

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

**REPORT BASED ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD
MODULE OF THE SEPTEMBER 2009 OMNIBUS SURVEY**

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

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

The Board must also keep itself informed as to:

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

and assess:

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

In order to gauge public satisfaction and consider the views of the public on policing, the Policing Board conducts a programme of consultation and research activities involving a range of groups and organisations. The results of this consultation and research are published by the Policing Board to ensure openness and transparency, and to advise the public of its findings.

BACKGROUND TO THE SEPTEMBER 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 1,924 households, 1,201 interviews were achieved, giving a response rate of 62%. Interviews were conducted between 1 September and 30 September 2009. Analyses by religion are based only on those 1,116 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

Statistical significance tests have been carried out on the findings between the April 2009 and September 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.

1. PERFORMANCE OF THE POLICE

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

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%. In September 2009, less than three fifths of respondents (56%) thought that their local police were doing a very/fairly good job, a statistically significant decrease from the April 2009 finding of 64% (Table 1). Almost one quarter (23%) of respondents rated the performance of local police as very/fairly poor, a statistically significant increase from the April 2009 finding of 16%. More Protestant respondents (57%) thought that the PSNI does a very/fairly good job in their area compared with Catholic respondents (55%). The finding for Protestant respondents is a statistically significant decrease from 69% in April 2009.

Table 1: Performance of local police

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly good	56	60	58	59	64	62	59	69	64	55	57	56
Neither good nor poor	21	21	21	20	16	18	24	14	18	19	18	19
Very/fairly poor	20	18	19	19	18	18	16	15	16	24	23	23
Don't know/refusal	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1

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

In September 2009, over three out of five respondents (63%) thought that the PSNI was doing a very/fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole, a statistically significant decrease from 73% in April 2009 (Table 2). Almost one in five respondents (19%) thought that the PSNI was doing a very/fairly poor job in Northern Ireland as a whole, a statistically significant increase from 11% in April 2009. More Protestant respondents (65%) thought that the PSNI was doing a very/fairly good job in Northern Ireland as a whole compared with Catholic respondents (61%). The finding for Protestant respondents is a statistically significant decrease from 79% in April 2009.

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly good	65	66	65	66	71	68	67	79	73	61	65	63
Neither good nor poor	19	20	19	19	16	18	18	11	14	19	16	17
Very/fairly poor	12	14	13	13	11	12	13	10	11	21	17	19
Don't know/refusal	4	1	2	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1

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

As in April 2009, seven out of ten 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 nine respondents (11%) were very/fairly dissatisfied, similar to the April 2009 finding. More Protestant respondents (75%) thought that the PSNI treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole than did Catholic respondents (66%). One in eight 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 eleven Protestant respondents (9%).

Table 3: Satisfaction that the police treat members of the public fairly in Northern Ireland as a whole

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly satisfied	68	73	70	63	75	70	64	78	71	66	75	71
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22	18	20	19	15	17	22	11	16	19	14	16
Fairly/very dissatisfied	9	9	8	15	8	11	13	10	12	13	9	11
Don't know/refusal	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2

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

In September 2009, less than two out of three respondents (64%) were very/fairly satisfied that the PSNI treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole, a statistically significant decrease from 68% in April 2009 (Table 4). One in seven respondents (15%) were very/fairly dissatisfied, similar to the April 2009 finding. More Protestant respondents (71%) were very/fairly satisfied that the police treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole than Catholic respondents (59%). One in five Catholic respondents (20%) were very/fairly dissatisfied that the PSNI treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole compared with one in nine Protestant respondents (11%).

Table 4: Satisfaction that the police treat members of the public equally in Northern Ireland as a whole

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly satisfied	59	71	66	58	72	66	60	75	68	59	71	64
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	25	17	21	20	17	18	21	14	17	19	16	17
Fairly/very dissatisfied	12	9	10	18	10	13	17	9	13	20	11	15
Don't know/refusal	4	2	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3

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%. In September 2009, four out of five respondents (80%) 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, a statistically significant decrease from 87% in April 2009 (Table 5). Almost one in five respondents (19%) had little or no confidence at all, a statistically significant increase from 13% in April 2009.

Table 5: Confidence in the police's ability to provide an ordinary day to day policing service for all the people of Northern Ireland

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	5	10	7	8	10	9	6	12	10	7	10	8
A lot of confidence	32	34	33	28	39	35	30	39	34	26	32	29
Some confidence	47	40	43	48	36	42	48	38	43	48	39	43
Little confidence	13	13	13	7	12	10	12	8	10	14	13	13
No confidence at all	3	3	3	6	2	4	4	2	3	5	6	6
Don't know/refusal	1	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

In September 2009, three out of four respondents (75%) had some, a lot, or total confidence in the police's ability to deal with public disorder situations, a statistically significant decrease from 82% in April 2009 (Table 6). Almost one in five respondents (19%) had little confidence in the police's ability to deal with public disorder situations, a statistically significant increase from 14% in April 2009. More Protestant respondents (77%) had at least some confidence in the police's ability to provide a public order policing service than Catholic respondents (72%), although the Protestant finding is a statistically significant decrease from 85% in April 2009. The proportion of Catholic and Protestant respondents who had little confidence in the police's ability to deal with public disorder situations increased from April 2009 and both are statistically significant increases.

Table 6: Confidence in the police's ability to deal with public disorder situations

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	5	11	9	8	13	11	5	9	8	6	10	8
A lot of confidence	29	34	32	26	40	34	25	38	33	23	32	28
Some confidence	43	35	39	42	32	36	45	38	41	43	35	39
Little confidence	14	13	14	12	12	12	17	11	14	22	17	19
No confidence at all	6	4	5	7	2	4	7	3	5	5	5	5
Don't know/refusal	3	2	2	4	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	1

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

In September 2009, less than two out of five respondents (37%) were very/fairly satisfied with the levels of police patrols in their area, a statistically significant decrease from 42% in April 2009. Two out of five respondents (41%) were very/fairly dissatisfied, a statistically significant increase from 33% in April 2009 (Table 7). More Catholic respondents (40%) were very/fairly satisfied, compared with Protestant respondents (34%). Conversely, more Protestant respondents (43%) were very/fairly dissatisfied with the levels of police patrols in their area, compared with Catholic respondents (39%). The proportion of Catholic and Protestant respondents who were very/fairly dissatisfied increased from April 2009 and both are statistically significant increases.

Table 7: Satisfaction with the levels of police patrols

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very/fairly satisfied	42	40	42	41	42	42	41	43	42	40	34	37
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	24	21	22	24	20	21	27	22	24	20	22	21
Very/fairly dissatisfied	33	37	35	35	37	36	32	35	33	39	43	41
Don't know/refusal	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1

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

In September 2009, seven out of ten respondents (69%) thought that the overall standard of policing in their area had remained the same over the last year. One in nine respondents (11%) thought that it had got better and one in six (17%) thought that it had got worse, which is a statistically significant increase from 13% in April 2009 (Table 8). Protestant respondents (21%) were more likely to think that the overall standard of policing in their area had got worse than Catholic respondents (12%). This is a statistically significant increase from 14% of Protestant respondents in April 2009.

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

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Got better	16	12	14	13	7	10	15	10	12	14	8	11
Remained the same	69	69	68	74	74	74	71	72	72	71	67	69
Got worse	10	15	13	10	15	13	12	14	13	12	21	17
Don't know/refusal	5	4	5	3	4	4	2	4	3	2	4	3

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

In September 2009, seven out of ten respondents (72%) had heard of the concept of Neighbourhood/Community Policing, similar to the April 2009 finding (Table 9). Protestant respondents (76%) were more likely to have heard of the concept of Neighbourhood/Community Policing than Catholic respondents (67%).

Table 9: Heard of Neighbourhood/Community Policing?

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	61	66	63	57	70	64	68	74	71	67	76	72
No	39	34	36	43	30	36	32	26	29	33	23	28
Don't know	0	0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0	0

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

In September 2009, one quarter (25%) of respondents who had heard of Neighbourhood/Community Policing thought that it was working well/very well, similar to the April 2009 finding (Table 10). Three out of ten respondents (29%) thought that Neighbourhood/Community Policing was working poorly/very poorly, a statistically significant increase from 22% in April 2009. One in four Protestant respondents (25%) thought that Neighbourhood/Community Policing was working poorly/very poorly, a statistically significant increase from 18% in April 2009.

Table 10: How well Neighbourhood/Community Policing is working

All those who have heard of Neighbourhood / Community Policing Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	3	7	6	5	6	6	7	6	6	6	5	5
Well	18	19	18	23	18	20	18	23	21	19	20	20
Neither poor nor well	28	27	27	28	31	29	32	35	34	25	34	29
Poor	20	15	17	13	12	13	21	14	17	26	17	21
Very poor	6	3	4	6	3	4	5	4	5	7	8	8
Don't know/refusal	25	28	28	24	29	27	16	17	18	19	15	17

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

One third of respondents (33%) who had heard of Neighbourhood/Community Policing knew that a Neighbourhood/Community Policing Team operated in their area, similar to the April 2009 finding (Table 11).

Table 11: PSNI Neighbourhood/Community Policing Team operate in your area												
All those who have heard of Neighbourhood / Community Policing Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	26	35	31	27	31	29	33	37	35	33	34	33
No	49	38	43	54	42	46	50	44	46	47	44	44
Don't know/refusal	24	26	26	19	27	24	17	19	19	21	22	23

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

In September 2009, one in eight respondents (12%) knew the names of or recognised the police officers policing their local area, similar to the April 2009 finding (Table 12). Catholic respondents (13%) were slightly more likely to know the names of or recognise the police officers policing their local area than Protestant respondents (12%).

Table 12: Recognition of police officers policing your local area						
Rating	Percentage of respondents					
	2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	11	16	13	13	12	12
No	88	83	86	87	86	86
Don't know	1	1	1	1	2	1

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

In September 2009, almost one quarter of respondents (24%) had been in contact with the PSNI over the past 12 months (Table 13). Protestant and Catholic respondents (24%) were equally as likely to be in contact with the PSNI.

Table 13: Contact with the PSNI

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	25	28	27	28	27	28	22	27	25	24	24	24
No	75	72	73	72	73	72	78	73	75	76	76	76
Don't know	1		0					0	0			

Q14 What form(s) did the contact take?

The largest category for police contact in September 2009 was reporting a crime (25%), which was also the largest category in April 2009 (26%, Table 14). More Catholic respondents had contact with the PSNI regarding being the victim of a crime than Protestant respondents (21% compared with 16%). More Protestant respondents had contact with the PSNI when reporting anti-social behaviour (19% compared with 11%).

Table 14: What form(s) did the contact take?

Respondents who had contact with the PSNI	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
You were the victim of a crime	24	19	20	25	23	24	15	22	20	21	16	19
You reported a crime	27	24	28	28	30	29	21	29	26	26	24	25
Giving a statement	24	15	19	20	18	18	25	22	23	18	16	16
Reporting anti-social behaviour	18	17	17	17	16	16	24	20	22	11	19	16
Proof of driving documents or involved in road traffic accident	14	8	11	9	7	8	22	17	19	9	10	9
Dispute with neighbour	4	5	4	6	3	4	5	2	3	4	4	4
Renewing firearms licence	2	8	5	2	3	3	5	1	2	2	7	4
Seeking advice or information	9	18	14	16	13	14	15	15	16	17	17	17
Other	17	18	17	14	12	13	20	17	17	26	13	19

Q15 Were you satisfied with the PSNI during this contact?

In September 2009, two out of three respondents (67%) were satisfied with the PSNI during their contact, compared with the April 2009 finding of 70% (Table 15). Catholic respondents (75%) were more satisfied than Protestant respondents (58%).

Table 15: Satisfaction with PSNI contact												
Respondents who had contact with PSNI	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	Rating	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P
Yes	76	61	68	74	70	72	74	70	70	75	58	67
No	24	38	31	26	30	28	26	28	29	25	41	33
Don't know/refusal		1	0					2	1		0	0

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?

In September 2009, less than one in three respondents (30%) were very/fairly satisfied with how the PSNI kept them informed of developments during the investigation, a statistically significant decrease from 52% in April 2009 (Table 16). Almost three out of five respondents (57%) were very/fairly dissatisfied with how the PSNI kept them informed of developments during the investigation.

Table 16: Satisfaction with how the PSNI kept you informed of developments during the investigation												
Respondents who said they were a victim of a crime	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	Rating	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P
Very/fairly satisfied	48	39	45	45	44	43	42	59	52	24	35	30
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	6	11	8	12	13	12	11	12	12	17	5	13
Very/fairly dissatisfied	42	47	44	42	44	43	42	29	35	59	60	57
Don't know/refusal	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%. In September 2009, almost nine out of ten respondents (88%) felt very/fairly safe in their local community, the same as the April 2009 finding (Table 17). Between April and September 2009, there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of Catholic respondents who felt fairly/very unsafe in their local community, from 9% to 4%.

Table 17: How safe do you feel in your local community?

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very safe	32	36	34	46	38	42	38	30	33	38	36	36
Fairly safe	52	51	51	46	54	51	48	60	55	51	53	52
Neither safe nor unsafe	8	6	7	4	4	4	5	6	6	7	5	6
Fairly unsafe	7	4	6	3	3	3	6	3	4	3	6	4
Very unsafe	1	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	0	1
Don't know/refusal	0		0		0	0						

2: DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPS)

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

In September 2009, over three out of five respondents (62%) had heard of DPPs, similar to the April 2009 finding (Table 18). More Protestant respondents (66%) had heard of DPPs than Catholic respondents (58%).

Table 18: Have you heard of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)?

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	61	63	61	53	65	59	58	63	60	58	66	62
No	39	37	39	47	35	40	42	37	40	42	34	38
Don't know/refusal		0	0							0		0

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

In September 2009, over seven out of ten respondents (72%) who had heard of DPPs had some, a lot or total confidence that DPPs will help address local policing problems, similar to the April 2009 finding (Table 19). Over one in five respondents (22%) had little or no confidence at all that DPPs will help address local policing problems.

Table 19: Confidence that DPPs will help address local policing problems

All those who have heard of DPPs	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Total confidence	3	5	4	4	3	4	2	4	3	3	2	2
A lot of confidence	18	20	19	20	20	19	21	16	18	18	16	17
Some confidence	50	51	50	48	46	46	48	56	53	52	54	53
Little confidence	16	14	16	14	14	15	15	15	15	15	17	17
No confidence at all	4	2	4	7	6	6	4	3	3	5	5	5
Don't know/refusal	9	8	8	7	11	9	10	7	8	6	5	6

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

In September 2009, over half of the respondents (54%) who had heard of DPPs were prepared to contact their local DPP regarding local policing issues, the same finding as in April 2009 (Table 20). Catholic respondents (55%) were more willing to contact their local DPP than Protestant respondents (54%).

Table 20: Prepared to contact local DPP about local policing?

All those who have heard of DPPs	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	Rating	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P
Yes	51	56	54	51	58	56	50	55	54	55	54	54
No	46	42	44	47	40	42	48	43	45	42	45	44
Don't know/refusal	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	3	1	2

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

In September 2009, one in three respondents (32%) who had heard of DPPs felt that their local DPP has helped to improve policing in their local area, similar to the April 2009 finding (Table 21). However, there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of Protestant respondents (from 35% to 28%) who thought that their local DPP has helped to improve local policing. Conversely, there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of Protestant respondents (from 39% to 48%) who did not think their local DPP has helped to improve local policing.

Table 21: Has your local DPP helped to improve local policing?

All those who have heard of DPPs	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	Rating	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P
Yes	33	32	32	39	33	35	31	35	33	38	28	32
No	40	41	41	39	38	39	43	39	41	42	48	46
Don't know/refusal	27	27	27	21	29	26	26	27	26	20	23	22

3. THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

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

In September 2009, six out of seven respondents (87%) had heard of the Policing Board, similar to the April 2009 finding (Table 22). Between April and September 2009, there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of Protestant respondents who had heard of the Policing Board, from 86% to 90%.

Table 22: Heard of the Policing Board?

Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	85	89	87	79	87	84	86	86	86	84	90	87
No	14	11	13	21	12	16	13	14	14	16	10	13
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?

In September 2009, over two out of five respondents (43%) who had heard of the Policing Board thought that the Board did well/very well in monitoring how the PSNI performs against Annual Policing Plan targets, compared with 41% in April 2009 (Table 23).

Table 23: How the Policing Board does on monitoring how the PSNI performs against Annual Policing Plan targets

All those who have heard of the Policing Board Rating	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	6	6	6
Well	32	35	33	35	38	37	35	37	36	35	38	37
Neither well nor poor	34	30	33	29	32	30	34	35	35	32	34	33
Poor	5	4	4	6	4	5	7	4	6	7	5	6
Very poor	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	2	1	2
Don't know/refusal	25	25	24	25	20	23	17	17	17	18	15	16

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

In September 2009, almost half of the respondents (47%) who had heard of the Policing Board rated the Board's performance in questioning the Chief Constable as well/very well, similar to the April 2009 finding (Table 24). The proportion of Protestant respondents who rated the Policing Board's performance in questioning the Chief Constable as poor/very poor, rose from 5% in April 2009 to 9% - a statistically significant increase.

Table 24: How the Policing Board does on questioning the Chief Constable

All those who have heard of the Policing Board	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	6	10	8	5	8	6	7	10	8	8	8	8
Well	33	36	35	34	41	38	43	41	42	38	40	39
Neither well nor poor	31	27	29	30	26	28	27	29	29	25	27	26
Poor	7	6	7	9	6	8	9	5	7	8	7	7
Very poor	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	0	1	2	2	2
Don't know/refusal	22	19	20	19	19	19	13	15	14	18	16	17

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

In September 2009, almost half of the respondents (46%) who had heard of the Policing Board thought that the Board did well/very well on holding the Chief Constable publicly to account, compared with 49% in April 2009 (Table 25). The proportion of respondents who rated the Policing Board's performance in holding the Chief Constable publicly to account as poor/very poor, rose from 10% in April 2009 to 13% - a statistically significant increase.

Table 25: How the Policing Board does on holding the Chief Constable to account

All those who have heard of the Policing Board	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	5	9	7	7	8	7	7	9	8	7	9	8
Well	34	38	36	36	41	38	39	43	41	36	40	38
Neither well nor poor	30	25	28	26	26	27	29	27	28	25	27	26
Poor	10	7	8	12	7	9	10	6	8	13	9	11
Very poor	2	2	2	2	1	1	4	0	2	2	2	2
Don't know/refusal	19	18	18	17	17	17	11	14	12	16	13	15

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

In September 2009, three out of ten respondents (30%) who had heard of the Policing Board thought that the Board did well/very well in consulting the public about policing issues, compared with 33% in April 2009 (Table 26). The proportion of Protestant respondents who thought that the Board did well/very well in consulting the public about policing issues, fell from 35% in April 2009 to 29% in September 2009 - a statistically significant decrease.

Table 26: How the Policing Board does on consulting the public about policing issues

All those who have heard of the Policing Board	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	3	3	3	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
Well	23	27	25	26	28	27	29	31	29	27	25	26
Neither well nor poor	32	30	31	31	28	30	34	28	31	28	32	30
Poor	20	20	20	17	20	19	17	22	20	21	21	21
Very poor	4	5	5	6	5	5	6	4	5	6	6	6
Don't know/refusal	17	15	16	17	15	16	11	11	11	14	11	12

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

In September 2009, two out of three respondents (67%) who had heard of the Policing Board thought that the Board helps ensure that the PSNI do a good job, compared with 71% in April 2009 (Table 27).

Table 27: Does the Policing Board help to ensure that the PSNI do a good job?

All those who have heard of the Policing Board	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Yes	67	69	68	63	66	64	72	71	71	68	67	67
No	19	20	20	22	21	22	19	19	20	21	23	22
Don't know/refusal	13	10	12	15	13	14	9	10	9	11	10	11

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

In September 2009, almost three out of four respondents (73%) who had heard of the Policing Board correctly thought that the Board is independent of the police, similar to the April 2009 finding (Table 28). More Protestant respondents (77%) correctly thought that the Policing Board is independent of the police than Catholic respondents (66%).

Table 28: Is the Policing Board part of the police or independent of the police?

All those who have heard of the Policing Board	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	Rating	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P
Part of the police	22	20	21	22	21	21	23	17	20	27	16	21
Independent of the police	69	71	70	69	74	72	71	78	75	66	77	73
Don't know/refusal	9	9	9	9	5	6	6	5	5	6	7	6

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

In September 2009, over four out of five respondents (82%) who had heard of the Policing Board correctly thought that the Board's primary role is "to oversee policing and hold the Chief Constable and the PSNI publicly to account", the same as the April 2009 finding (Table 29).

Table 29: What do you think is the primary role of the Policing Board?

All those who have heard of the Policing Board	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	Rating	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P
To actively direct police operations	14	11	13	16	9	12	12	9	10	11	10	10
To oversee policing and hold the Chief Constable and the PSNI publicly to account	76	80	78	73	81	78	78	85	82	80	82	82
To tell the Chief Constable what to do	2	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	4
Other					1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
Don't know/refusal	7	6	6	7	6	6	5	3	4	4	4	4

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

In September 2009, three quarters of respondents (75%) who had heard of the Policing Board correctly thought that the Board is made up of “a mix of politicians and independently appointed members”, compared with 72% in April 2009 (Table 30).

Table 30: Do you think that the Policing Board is made up of...?

All those who have heard of the Policing Board	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Politicians	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	3	4	3	3	3
Independently appointed members	18	17	18	20	23	22	20	17	18	15	18	17
A mix of politicians and independently appointed members	73	74	74	70	68	69	70	74	72	76	75	75
Other				1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Don't know/refusal	6	7	7	7	6	6	5	5	5	7	4	5

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

In September 2009, four out of five respondents (81%) who had heard of the Policing Board thought that the Board is working at least adequately, compared with 83% in April 2009 (Table 31). Almost two out of five respondents (37%) who had heard of the Policing Board thought that the Board is working well/very well. The proportion of Protestant respondents who thought that the Board is working well/very well fell from 41% in April 2009 to 33% in September 2009 - a statistically significant decrease.

Table 31: Overall, how well do you think the Policing Board is working?

All those who have heard of the Policing Board	Percentage of respondents											
	2008 (April)			2008 (September)			2009 (April)			2009 (September)		
	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All	C	P	All
Very well	6	6	6	6	7	6	5	5	5	7	7	7
Well	32	34	33	32	31	31	35	36	35	36	26	30
Adequately	40	41	41	38	42	41	42	43	43	39	48	44
Poorly	8	9	9	12	9	10	9	7	8	10	9	9
Very poorly	2	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	3	2	3	2
Don't know/refusal	12	9	10	10	10	11	5	7	6	7	7	7

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