



## PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF THE POLICE, DPPs AND THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

REPORT BASED ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD MODULE OF THE APRIL 2009 OMNIBUS SURVEY PUBLISHED BY THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

PAGES

Index of Contents	1
The Northern Ireland Policing Board: Who we are	2
Background to the April 2009 Omnibus Survey	3
Public Perceptions of the Performance of the Police	4-12
Public Perceptions of District Policing Partnerships	13-14
Public Perceptions of the Northern Ireland Policing Board	15-20

## THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD: WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Northern Ireland Policing Board is an independent public body whose job it is to oversee policing in Northern Ireland. It was set up on 4 November 2001 as a result of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000. The Policing Board is not controlled by Government and has strong independent powers to carry out its work. The Policing Board consists of 19 Members, and comprises Political Members and Independent Members who have been appointed by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The main role of the Policing Board is to ensure that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is effective and efficient. The Policing Board holds the Chief Constable to account for all his actions and those of his staff. This means that the Chief Constable must answer to the Policing Board on any aspect of policing in Northern Ireland. However, the Policing Board cannot, and does not, direct or control the Chief Constable. He has the right to take independent policing decisions based only on the need to uphold law and order. This is called operational responsibility. But he must in turn answer for his actions to the Policing Board. This process is what effective accountability is all about.

Finding out what the community wants from their police service; what they think about the police service that is delivered and how they think the police service is performing, is vital if the Policing Board is to carry out its role.

### The Policing Board must also keep itself informed as to:

- Trends and patterns in recruitment to the police and the police support staff; and
- The extent to which membership of the police and police support staff is representative of the community in Northern Ireland;

### and assess:

- The effectiveness of measures taken to secure that the membership of the police service is representative of the community; and
- The level of public satisfaction with the performance of the police and the District Policing Partnerships (DPPs).

The Policing Board has a statutory duty to consult and engage with the public to find out what they think about the PSNI and the delivery of the policing service and the role and work of the Policing Board and DPPs. In order to gauge public satisfaction and consider the views of the public on policing, the Policing Board conducts a programme of consultation and research activities involving a range of groups and organisations. The results of this consultation and research are published by the Policing Board to ensure openness and transparency, and to advise the public of its findings. This publication is such an example and other survey and research findings can be found in the Publications section of the Policing Board's website at www.nipolicingboard.org.uk.





4

### APRIL 2009 OMNIBUS SURVEY

The Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey is conducted several times each year by the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and is designed to provide a snapshot of the behaviour, lifestyle and views of a representative sample of people in Northern Ireland. The survey comprises two distinct parts: core questions about the respondents and their individual circumstances, and a variety of mainly attitudinal questions commissioned by clients, which seek the views of the public on a range of issues, including policing.

The sample for this survey consisted of a random sample of addresses selected from the Land and Property Services Agency list of private addresses, the most up-to-date listing of private households in Northern Ireland. At each address, one person aged 16 or over was selected to participate in the survey. From an eligible sample of 1,921 households, 1,168 interviews were achieved, giving a response rate of 61%. Interviews were conducted between 1 April and 30 April 2009. Analyses by religion are based only on those 1,097 respondents who said they were either Catholic or Protestant. Respondents who refused to answer the religion question or who said they were a religion other than Catholic or Protestant are excluded from these analyses.

The Northern Ireland Policing Board uses Omnibus Survey results to fulfil its responsibilities under Section 3 (3) (d) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 to "assess the level of public satisfaction with the performance of the police and of district policing partnerships" and to measure some targets set by the Policing Board in the Annual Policing Plan.

### The following symbols are used in the accompanying results tables:

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

Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

### **Statistical significance**

3

Statistical significance tests have been carried out on the findings between the September 2008 and April 2009 Northern Ireland Omnibus Surveys. These tests are used to establish the degree of confidence with which we can infer the observed findings as an accurate reflection of the views of the population. In this publication, where differences have emerged as being statistically significant, this has been reported at the 5% (p<0.05) level of probability (two-tailed). This means that, for any observed result that is found to be statistically significant, one can be 95% confident that this has not happened by chance. Such statistically significant results are clearly noted in the text above each table.

## PERFORMANCE OF THE POLICE

## Q1. Do you think that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does a good job or a poor job in your area?

The Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2009-2012 includes a target to increase the percentage of people who think that the police are doing a good job in their area, based on the September 2008 finding of 62%. Over three fifths of respondents (64%) in April 2009 thought that their local police were doing a very/fairly good job, on a par with the September 2008 finding of 62% (Table 1). One-sixth (16%) of respondents rated the performance of local police as very/fairly poor in April 2009, similar to the September 2008 finding. More Protestant respondents (69%) thought that the PSNI does a very/fairly good job in their area compared with Catholic respondents (59%).

Table 1: Performance of local police													
		Percentage of respondents											
	2007	2007 (October) 2008 (April) 2008 (September) 2009 (April)											
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	
Very/fairly good	54	67	62	56	60	58	59	64	62	59	69	64	
Neither good nor poor	21	16	19	21	21	21	20	16	18	24	14	18	
Very/fairly poor	23	16	19	20	18	19	19	18	18	16	15	16	
Don't know/refusal	1	0	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	

### Q2. Do you think that the PSNI does a good job or a poor job in Northern Ireland as a whole?

Almost three quarters of respondents (73%) thought that the PSNI in Northern Ireland as a whole was doing a very/fairly good job, a statistically significant increase from 68% in September 2008 (Table 2). One in seven of respondents (14%) thought that the PSNI in Northern Ireland as a whole was doing a neither good nor poor job in April 2009, a statistically significant decrease from 18% in September 2008. More Protestant respondents (79%) thought that the PSNI in Northern Ireland as a whole was doing a very/fairly good job compared with Catholic respondents (67%). The Protestant finding is a statistically significant increase from 71% in September 2008.

Table 2: Performance of police in Northern Ireland as a whole												
		Percentage of respondents										
	2007	2007 (October) 2008 (April) 2008 (September) 2009 (April)										
Rating	С											
Very/fairly good	62	71	67	65	66	65	66	71	68	67	79	73
Neither good nor poor	20	16	18	19	20	19	19	16	18	18	11	14
Very/fairly poor	15	13	14	12	14	13	13	11	12	13	10	11
Don't know/refusal	2	1	2	4	1	2	3	1	2	1	1	1

5

### Q3. How satisfied are you that the PSNI treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole?

As in September 2008, seven tenths of respondents (71%) were very/fairly satisfied that the PSNI treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole (Table 3). Approximately one in eight respondents (12%) were very/fairly dissatisfied, similar to the September 2008 finding. More Protestant respondents (78%) thought that the PSNI treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole than did Catholic respondents (64%). Just under one in seven Catholic respondents (13%) were very/fairly dissatisfied that the PSNI treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole, compared with one in ten Protestant respondents (10%).

Table 3: Satisfaction that the police treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole														
		Percentage of respondents												
	2007	2007 (October) 2008 (April) 2008 (September) 2009 (April)												
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All		
Very/fairly satisfied	62	73	69	68	73	70	63	75	70	64	78	71		
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	21	16	18	22	18	20	19	15	17	22	11	16		
Fairly/very dissatisfied	15	10	12	9	9	8	15	8	11	13	10	12		
Don't know/refusal	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	1		

### Q4. How satisfied are you that the PSNI treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole?

Over two thirds of respondents (68%) were very/fairly satisfied that the PSNI treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole (Table 4). One in eight respondents (13%) were very/fairly dissatisfied, the same finding as in September 2008. More Protestant respondents (75%) were very/fairly satisfied that the police treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole than Catholic respondents (60%). Over one in six Catholic respondents (17%) were very/fairly dissatisfied that the PSNI treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole compared with less than one in ten Protestant respondents (9%).

Table 4: Satisfaction that the police treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole														
		Percentage of respondents												
	2007	007 (October) 2008 (April) 2008 (September) 2009 (April)												
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All		
Very/fairly satisfied	58	72	65	59	71	66	58	72	66	60	75	68		
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22	18	20	25	17	21	20	17	18	21	14	17		
Fairly/very dissatisfied	18	9	13	12	9	10	18	10	13	17	9	13		
Don't know/refusal	2	1	2	4	2	3	4	2	3	2	2	2		

### Q5. How much confidence do you have in the PSNI's ability to provide an ordinary day to day policing service for all the people of Northern Ireland?

The Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2009-2012 includes a target to increase the percentage of people who are confident in the police service's ability to provide an ordinary, day-to-day policing service for all the people of Northern Ireland, which is based on the September 2008 finding of 86%. Almost seven out of eight respondents (87%) had some, a lot, or total confidence in the police's ability to provide a day-to-day policing service for everyone in Northern Ireland (Table 5). One in eight respondents (13%) had little or no confidence at all.

all the people of Northern Ireland														
		Percentage of respondents												
	2007	2007 (October) 2008 (April) 2008 (September) 2009 (April)												
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All		
Total confidence	5	15	11	5	10	7	8	10	9	6	12	10		
A lot of confidence	32	34	33	32	34	33	28	39	35	30	39	34		
Some confidence	46	35	40	47	40	43	48	36	42	48	38	43		
Little confidence	12	12	12	13	13	13	7	12	10	12	8	10		
No confidence at all	4	3	4	3	3	3	6	2	4	4	2	3		
Don't know/refusal	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0		

### Q6. How much confidence do you have in the PSNI's ability to deal with public disorder situations such as riots?

Just over four out of five respondents (82%) had some, a lot, or total confidence in the police's ability to deal with public disorder situations, similar to the September 2008 finding (Table 6). More Protestant respondents (85%) had at least some confidence in the police's ability to provide a public order policing service than Catholic respondents (75%). Almost one in four Catholic respondents (24%) had little or no confidence in the police's ability to provide a public order policing service compared with one in seven (14%) of Protestant respondents.

Table 6: Confidence in the police's ability to deal with public disorder situations													
		Percentage of respondents											
	2007	2007 (October) 2008 (April) 2008 (September) 2009 (April)											
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	
Total confidence	7	13	10	5	11	9	8	13	11	5	9	8	
A lot of confidence	28	37	33	29	34	32	26	40	34	25	38	33	
Some confidence	42	34	37	43	35	39	42	32	36	45	38	41	
Little confidence	15	11	12	14	13	14	12	12	12	17	11	14	
No confidence at all	5	4	5	6	4	5	7	2	4	7	3	5	
Don't know/refusal	2	1	2	3	2	2	4	0	2	1	0	1	

### The Northern Ireland Policing Board Module of the April 2009 Omnibus Survey

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

Just over two fifths of respondents (42% - the same finding as in September 2008) were very/fairly satisfied with the levels of police patrols in their area, while one third of respondents (33%) were very/fairly dissatisfied (Table 7). 43% of Protestant respondents were very/fairly satisfied, compared with 41% of Catholic respondents. Conversely, 35% of Protestant respondents were very/fairly dissatisfied with the levels of police patrols in their area, compared with 32% of Catholic respondents.

Table 7: Satisfaction with the levels of police patrols													
		Percentage of respondents											
	2007	2007 (October) 2008 (April) 2008 (September) 2009 (April)											
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	
Very/fairly satisfied	43	42	43	42	40	42	41	42	42	41	43	42	
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22	24	24	24	21	22	24	20	21	27	22	24	
Very/fairly dissatisfied	34	33	33	33	37	35	35	37	36	32	35	33	
Don't know/refusal	0	1	0	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	

### Q8. Over the last year, has the overall standard of policing in your area...?

Just over seven in ten respondents (72%) thought that the overall standard of policing had remained the same in their area over the last year. Just under one in eight respondents (12%) thought that it had got better and, as in September 2008, 13% thought that it had got worse (Table 8). Protestant respondents (10%) were less likely than Catholic respondents (15%) to think that overall policing had remained the same or improved, and more likely to think that it had got worse (14% compared to 12% for Catholic respondents).

Table 8: Perception of the overall standard of policing over the last year													
		Percentage of respondents											
	2007	007 (October) 2008 (April) 2008 (September) 2009 (April)											
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	
Got better	20	11	15	16	12	14	13	7	10	15	10	12	
Remained the same	66	71	69	69	69	68	74	74	74	71	72	72	
Got worse	11	16	14	10	15	13	10	15	13	12	14	13	
Don't know/refusal	3	2	3	5	4	5	3	4	4	2	4	3	

### Q9. Have you heard of the concept of Neighbourhood/Community Policing?

Just over seven in ten respondents (71%) had heard of the concept of Neighbourhood/ Community Policing, a statistically significant increase from 64% in September 2008 (Table 9). Protestant respondents (74%) were more likely to have heard than Catholic respondents (68%). The Catholic finding is a statistically significant increase from 57% in September 2008.

Table 9: Heard of Neighbourhood/Community Policing?												
Percentage of respondents												
	2	2008 (April) 2008 (September) 2009 (April)										
Rating	С											
Yes	61	66	63	57	70	64	68	74	71			
No	39	34	36	43	30	36	32	26	29			
Don't know	0	0	0		0	0		0	0			

### Q10. How well do you think Neighbourhood/Community Policing is working?

Just over a guarter (27%) of the respondents who had heard of Neighbourhood/ Community Policing thought that it was working well/very well, similar to the September 2008 finding (Table 10). Protestant respondents (29%) were more likely to think Neighbourhood/Community Policing is working well/very well than Catholic respondents (25%). Over one in five respondents (22%) thought that Neighbourhood/ Community Policing was working poorly/very poorly compared to 17% in September 2008, a statistically significant increase. Over one in four Catholic respondents (26%) thought that Neighbourhood/ Community Policing was working poorly/very poorly compared to 19% in September 2008, a statistically significant increase.

Table 10: How well Neighbourhood/Community Policing is working													
All those who			ł	Percenta	ge of res	pondent	S						
have heard of	2	008 (Apri	il)	2008	(Septen	nber)	2	009 (Apri	l)				
Neighbourhood/ Community Policing	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All				
Rating													
Very well	3	7	6	5	6	6	7	6	6				
Well	18	19	18	23	18	20	18	23	21				
Neither well nor poor	28	27	27	28	31	29	32	35	34				
Poor	20	15	17	13	12	13	21	14	17				
Very poor	6	3	4	6	3	4	5	4	5				
Don't know/refusal	25	28	28	24	29	27	16	17	18				

### Q11. Does a PSNI Neighbourhood/Community Policing Team operate in your area?

9

Over one third of respondents (35%) who had heard of Neighbourhood/Community Policing knew that a Neighbourhood/Community Policing Team operated in their area, a statistically significant increase from 29% in September 2008 (Table 11). As in September 2008, a higher proportion of Protestant respondents (37%) knew that a Neighbourhood/Community Policing Team operated in their area compared to Catholic respondents (33%). Almost a fifth of respondents (19%) did not know if a Neighbourhood/Community Policing team operated in their area, a statistically significant decrease from 24% in September 2008.

Table 11: PSNI Neig	hbourho	od/Comr	nunity Po	olicing Te	am oper	ate in yo	ur area		
All those who			F	Percenta	ge of res	pondents	5		
have heard of	2	008 (Apri	l)	2008	(Septen	nber)	2	009 (Apri	l)
Neighbourhood/ Community	С	Р	All	All	С	Р	All		
Policing									
Ŭ									
Rating									
Yes	26	35	31	27	31	29	33	37	35
No	49	38	43	54	42	46	50	44	46
Don't know/refusal	24	26	26	19	27	24	17	19	19

### Q12. Do you know the names of or recognise the police officers policing your local area?

This question was asked for the first time in April 2009. Just over one in eight respondents (13%) knew the names of or recognised the police officers policing their area (Table 12). Protestant respondents (16%) were more likely to know the names of or recognised the police officers policing their area than Catholic respondents (11%).

Table 12: Recognition	of police office	ers policing you	ır local area										
	Percei	ntage of respor	ndents										
	2009 (April)												
Rating	C P All												
Yes	11	16	13										
No	88	83	86										
Don't know	1 1 1												

### Q13. Have you been in contact with the PSNI over the past 12 months?

One guarter of respondents (25%) had been in contact with the PSNI over the last year, (Table 13). A higher proportion of Protestant respondents (27%) were in contact with the PSNI compared to Catholic respondents (22%).

Table 13: Contact with the PSNI														
		Percentage of respondents												
	2007	2007 (October) 2008 (April) 2008 (September) 2009 (April)												
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All		
Yes	26	27	26	25	28	27	28	27	28	22	27	25		
No	74	73	73	75	72	73	72	73	72	78	73	75		
Don't know	0		0	1		0					0	0		

### Q14. What form(s) did the contact take?

The largest category for police contact in April 2009 was reporting a crime (26%), which was also the largest category in September 2008 (29%, Table 14). More Catholic respondents had contact with the PSNI regards reporting anti-social behaviour than Protestant respondents (24% compared to 20%). More Protestant respondents had contact with the PSNI when reporting a crime (29% compared to 21%) and as the victim of a crime (22% compared with 15%). One in five respondents (20%) were in contact with the PSNI as the victim of a crime.

Table 14: What form(s) did the contact take?     Respondents who had   Percentage of respondents													
Respondents who had				P	ercen	tage o	f respo	ondent	ts				
contact with the PSNI	2007	7 (Octo	ber)	20	08 (Ap	oril)	2008	(Septe	mber)	20	09 (Ap	ril)	
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	
You were the victim of a crime	18	18	18	24	19	20	25	23	24	15	22	20	
You reported a crime	24	22	24	27	24	28	28	30	29	21	29	26	
Giving a statement	22	16	18	24	15	19	20	18	18	25	22	23	
Reporting anti-social behaviour	15	23	20	18	17	17	17	16	16	24	20	22	
Proof of driving documents or involved in road traffic accident	17	16	17	14	8	11	9	7	8	22	17	19	
Dispute with neighbour	2	3	3	4	5	4	6	3	4	5	2	3	
Renewing firearms licence	4	7	5	2	8	5	2	3	3	5	1	2	
Seeking advice or information	11	19	15	9	18	14	16	13	14	15	15	16	
Other	24	11	16	17	18	17	14	12	13	20	17	17	

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

### Q15. Were you satisfied with the PSNI during this contact?

11

Seven out of ten respondents (70%) were satisfied with the PSNI during their contact, compared with the September 2008 finding of 72% (Table 15). Catholic respondents (74%) were more satisfied than Protestant respondents (70%).

Table 15: Satisfaction w	Table 15: Satisfaction with PSNI contact.													
Respondents who had				P	ercent	tage o	f respo	ondent	s					
contact with PSNI	2007	7 (Octo	ober)	2008 (April)			2008	(Septe	mber)	2009 (April)				
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All		
Yes	81	64	71	76	61	68	74	70	72	74	70	70		
No	19	35	29	24	38	31	26	30	28	26	28	29		
Don't know/refusal		0	0		1	0					2	1		

### Q16. If you were a victim of a crime, how satisfied were you with how the PSNI kept you informed of developments during the investigation?

Just over a half of respondents (52%) were very/fairly satisfied with how the PSNI kept them informed of developments during the investigation, compared with 43% in September 2008 (Table 16).

Table 16: Satisfaction with	Table 16: Satisfaction with how the PSNI kept you informed of developments during the investigation														
Respondents who said they were a				F	ercen	tage o	f respo	ondent	S						
victim of a crime	2007	7 (Octo	ober)	20	08 (Ap	oril)	2008	(Septe	mber)	20	09 (Ap	ril)			
Rating	С	C P AII C P AII C P AII C P AII													
Very/fairly satisfied	55	49	52	48	39	45	45	44	43	42	59	52			
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	17	13	15	6	11	8	12	13	12	11	12	12			
Very/fairly dissatisfied	28	38	32	42	47	44	42	44	43	42	29	35			
Don't know/refusal		10 10 11 11 11 11 10 11 10 12 10 00   3 3 3 3 1 5 2													

### Q17. How safe do you feel in your local community?

The Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2009-2012 includes a target to increase the percentage of people who say they feel safe in their local community, which is based on the September 2008 finding of 93%. Almost nine out of ten respondents (88%) felt very/fairly safe in their local community, a statistically significant decrease from 93% in September 2008 (Table 17). Between September 2008 and April 2009, there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of Catholic respondents who felt safe in their local community, from 92% to 86%.

	Percentage of respondents													
	2007	7 (Octo	ober)	20	08 (Ap	oril)	2008	(Septe	mber)	20	09 (Ap	oril)		
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All		
Very safe	38	38	38	32	36	34	46	38	42	38	30	33		
Fairly safe	53	54	54	52	51	51	46	54	51	48	60	55		
Neither safe nor unsafe	5	5	5	8	6	7	4	4	4	5	6	6		
Fairly unsafe	3	3	3	7	4	6	3	3	3	6	3	4		
Very Unsafe	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	1		
Don't know/refusal	0		0	0		0		0	0					

### The Northern Ireland Policing Board Module of the April 2009 Omnibus Survey

## 2: DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPS)

13

### Q18. Have you heard of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)?

Three fifths of respondents (60%) had heard of DPPs in April 2009, similar to the September 2008 finding of 59% (Table 18). More Protestant respondents (63%) had heard of DPPs than Catholic respondents (58%).

Table 18: Have you heard of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)?															
		Percentage of respondents													
	2007	2007 (October) 2008 (April) 2008 (September) 2009 (April)													
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All			
Yes	60	63	62	61	63	61	53	65	59	58	63	60			
No	39	37	38	39	37	39	47	35	40	42	37	40			
Don't know/refusal	0		0		0	0									

### Q19. How much confidence do you have that DPPs will help address local policing problems?

Almost three guarters of respondents (74%) who had heard of DPPs had some, a lot or total confidence that DPPs will help address local policing problems, a statistically significant increase from 69% in September 2008 (Table 19). Between September 2008 and April 2009, there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of Protestant respondents who had some, a lot or total confidence that DPPs will help address local policing problems, from 69% to 76%. Almost one in five respondents (18%) had little or no confidence at all DPPs will help address local policing problems.

Table 19: Confidence th	at DPI	Ps will	help a	ddres	s loca	polici	ing pro	blems	;			
All those who have				P	ercent	tage o	f respo	ondent	is			
heard of DPPs	2007	7 (Octo	ober)	20	08 (Ap	oril)	2008	(Septe	mber)	2009 (April)		
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All
Total confidence	2	4	3	3	5	4	4	3	4	2	4	3
A lot of confidence	24	23	23	18	20	19	20	20	19	21	16	18
Some confidence	51	49	50	50	51	50	48	46	46	48	56	53
Little confidence	15	15	16	16	14	16	14	14	15	15	15	15
No confidence at all	2	6	4	4	2	4	7	6	6	4	3	3
Don't know/refusal	6	4	5	9	8	8	7	11	9	10	7	8

### Q20. Are you prepared to contact your local DPP to raise issues/ask questions about local policing?

Over half of respondents (54%) who had heard of DPPs were prepared to contact their local DPP regarding local policing issues (Table 20). As in September 2008, Protestant respondents (55%) were more willing to contact their local DPP than Catholic respondents (50%).

Table 20: Prepared to contact local DPP about local policing?														
All those who have	Percentage of respondents													
heard of DPPs	2007	7 (Octo	ober)	2008 (April)			2008	(Septe	mber)	2009 (April)				
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All		
Yes	58	58	58	51	56	54	51	58	56	50	55	54		
No	41	41	40	46	42	44	47	40	42	48	43	45		
Don't know/refusal	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1		

### Q21. Do you feel that your local DPP has helped to improve policing in your local area?

One third of respondents (33%) who had heard of DPPs felt that their local DPP has helped to improve policing in their local area, similar to the September 2008 finding (Table 21). Over one guarter of respondents (26%) did not know if their local DPP had helped to improve local policing.

Table 21: Has your local DPP helped to improve local policing?														
All those who have	Percentage of respondents													
heard of DPPs	2007	7 (Octo	ober)	2008 (April)			2008	(Septe	mber)	2009 (April)				
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All		
Yes	41	35	37	33	32	32	39	33	35	31	35	33		
No	38	40	39	40	41	41	39	38	39	43	39	41		
Don't know/refusal	21	24	24	27	27	27	21	29	26	26	27	26		

### **3. THE NORTHERN IRELAND** POLICING BOARD

15

### Q22. Have you heard of the Northern Ireland Policing Board (Policing Board)?

Six out of seven respondents (86%) had heard of the Policing Board, similar to the September 2008 finding (Table 22). Protestant and Catholic respondents (86%) were equally as likely to have heard of the Policing Board. Between September 2008 and April 2009, there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of Catholic respondents who had heard of the Policing Board, from 79% to 86%.

Table 22: Heard of the Policing Board?														
		Percentage of respondents												
	2007	2007 (October) 2008 (April) 2008 (September) 2009 (April)												
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All		
Yes	85	90	87	85	89	87	79	87	84	86	86	86		
No	15	10	12	14	11	13	21	12	16	13	14	14		
Don't know/refusal	0		0	0	0	0				0	0	0		

### Q23. How well or poorly do you think the Policing Board does on monitoring how the PSNI performs against Annual Policing Plan targets?

Just over two fifths of respondents who had heard of the Policing Board (41%) thought that the Board did well/very well in monitoring how the PSNI performs against Annual Policing Plan targets, compared with 42% in September 2008 (Table 23). One in six respondents (17%) did not know how well the Policing Board did this, a statistically significant decrease from 23% in September 2008.

Table 23: How the Policing Board does on monitoring how the PSNI performs against Annual Policing Plan targets. All those who have Percentage of respondents heard of the Policing 2007 (October) 2008 (April) 2008 (September) 2009 (April) Board P All Rating 5 6 6 4 5 5 5 5 5 5 6 5 Very well 33 35 38 37 Well 39 38 38 32 35 35 37 36 32 29 30 34 30 33 29 32 30 34 35 35 Neither well nor poor 6 5 5 5 4 6 4 5 Poor 4 7 4 6 Very poor 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 0 1 18 21 20 25 25 24 25 20 23 17 17 17 Don't know/refusal

### Q24. How well or poorly do you think the Policing Board does on questioning the Chief Constable on how he carries out his duties?

Half of respondents who had heard of the Policing Board (50%) rated the Board's performance in questioning the Chief Constable as well/very well, a statistically significant increase from 44% in September 2008 (Table 24). The proportion of Catholic respondents who rated the Policing Board's performance in guestioning the Chief Constable as well/very well, rose from 39% in September 2008 to 50% - a statistically significant increase. Less than one in ten respondents (8%) rated the Policing Board's performance as poor/very poor in April 2009, similar to the September 2008 finding.

Table 24: How the Polic	Ing Bo	ard do	bes on										
All those who have heard of the Policing	Percentage of respondents												
Board	2007 (October) 2008 (April) 2008 (Septer							mber)	20	2009 (April)			
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	
Very well	8	8	8	6	10	8	5	8	6	7	10	8	
Well	38	39	39	33	36	35	34	41	38	43	41	42	
Neither well nor poor	27	26	26	31	27	29	30	26	28	27	29	29	
Poor	10	9	10	7	6	7	9	6	8	9	5	7	
Very poor	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	0	1	
Don't know/refusal	16	17	16	22	19	20	19	19	19	13	15	14	

### Q25. How well or poorly do you think the Policing Board does on holding the Chief Constable publicly to account?

Almost half of respondents who had heard of the Policing Board (49%) thought that the Board did well/very well on holding the Chief Constable publicly to account, compared with 45% in September 2008 (Table 25). One in eight respondents who had heard of the Policing Board (12%) did not know how well the Board did on holding the Chief Constable publicly to account.

All those who have	Percentage of respondents												
heard of the Policing Board	2007 (October) 2008 (April)							2008 (September)			2009 (April)		
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	
Very well	6	9	8	5	9	7	7	8	7	7	9	8	
Well	34	38	36	34	38	36	36	41	38	39	43	41	
Neither well nor poor	30	27	28	30	25	28	26	26	27	29	27	28	
Poor	11	8	9	10	7	8	12	7	9	10	6	8	
Very poor	4	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	4	0	2	
Don't know/refusal	15	17	16	19	18	18	17	17	17	11	14	12	

### The Northern Ireland Policing Board Module of the April 2009 Omnibus Survey

17

### Q26. How well or poorly do you think the Policing Board does on consulting with the public about policing issues?

One in three of respondents who had heard of the Policing Board (33%) thought that the Board did well/very well in consulting the public about policing issues, compared with 30% in September 2008 (Table 26). Just over one in ten respondents (11%) did not know how the Policing Board does on consulting with the public on policing issues, a statistically significant decrease from 16% in September 2008.

Table 26: How the Policing Board does on consulting the public about policing issues													
All those who have heard of the Policing	Percentage of respondents												
Board	2007	7 (Octo	ober)	er) 2008 (April)				(Septe	mber)	20	09 (Ap	ril)	
Rating	С	Ρ	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Ρ	All	
Very well	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	4	4	4	
Well	28	29	29	23	27	25	26	28	27	29	31	29	
Neither well nor poor	29	28	29	32	30	31	31	28	30	34	28	31	
Poor	24	21	22	20	20	20	17	20	19	17	22	20	
Very poor	5	4	4	4	5	5	6	5	5	6	4	5	
Don't know/refusal	11	14	12	17	15	16	17	15	16	11	11	11	

### Q27. Do you think that the Policing Board helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job?

Over seven out of ten respondents who had heard of the Policing Board (71%) thought that the Board helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job, a statistically significant increase from 64% in September 2008 (Table 27). Between September 2008 and April 2009, there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of Catholic respondents who thought that the Policing Board helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job, from 63% in to 72%.

Table 27: Does the Policing Board help to ensure that the PSNI do a good job?													
All those who have heard of the Policing	Percentage of respondents												
Board	2007	7 (Octo	ober)	20	08 (Ap	ril)	2008 (September)			2009 (April)			
Rating	С	Ρ	All	С	Ρ	All	С	Ρ	All	С	Р	All	
Yes	71	66	68	67	69	68	63	66	64	72	71	71	
No	18	21	20	19	20	20	22	21	22	19	19	20	
Don't know/refusal	11	12	12	13	10	12	15	13	14	9	10	9	

### Q28. Do you think that the Policing Board is part of the police or independent of the police?

Three quarters of respondents who had heard of the Policing Board (75%) correctly thought that the Board is independent of the police, similar to the September 2008 finding (Table 28). More Protestant respondents (78%) correctly thought that the Policing Board is independent of the police than Catholic respondents (71%).

Table 28: Is the Policing Board part of the police or independent of the police?												
All those who have heard of the Policing				P	ercen	tage o	f respo	ondent	s			
Board	2007 (October) 2008 (April) 2008 (September) 2009									09 (Ap	(April)	
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All
Part of the police	26	15	19	22	20	21	22	21	21	23	17	20
Independent of the police	71	79	76	69	71	70	69	74	72	71	78	75
Don't know/refusal	4	5	5	9	9	9	9	5	6	6	5	5

### Q29. What do you think is the primary role of the Policing Board?

Just over four fifths of respondents who had heard of the Policing Board (82%) correctly thought that the Board's primary role is "to oversee policing and hold the Chief Constable and the PSNI publicly to account", a statistically significant increase from 78% in September 2008 (Table 29).

Table 29: What do you t	hink is	the p	rimary	role o	f the F	Policin	g Boar	d?					
All those who have heard of the Policing	Percentage of respondents												
Board	2007	(October) 2008			08 (Ap	oril)	2008 (September)			2009 (April)			
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	
To actively direct police operations	12	10	10	14	11	13	16	9	12	12	9	10	
To oversee policing and hold the Chief Constable and the PSNI publicly to account	79	80	80	76	80	78	73	81	78	78	85	82	
To tell the Chief Constable what to do	3	3	3	2	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	
Other	1	1	1					1	1	1	0	1	
Don't know/refusal	4	6	5	7	6	6	7	6	6	5	3	4	

### Q30. Do you think the Policing Board is made up of ...?

19

Over seven out of ten respondents who had heard of the Policing Board (72%) correctly thought that the Board is made up of "a mix of politicians and independently appointed members" (Table 30). There was a statistically significant increase in Protestant respondents who correctly answered this question from 68% in September 2008 to 74% in April 2009. Between September 2008 and April 2009, there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of both Protestant and all respondents who thought that the Policing Board is made up of independently appointed members.

Table 30: Do you think that the Policing Board is made up of?												
All those who have heard of the Policing				P	ercent	tage o	f respo	ondent	S			
Board	2007	7 (Octo	October) 200			ril)	2008	(Septe	mber)	20	09 (Ap	ril)
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All
Politicians	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	3	4
Independently appointed members	18	24	21	18	17	18	20	23	22	20	17	18
A mix of politicians and independently appointed members	74	67	70	73	74	74	70	68	69	70	74	72
Other	1	1	1				1	0	0	1	1	1
Don't know/refusal	5	6	6	6	7	7	7	6	6	5	5	5

### Q31. Overall, how well do you think the Policing Board is working?

Five out of six respondents who had heard of the Policing Board (83%) thought that the Board is working at least adequately, a statistically significant increase compared with 78% in September 2008 (Table 31). Between September 2008 and April 2009, there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of Catholic respondents who thought that the Policing Board is working at least adequately, from 76% to 82%. Two fifths of respondents who had heard of the Policing Board (40%) thought that the Board is working well/very well. As in September 2008, one in nine respondents (11%) thought the Board is performing poorly/very poorly.

All those who have heard of the Policing	Percentage of respondents												
Board	2007	7 (Octo	ober)	2008 (April) 2008 (September)				20	2009 (April)				
Rating	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	С	Р	All	
Very well	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	7	6	5	5	5	
Well	34	34	34	32	34	33	32	31	31	35	36	35	
Adequately	43	41	42	40	41	41	38	42	41	42	43	43	
Poorly	10	9	9	8	9	9	12	9	10	9	7	8	
Very poorly	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	3	
Don't know/refusal	6	8	8	12	9	10	10	10	11	5	7	6	

### The Northern Ireland Policing Board Module of the April 2009 Omnibus Survey

NOTES



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### DOCUMENT TITLE

### PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF THE POLICE, DPPs AND THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD APRIL 2009 OMNIBUS SURVEY

### PUBLISHED JULY 2009

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