for a number of offences linked to plans to commit an armed robbery in 2022. All five were all handed a custodial sentence and time to be spent on licence. These convictions were as a result of a van stop in Belfast in November 2022 where three of those convicted were found dressed in dark clothing with gloves and face coverings. A loaded handgun was recovered from the vehicle and subsequent investigations led to the identification of two other males who were arrested. Mobile phone evidence uncovered detailed plans to rob specific individuals.
- On Tuesday 8 July, detectives from Organised Crime Branch seized suspected herbal cannabis with an estimated street value of £7,000 after a search of an address in the Belfast area. Approximately £4,000 in cash and a range of high value items were also recovered, including clothing, trainers and watches. A 19-year-old man was arrested and charged on suspicion of possession of Class B controlled drugs, possession with intent to supply, possessing criminal property and converting criminal property.
- On Wednesday 30 July, following report of a rape in circumstances deemed consistent with Modern Slavery Human Trafficking/ Sexual exploitation, detectives from Organised Crime Branch arrested two males. A male was arrested for rape, attempted rape, attempting to pay for sexual services, possession of an offensive weapon with intent to commit an indictable offence and robbery; this man was later bailed. A male was arrested for brothel keeping, possession of an offensive weapon with intent to commit an indictable offence and controlling prostitution for gain.
- On 7 August 2025, financial investigators attached to a Proactive Economic Crime

Unit successfully forfeited £74,800 which was seized at Belfast International Airport in December 2024, after being discovered hidden inside a suitcase by airport police. Officers took this matter through the court and the cash was forfeited without any contest from the other party.

- During the reporting period, a forfeiture order to the value of £121,677.71 was granted following a frozen funds investigation in relation to an illicit company used for suspected trade based money laundering. Investigative enquiries were developed and pursued by financial investigators attached to Banbridge Proactive Economic Crime Team. The use of powers under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) here, demonstrates how removing criminal funds directly disrupts Serious and Organised Crime (SOC), undermining the ability for criminals to operate at the same level.

Serious Crime Branch

Recent Significant Developments

- Detectives from PSNI's Major Investigation Team charged a 28-year-old man with the murder of Sarah Montgomery and child destruction in Donaghadee on 28 June 2025.
- Detectives from PSNI's Major Investigation Team charged a 50-year-old woman with the murder of Igor Gavrilos in Newry on 28 June 2025.
- Detectives from PSNI's Major Investigation Team charged a 34-year-old woman with the murder of Patrick Douglas following a house fire in Ballymoney on 1 July 2025.



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- Detectives from PSNI's Criminal Investigation Department charged a 30-year old man with possession of explosives under suspicious circumstances following a security alert in Moy on 8 August 2025.
- Detectives from PSNI's Major Investigation Team charged a 30-year-old man with the murder of Stephen Brannigan and the attempted murder of Father John Murray incidents in Downpatrick on 10 August 2025.
- Detectives from PSNI's Terrorism Investigation Unit charged two men aged 45 and 25 years with preparation of terrorist acts and perverting the course of justice in relation to the attempted murder of Detective Chief Inspector John Caldwell in Omagh in February 2023.
- A 22-year-old man was sentenced to 32 months, (half in custody / half on licence) in relation to a number of burglaries, which occurred in Derry / Londonderry in June 2022.
- A 27-year-old man was sentenced to 3 years (half in custody / half on licence) for the manslaughter of Ryan McNab in Rathcoole in October 2022.
- A 41-year-old man was sentenced to a minimum 24 years in prison for the murder of Damien Heagney. Mr Heagney was last seen alive in late December 2021 and his remains were later recovered from Cappagh Reservoir in August 2022.
- Two men aged 31 and 55 years were found guilty of a number of terrorism offences including the preparation of terrorist acts, possession of articles for use in terrorism and attempting to collect information for use in terrorism. The conviction relates to the targeting of a retired police officer at his home address in September 2016. Both men are due to be sentenced on 9 September 2025.

Court Outcomes

- A 34-year-old man was sentenced to four months in custody for rioting offences. This is the first conviction in relation to the sustained race-motivated disorder in Ballymena over a number of days in June 2025.
- A 28-year-old man was sentenced to 40 months, (half in custody / half on licence) for his part in the sustained disorder in Belfast in August 2024.
- A 42-year-old man was sentenced to a minimum of 8 years in custody for the manslaughter of Paul Rowlands in Portrush in July 2022.
- A 34-year-old man was sentenced to 9½ years (4 x years in custody / 5½ years on licence) for attempted murder and grievous bodily harm with intent in relation to a stabbing incident, which occurred in Dervock in July 2023.
- A 29-year-old man was sentenced to 11 years (half in custody / half on licence) in relation to a shooting incident in Moneymore in March 2018. He had pleaded guilty to grievous bodily harm with intent and a number of firearms and drugs related offences.

Public Protection Branch

Rachel Langdale KC—PSNI VAWG Review

- Chief Constable Boutcher has appointed Rachel Langdale KC to conduct a review aimed at strengthening the PSNI's response to Domestic Violence, Violence

Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The purpose of the review is to benchmark the PSNI's current position, in both in practice and policy, against best practice and evidence-based approaches. The review will take a holistic and honest look at PSNI culture, systems and processes, and will identify opportunities for meaningful and sustainable improvement.

Power to Change Campaign

- Our Power to Change campaign won the Diversity, Inclusion and Purpose Award at the Public Relations and Communications Association (PRCA) DARE Awards during May 2025. The PRCA DARE Awards seek out and reward the very best PR and communications professionals across the UK. The Power to Change campaign was launched on Wednesday 29 January and has the support of the First Minister Michelle O'Neill, Deputy First Minister Emma Pengelly-Little and Justice Minister Naomi Long. The campaign asks men and boys in our society to check and change their attitudes, beliefs and behaviours towards women and girls. The campaign has two important elements: firstly challenging attitudes and behaviours by calling on men to consider their responsibility and how their actions affect others, and secondly empowering men and the wider community with the knowledge and skills to safely intervene when they see someone carrying out inappropriate actions or making unwanted comments. The campaign was delivered via series of graphics and four scenario based videos that are targeted at men and boys on social media, buses, washrooms, hospitality venues and digital billboards.

Race and Ethnicity Action Plan (REAP)

- The Race and Ethnicity Action Plan (REAP) was formally launched on 7 August 2025 and was attended by over two hundred invited guests from a broad range of community and statutory partners. This marked a significant milestone in the Police Service of Northern Ireland's work to strengthen trust, equity, and representation in policing. The event followed an extensive public consultation process held in May 2024, during which community representatives, advocacy groups, and policing partners outlined what they needed from policing in Northern Ireland. Their voices directly informed the commitments and contents of the plan.

The launch event featured a panel discussion with community leaders and operational policing representatives as well as an input from the Chair of the Policing Board, Mukesh Sharma. The keynote address was delivered by Preeti Yellamaty with input from Dr Alison Heydari, the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) lead for the England and Wales Police Race Action Plan. Together, they provided valuable insights on the importance of community involvement in delivering the Plan.

The five key commitments made are:

1. We are committed to being an anti-racist Police Service;
2. We are committed to people from an ethnic minority background feeling safe, valued by and engaged in policing;
3. We are committed to officers and staff from an ethnic minority background feeling safe, valued and are treated fairly and equally in the workplace;

4. We are committed to being a Police Service that respects and is trusted by people from ethnic minority communities;
5. We are a Police Service committed to excellence in diversity, equality, representation and inclusivity.

The plan will be delivered through a number of work-streams, led by senior officers across the PSNI:

- Internal Culture and Inclusivity
- Community Engagement and Relations
- Professionalism, Powers and Policy
- Protection, Partnership and Justice
- Performance and Accountability

These work-streams are designed to address both internal organisational culture and external community relationships, ensuring that progress is measurable and sustained. They will focus on developing a workforce that is representative of the communities it serves, embedding anti-racist practice across all areas of service delivery, improving transparency and accountability, and ensuring equitable access to policing services.

In its first year of delivery, the programme will focus on:

- Establishing governance and accountability mechanisms to track delivery against commitments;
- Strengthening recruitment, retention, and progression pathways for officers and staff from ethnic minority backgrounds;
- Developing training and awareness programmes to embed cultural competence and anti-racism in all operational areas;
- Enhancing engagement structures to ensure that ethnic minority voices directly inform policing policy and practice;

- Monitoring the impact of policy, powers, and service delivery on ethnic minority communities;
- Publishing transparent progress updates to both the NIPB and Equality Commission.

The launch marks the transition from planning to delivery. The REAP is underpinned by four core values Respect, Equity, Accountability and Professionalism and these along with the work of each work-stream as outlined in the plan, serve as a framework for driving measurable improvements in trust, fairness, and representation over the coming five years.

Creswell Review

As part of the independent review into the Jonathan Creswell case, the PSNI has submitted its internal Learning Review to the Chair, Jan Melia. This submission, made on Friday 8 August, sets out the Service's initial recommendations, with further recommendations to be finalised by the end of August. The review involved a comprehensive examination of police records relating to all associated occurrences, including the subsequent murder investigation and OPONI investigation. All aspects of police activity were considered, and internal learning has been identified to inform future practice. Additional recommendations may be included in the final report to be published by Jan Melia expected in Autumn 2025.

Court Outcomes

- A 31 year old man was convicted for multiple offences, including the rape of a 9 year old female child. The suspect was sentenced on the 13 August 2025 and received a custodial sentence. He was convicted for 15 offences, including: Rape,

sexual and physical assaults, possession of indecent images of children and extreme pornography. The offender will be placed on the sex offender register and will be subject of sexual offences prevention order for an indefinite period of time.

- A 37 year old former primary school teacher from Belfast was convicted of 3 counts of sexual communication with a child and 3 counts of causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity. His victims were two 10 year old boys from his P6 class from a local primary school. The offender committed the offences in his capacity as the children's teacher and abused his position of trust. The offences took place within the school premises during term time. He was sentenced to 1 year imprisonment and a further year on licence. He is subject to registration requirement for 10 years and is subject to a sexual prevention order for 4 years. He is also barred from the teaching profession and from working with children either in a paid or unpaid capacity.

Justice Branch

My PSNI Portal

As part of our continued commitment to being Victim Focused, Justice Department in partnership with ICS are launching 'My PSNI Portal' on 1st September, a self-serve portal that will be accessed via our website by members of the public, improving how they can contact the PSNI and use our services online.

My PSNI Portal includes an innovative victim update facility that offers more choice to victims of crime in how they can request and receive updates on their report from the investigating officer. Extensive engagement was undertaken with key stakeholders throughout the development of My PSNI Portal. This included structured feedback

exercises and consultation with Victim Support NI and the Commissioner for Victims of Crime. The insights gained were embedded into the design and functionality of My PSNI Portal.

Victims will be invited to create an account when they either make a report online, provide an email address to police or are contacted by the investigating officer. If they choose to do this then they can then use the self-serve online facility to view the status of their investigation, request and receive updates on how the investigation is progressing and to advise the officer on their preferred contact method.

The portal will bring benefits for officers and victims including:

- Instant Access to Updates
Victims can log in to check the status of their case at any time — 24/7, 365 days a year — without needing to call 101.
- Direct Communication with Investigating Officers
Through the portal, victims can request updates or communicate directly with their investigating officer, reducing delays and missed calls.
- Complete Digital -PSNI Journey
This service is optional and is offered in addition to existing support. For those who prefer self-service and online engagement, victims can report their crime online and continue to be updated by that means if they prefer.
- Secure and Simple to Use
Signing up requires a valid mobile number, an email address, and being over 16. Access is safe, secure, and mobile-friendly.
- Fits flexibly around shift work
Victims are notified of case updates at 9am the next morning, regardless of when the update is added. This allows officers to



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complete updates on night shifts or during less busy hours, without worrying about disturbing victims during unsociable hours.

My PSNI Portal is part of a larger piece of transformational work to enhance how police communicate with communities, focus on the needs of victims and offer greater choice to the public in how they contact police and access services online.

Outcome 2: Community Focused

Policing is built on trust, visibility and the relationships we hold with our communities. We succeed when we work in partnership, whether that is supporting major international events, responding swiftly to incidents, or building long-term solutions with local partners. This area of the report demonstrates the difference our officers and staff have made in protecting communities, reassuring the public and increasing public confidence in policing.

Local Policing

153rd Open Gold Championship, Royal Portrush

- From 13 to 19 July, a significant policing operation was conducted in support of the Open Golf Championship. 2,300 police officers supported by significant numbers of police staff, were deployed in a range of roles throughout the week. The scale of the operation reflected the importance of the event, which attracted a large number of visitors to Northern Ireland and international attention.



As Gold Commander, ACC Henderson welcomed the opportunity to highlight the professionalism and dedication of the PSNI officers and staff at such a high profile event. Strong local and national engagement contributed to protecting communities and supporting major events.

Derry City & Strabane

- While on mobile patrol, officers attached to Local Policing in Derry City and Strabane, observed a vehicle driving in an erratic manner. The vehicle failed to stop for Police and made off crossing into the Republic of Ireland. A short time later the vehicle was observed again and a pursuit was commenced. The vehicle was driven in an erratic manner and the driver and passenger subsequently exited the vehicle and made off where they were later detained. A quantity of Class A was recovered together with a sum of cash and offensive weapons. Both suspects were arrested in respect of drug and driving related offences. The driver is currently on remand.

Belfast

Police respond to two lifesaving incidents, West Belfast—9 August 2025

Incident 1 – Falls Park Rescue

- On 9 August, police officers in West Belfast displayed exceptional bravery and selflessness in responding to two life-threatening incidents.

In the first incident, officers were called to Falls Park where a man had fallen from a significant height into water and sustained serious injuries. Officers placed



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themselves at risk by scaling a steep bank to reach him where they removed him from the water and provided first aid as he slipped in and out of consciousness, before working with colleagues from the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) to bring him to safety. The man was subsequently taken to hospital for treatment. Their actions demonstrated remarkable courage in a situation which involved serious risk to life

Incident 2 – Motorway Bridge Intervention

- Following the first incident, as the same officers made their way back to their home station, they encountered a distressed woman on the wrong side of railings close to the Westlink. They immediately acted and put the necessary arrangements in place for a motorway closure and engaged with the woman. The woman was highly distressed and in an extremely precarious position. When the risk to her life became too great, one officer put himself in danger to pull her to safety, supported by his colleagues. When the woman was safe, she was taken to hospital for follow-up care. The actions of these officers undoubtedly saved her life.

The conduct of the officers on both occasions, demonstrated courage, professionalism and dedication to the preservation of life.

- Officers attached to Strandtown Neighbourhood Policing Team, intercepted a vehicle in South Belfast following receipt of information about an earlier incident which had occurred in North Belfast. On stopping the vehicle, the driver was arrested on suspicion of a number of drugs offences following the recovery of nitrous oxide and Class A drugs.

A subsequent follow-up search of a residential property, supported by colleagues from the District Support Team, resulted in the seizure of a quantity of Class A drugs,

£9,000 in cash and offensive weapons. This demonstrates the ongoing commitment of local policing teams to tackling serious criminality which continues to cause harm in our communities.

Broadway Action Plan – South and West Belfast

- The Broadway roundabout had become a persistent hotspot for sectarian disorder and anti-social behaviour, absorbing over 7,000 officer hours and nearly £600,000 in policing costs in a single year.

Following a serious incident involving a young person in March 2025, PSNI led the development of the Broadway Action Plan, a structured, cross-sector response built around four work-streams: engagement, diversion, environmental design, and mobility/transport.

Governance was transferred to the South and West Belfast PCSP, enabling shared leadership across statutory and community partners, with PSNI in a supporting role. Key actions included targeted patrols, CCTV installation, environmental improvements, increased deployments of detached youth work, and a community-led social media campaign that shifted the local narrative and strengthened public confidence.

While a seasonal rise in incidents was seen over the summer, the situation remains stable. Police have responded and stepped into that space where necessary, and joint meetings will continue. This is as a long term joined up approach, with the PCSP leading coordination.

There is confidence that ongoing partnership work will reduce demand on



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policing and support efforts to keep young people safe and prevent further disorder at Broadway.

South Area

Recovery of stolen tractor valued at £100,000

- Local Policing Teams attached to E District, Armagh responded to a report of a stolen tractor valued at £100,000. Through the quick thinking of the officers, initial enquiries established that the vehicle was fitted with a tracker device. Officers worked proactively with the tracker company based in England. The combined effort and rapid response led to the tractor being successfully located and recovered within hours of it being reported stolen. Enquiries remain ongoing to identify a suspect. This outcome highlights the proactive approach of our officers and the value of working in partnership to tackle rural crime helping to protect livelihoods and provide reassurance to our rural communities.

Good News Stories

- Officers attached to a Local Policing Team in Dungannon had been conducting ongoing enquiries to locate a man wanted for domestic related offences. They remained in regular contact with the victim, to gather any relevant information to support the investigation. The wanted individual was known to be violent, linked to an Organised Crime Group (OCG), and had previously been extradited for murder.

While off duty, a Constable from Dungannon Local Policing Team recognised the wanted person in Armagh. Aware of the risks, the officer immediately contacted the Incident Control Centre, which tasked a specialist Armed Response Unit (ARU). The Constable discreetly followed the suspect a considerable

distance to a premises in Coalisland, maintaining communication with the firearms commander, until ARU colleagues arrived and safely detained him.

This officer has since been nominated for a South Area award in recognition of their excellent work in ensuring the apprehension of a violent offender.

- Officers attached to Magherafelt Local Policing Team, responded swiftly to a report of a suspected drink driver involved in a road traffic collision. On arrival, the officers quickly established this was a medical emergency rather than a reported case of drink driving. Officers suspected the male driver was suffering a stroke. When NIAS resources were unavailable, the officers swiftly transported the casualty directly to Antrim Area Hospital. Medical staff confirmed that the man was suffering from a serious brain bleed and he was immediately transferred to the Royal Victoria Hospital for emergency surgery. A few days later, the man's family contacted police to thank the officers, stating they believed his life had been saved by the swift and decisive actions of the responding officers.

Chai, Chat & Connect co-designed by Ards Local Neighbourhood Policing Team

- Chai, Chat & Connect was co-designed by the Ards Local Neighbourhood Policing Team with local Muslim women Ruhenna and community leader Lata Sharma, a well-known broadcaster and advocate for women's voices. The name combines familiarity, warmth, and openness, "chai" symbolising shared culture, "chat" connection, and "connect" the evolving theme for each session.



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Initial meetings took place in community-friendly spaces and from these, a steering group emerged, with women taking leadership roles in planning and organising events. Over time, the group expanded its activities and now has 51 women regularly engaging through WhatsApp.

The group have engaged with four areas since the formation of the group:

- **Wellbeing and Inclusion:** Weekly sessions at Kilcooley Women's Centre, the Link and other local community groups focusing on wellbeing, language development, and trauma support.
- **Safe Access to Public Spaces:** Women-only swimming sessions in partnership with local leisure facilities.
- **Practical Empowerment:** Drop-in advice sessions on employment, housing, and education.
- **Community Engagement:** Attendance at International Women's Day in Bangor, where members prepared food that was warmly received.
- **Family Wellbeing:** Introducing family-friendly wellbeing sessions to build resilience, strengthen family bonds, and create safe, positive environments for children. Members' children also attended

a sports day at Newforge and also plans for a community picnic in the future.

The group has now formally constituted with a committee and developed governance structures through collaboration with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and Department for Communities (DfC) Supporting Communities. This has enabled access to larger grants and improved sustainability.

Legacy and Broader Impact:

- Locally, the model is being considered for replication in other Districts.
- Local politicians and civic leaders have recognised its role in promoting cohesion.
- Participants have been invited to join advisory panels on community safety and integration.

Overall, Chai, Chat & Connect represents a scalable, sustainable response to a complex and underreported issue. It combines community insight, frontline innovation, and cross-sector collaboration, aligning with the core principles of the Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment (SARA) problem-solving model. The initiative has not only enhanced safety but also fostered a sense of belonging.



Positive Outcomes

- During the reporting period, officers carrying out house-to-house enquiries in Comber were approached by a resident concerned for his wife's wellbeing. Officers responded immediately, administering lifesaving first aid while calling for an ambulance. Their calm, professional teamwork proved critical.

A Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) dispatcher later contacted senior PSNI officers to praise the efforts of the responding officers, describing how their rapid and effective Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) was the difference in saving the woman's life. This example demonstrates the value and difference visible policing can have in being in the right place at the right time and in this case, ultimately led to a life being saved.

Safety Awareness Project Bangor

- In response to increasing concerns raised by the community regarding the safety of women and girls, a multi-agency project was launched in Bangor.

The initiative provides education on alcohol-related risks, promotes safe behaviours, and supplies practical safety packs including anti-spiking covers, bottle stoppers, testing cards, and 'In Case of Emergency' (ICE) cards.

Education is delivered in partnership with Extern, Bangor Alternatives, higher education outreach teams and Police. In addition, Women's Aid provide input on protecting against harm and accessing support. The programme also extends to vulnerable adults and older women, with scam-wise and home safety education included.

Collaborative Working / Good News

Spotlight on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) - North Down team Neighbourhood Policing Team

- Local young people identified as being at risk of becoming involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour have been referred to the PCSP-funded "Kids against ASB" initiative. Through collaboration with schools, community groups and local services, participants learn about the impact of ASB, hear directly from victims, and take part in constructive activities designed to build discipline and self-respect. This project is a follow on from the successful 'Hooked on Hollywood' project run by the North Down team last year. This involved taking young people at risk of exposure to criminality and paramilitarism, from the same community to a local boxing club which delivered self-respect and discipline classes, with educational input from local community officers and local community members. At the time, this event received wide praise from the greater community and youth groups.

Online Safety – Kircubbin

- An information evening held at Kircubbin Community Centre, supported by the PCSP, was attended by staff and parents from three secondary schools (Strangford College, Glastry College, and St Columba's College) alongside local Councillors. Neighbourhood officers, supported by Economic Crime's "Prevent and Protect Online" team and Alternatives, delivered sessions on online dangers, followed by a road safety talk at Ballygalet Primary School.

Neighbourhood Engagement – Millisle and Bowtown

- Neighbourhood officers from Millisle and Bowtown estates, supported by PCSP, organised engagement programmes with vulnerable children. Activities included visits to Strangford Lough Activity Centre and the School of Falconry, alongside community litter-picks. These initiatives strengthened positive relationships with the PSNI and helped young people build pride in their communities.

Police Rescue a person from burning building

- On Thursday 24 July at approximately 23:00 hours, police responded to reports of smoke coming from a flat in Portadown. There were reports at the time of a person possibly trapped inside. Recognising that this was time-critical, officers forced entry through the front door and located the occupant in the bathroom. They carried her to safety before assisting in evacuating the rest of the building and handing over to colleagues from NIFRS and NIAS.

This incident highlights the bravery and commitment of our officers, who go above and beyond daily to protect the public.



Outcome 3: Workforce Focused

Our greatest strength lies in our workforce. Policing is demanding and it requires professionalism, resilience, and pride from everyone who serves. I am determined that our officers and staff are given the training, support, and opportunities they need to thrive. This section highlights how we are investing in our workforce, building skills for the future, and recognising the vital role that everyone plays in delivering policing for our communities.

People and Organisational Development (Engagement Event)

- Recently, we held the inaugural People and Organisational Development (POD) day, attended by over seventy individuals. This event was a celebration of collaboration, creativity and the teamwork that helps to equip and empower our workforce daily through the Training, Human Resources, Occupational Health and Wellbeing and Health and Safety teams. Colleagues from across POD came together to share ideas, celebrate achievements and strengthen connections. It gave the opportunity to highlight the work that these teams do daily and how they support the workforce. The event reaffirmed our commitment to working together and making a positive impact in all that we do.

Multi-Unit Tactical Training

- The Multi-Unit Tactical Training (MUTT) event took place in Ballykinler, over four days. This high-intensity event which takes place annually is designed to test response strategies, enhance co-ordination and build confidence in handling complex public disorder. The simulated exercise recreated realistic

public order situations, requiring teams to work under pressure, communicate effectively and make tactical decisions in real time. This training is particularly unique, taking place in a replica village that could be any street or square across Northern Ireland. Policing representatives from across the United Kingdom and Ireland attended the event and some specialisms participated, with positive feedback shared. The training was timely as the disorder in Ballymena took place within days of this event, reinforcing its importance in keeping our officers and communities safe.

Attestations

- The reintroduction of the tunics at Attestations has been a welcomed development for the Police College. Not only does the formal uniform bring consistency and professionalism, but it also brings a strong sense of occasion to a significant milestone in an officer's journey. The uniform creates a unified, striking presentation for those who attend, emphasising cohesiveness. The newly attested officers wear their uniform with a sense of pride and confidence, symbolising achievement and a strengthening bond, especially during their ceremonial preparation. In July, we also welcomed Commissioner Harris from An Garda Síochána.

Connections

- Recent meetings between An Garda Síochána and PSNI have continued to deliver significant benefits for both organisations. These sessions strengthen



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professional relationships, enable shared learning and identify mutual approaches. The meetings discuss future development of training, sharing best practice, talent development and exploring opportunities for interoperability. In addition, connections have been made with training leads in the College of Policing, Police Scotland and the New Zealand Police Force. These connections are vital in ensuring consistent standards, improving skills and expertise and promoting innovation and sharing examples of the high-quality work taking place within the PSNI.

Ballymoney Police Station were upgraded and additional parking created at Coleraine Police Station.

Alongside Estate Services, colleagues from Motor Transport (MT), Information and Communication Services (ICS) and Procurement and Logistics (PALs) all played a vital role in ensuring operational officers were fully supported. Their combined efforts were crucial in allowing the wider policing operation to function smoothly and effectively.

Firearms Training Simulator

- The first Firearms Training Simulator event took place in Magilligan. This training focused on the legislation that covers the use of force, the Code of Ethics and the National Decision Making model. The immersive system is pre-loaded with over 1,000 scenarios that prepare officers for scenarios they may face in a controlled and safe environment, undertaking appropriate debriefing procedures. The training encourages officers to consider their use of force to ensure lawful and proportionate approaches are used. Not only are there benefits to the users but also to the wider organisation in driving efficiencies saving time and money. Moving forward, it is intended that the immersive, state of the art training simulator can be used by student officers in addition to their practical firearms training.

153rd Open Golf Championship, Royal Portrush

- The 153rd Open Golf Championship also demonstrated the essential role of police staff in enabling operational success. Estate Services provided rest, office and catering facilities at a local North Coast school while Silver Command facilities at

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