

Police Service of Northern Ireland

report

2002-2003

of the Chief Constable

INSIDE



Policing with the Community

An indepth look at how local communities are working with the police

Clearing up on Crime

High profile investigations reach successful conclusion

Tackling the Terrorist Threat

Operations thwarted by good police work



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

About the PSNI

The Police Service of Northern Ireland exist to make Northern Ireland safer for everyone through professional, progressive policing.

We aim to be a service everyone can be proud of because we provide policing at its best.

Our values as an organisation are honesty and openness, fairness and courtesy, partnerships, performance and professionalism and respect for the rights of all.

The PSNI came into being on November 4, 2001. Police headquarters is at Knock, in east Belfast, and the Service is divided into three geographical areas - Urban, North and South Regions.

At the end of March 2003, the Police Service had an establishment of 7,500 regular police officers, complemented by 1,765 Reserve officers. The effective strength, however, which excludes officers on secondment and those who have not yet graduated, was 6,940 regulars with 1,804 full-time Reserve officers and 929 part-time Reserve.

Urban Region covers an area of some 560 square miles, taking in greater Belfast, Antrim, Carrickfergus and Lisburn, and serving a population of around 696,000 people.

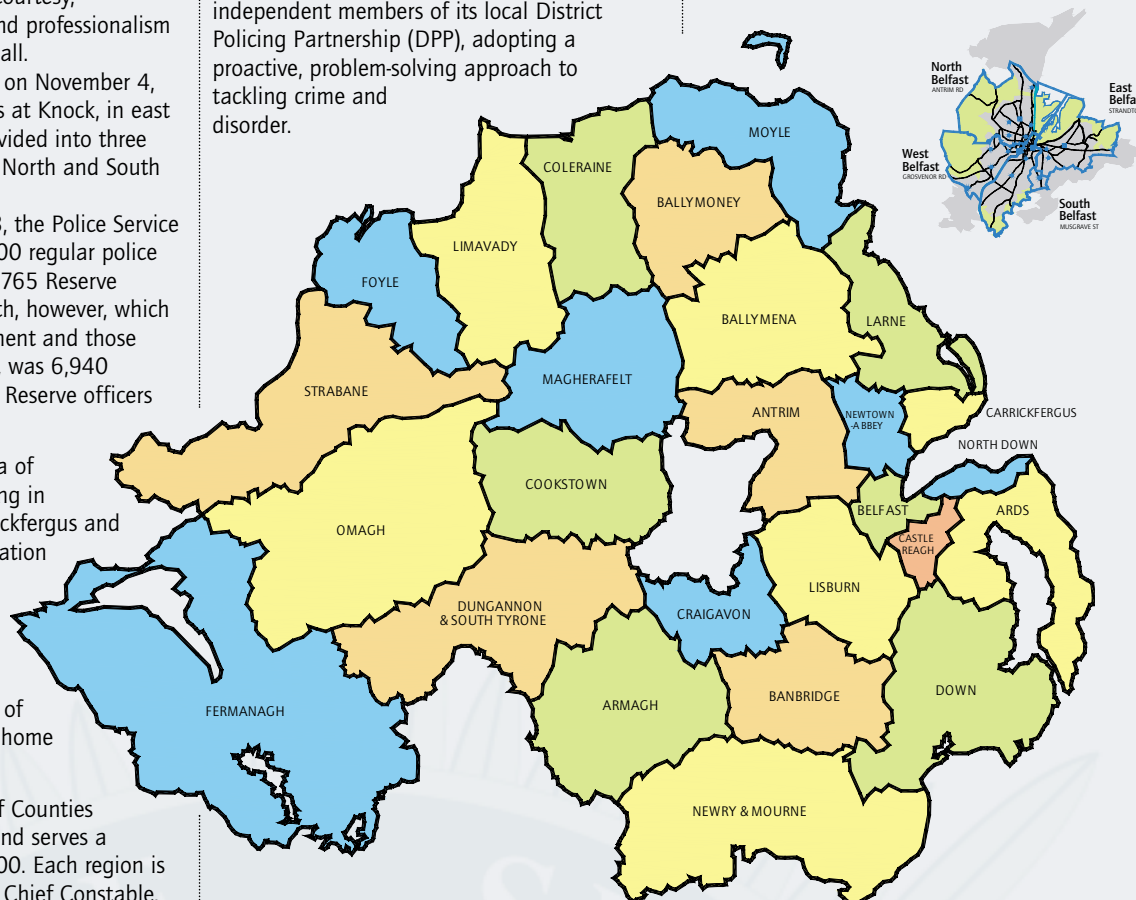
North Region stretches from Fermanagh in the west, through Londonderry and across to Larne, an area of 3,500 square miles which is home to around 511,000 people.

South Region covers most of Counties Tyrone, Armagh and Down and serves a population of around 482,000. Each region is commanded by an Assistant Chief Constable.

The three Regions are made up of smaller District Command Units (DCUs). Twenty-five DCUs are co-terminus with district council areas outside Belfast. The capital is divided into four DCUs, North, South, East and West.

Each DCU works closely with the elected and independent members of its local District Policing Partnership (DPP), adopting a proactive, problem-solving approach to tackling crime and disorder.

The Police Service is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board which, in addition to independent members drawn from the broader Northern Ireland community, has representatives from almost all the main political parties.



Chief Officers of the Police Service of Northern Ireland on 31st March 2003

Chief Constable Hugh Orde
(from September 2002)

Deputy Chief Constable Paul Leighton
(from March 2003)

Assistant Chief Constable Chris Albiston,
Crime Branch

Assistant Chief Constable Roy Toner,
Corporate Development

Assistant Chief Constable Duncan McCausland,
Operational Support

Acting Assistant Chief Constable
Maggie Hunter, Urban Region

Assistant Chief Constable Sam Kinkaid,
North Region

Assistant Chief Constable Stephen White,
South Region

Mr David Best, Director of Finance

Mr Joe Stewart, Senior Director of
Human Resources

Mr Austin Hunter, Director of Media and
Public Relations

Mr David Mercier, Legal Adviser

Background to change

The historic nature of the change in the Police Service is reflected in the opening words of the Oversight Commissioner's first report in November 2000: "The proposed revisions for the policing services in Northern Ireland are the most complex and dramatic changes ever attempted in modern history."

Internally, a Change Management Team - headed by an Assistant Chief Constable - was set up in December 1999. Its objectives were - and continue to be - to research, plan, coordinate and monitor the change programme.

This specially dedicated unit was necessary given that the 175 'Patten recommendations' were being looked at alongside additional recommendations from reports by her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, the Lawrence Report following the murder of a black teenager in London and human rights legislation.

The recommendations which formed the change programme were grouped into six key areas:

- Style
- Shared values
- Staffing
- Skills
- Structures
- Systems.

Each of the areas - which were further divided into specific projects - became the responsibility of 'accountable officers' at the highest levels within the organisation.

In August, an overall 'implementation plan' was drawn up by the Northern Ireland Office identifying who was responsible for implementing each of the recommendations and setting out a timescale. Ultimately this was amended, and a second version issued, when there were changes in legislation.

It was keenly recognised by the Service's senior management team that in addition to the interest and involvement of many individuals and bodies throughout Northern Ireland in the development of policing, one of the most important constituencies was the internal one.

In addition to its responsibility for liaising with the Oversight Commissioner, the Northern Ireland Office and Policing Board and for monitoring the progress of change, the Change Management Team instituted a system of internal communications involving cascade briefings, videos and information bulletins. A telephone helpline was also put in place.

Change is ongoing. At times it has not been easy. The demands of reducing numbers of officers under the voluntary severance scheme, coupled with a disproportionately large number of serious crime investigations, policing public disorder and riots, and the continuing high level of terrorist threat put significant pressures on resources both human



and financial.

But despite all of these demands, there remains a determination within the Police Service - at all levels - to press forward with the programme of organisational, cultural and symbolic change, building on the honourable foundations of the past, and providing all of the people of Northern Ireland with a highly professional and effective police service.

Managing the change

The pace of change in the Police Service of Northern Ireland gathered momentum in 2002.

Significant steps have been taken and there has been substantial progress with the first newly trained PSNI officers graduating in April 2002 and joining their stations in August. By March 2003, 674 applicants had entered training, recruited on a 50/50 basis.

The new uniforms, badge and flag were introduced to the Service in April 2002 and

the Policing with the Community implementation plan was published and a significant start has been made in implementing the strategy.

The Service has made great advances with early programmes of decentralization, including the appointment of business managers and personnel managers to DCUs.

The roll out of a new improved information technology system gathered speed and 'Policenet', the PSNI's new intranet site, was launched.

The past twelve months also saw the launch of a major drive to recruit civilian support staff into the Police Service which has resulted in a wide range of staff being employed in a variety of diverse roles.

A new recruitment campaign for part time police officers began in February 2003. The campaign, piloted in four DCUs, has already achieved great successes with high levels of applications.

THE AIMS OF THE POLICE SERVICE

>> AIM: To promote safety and reduce disorder by:

- Maintaining public order, thereby providing for the protection and security of the public
- Improving the safety and reassurance of the public, especially those at risk of harm
- Improving road safety and the reduction of casualties.



>> AIM: To reduce crime and the fear of crime:

- Working in partnership with other agencies to help reduce the incidence of crime
- Disrupting the illegal supply of controlled drugs and working in partnership with other agencies in tackling the problem of drug misuse
- Upholding and maintaining the rule of law, countering the terrorist threat and bringing to justice those responsible for crime.



>> AIM: To contribute to delivering justice in a way which secures and maintains public confidence in the rule of law by:

- Improving organisational effectiveness to the benefit of the community, the police and the wider criminal justice system.

>> AIM: To implement the programme of change



welcome

The past year has been one of challenge and change for the Police Service of Northern Ireland. There have also been many successes.

Through the creation of District Command Units, the Service is moving forward in its commitment to providing an inclusive police service; a local service delivered by local officers.

Decentralisation has given police commanders the power, the autonomy and the responsibility to make decisions and implement activity on the ground. **I firmly believe that the more we allow local commanders to get on with local policing, working with their local communities, without central interference, the more effective we will become.**

The creation of District Policing Partnerships has represented a further step forward for policing in Northern Ireland. Independent members have now been recruited from all communities to work closely with the Service, advising on policing issues in local areas. We look forward to the time when representation will reflect the complete political spectrum.

DPPs are designed to give local people a real voice in local policing issues together with an important monitoring role in police performance. This is something I wholeheartedly welcome.

Through community dialogue, the Service can concentrate available resources to efficiently engage in addressing local crime. I have no doubt that local empowerment will bring improved performance within the Service.

The Police Service alone cannot reduce crime but through intelligence-led proactive policing initiatives, in which an effective and focused Special Branch plays a key role, we are identifying and dealing with key crimes and main offenders.

Since becoming Chief Constable in September, I have been consistently impressed by the resilience and commitment which my officers have shown, in often extremely difficult conditions, to providing a professional and progressive policing service to the people of Northern Ireland.

We have enjoyed significant successes in the fight against organised crime and drugs over the past year through our work with the Organised Crime Task Force. A concerted effort to tackle car theft, working with local communities, has led to a highly encouraging reduction in offences committed. Diligent detective work also led to a

number of high profile murders being solved during the past twelve months.

Resource pressures still exist. The demands of crime remain high and this, coupled with road policing, community safety, public disorder and the ever-present menace of terrorist activity, place a great strain on our officers. We are continually faced with the issue of allocating resources in an appropriate manner and there are still skill gaps within the Service, particularly with regard to the lack of experienced detectives. In the course of the year, we have sought to address these problems in a proactive manner.

Communities across Northern Ireland want to see police on their streets, combating crime in their areas. The Police Service is

committed to providing this service, to investigating and solving local crime and ensuring our neighbourhoods and communities remain safe places for everybody.

Our civilianisation programme is gaining momentum and this, together with our robust policy of redeploying police officers currently in non-operational roles, should soon lead to a significant increase in officers freed up to carry out frontline policing duties.

This report, which focuses on how we have performed against the objectives of the Policing Plan 2002/03, can at best give a snapshot of the

complex and ever changing business that is policing. More information can be obtained by visiting our website.

Life does not stand still and we have continued to implement the far-reaching programme of change recommended by the Independent Commission on Policing. Much remains to be done but I am confident that, by working in partnership with our community, we can make Northern Ireland a safer place for everyone.

HUGH ORDE, CHIEF CONSTABLE,
POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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For further information about the Police Service of Northern Ireland please visit our website at www.psn.police.uk

POLICING with the COMMUNITY

Working with your community to make it a safer place



Personal safety training for lone workers

Community Involvement Branch and crime prevention officers in Lisburn DCU are providing personal safety awareness training for workers in the community.

Over 200 people have attended the training seminars, which highlight safety steps to be taken when working in the community, whether in their cars or walking.

Staff including community care officers, Northern Ireland Housing Executive officials, Victim Support workers and community nurses have been trained.

If they identify a safety issue not related to their role, staff are encouraged to highlight it on a check list and forward it to a local co-ordinator who endeavours to provide support and assistance. This project is hoping to receive funding from Lisburn City Council's community safety budget.

Top marks for school schemes

Working with schools to educate young people about the role of the police and how to be a good citizen continued over the past twelve months.

Police from Banbridge DCU joined forces with headmasters in the town to launch a 'School Watch' initiative.

The scheme involves members of the community in fighting the vandalism suffered by schools throughout the DCU. Posters and leaflets highlighting the problem were distributed and a partnership approach between local schools, the police and the public has resulted in an improved information flow.

During the year police apprehended a number of persons for causing offences of burglary, arson and criminal damage to school buildings.

Meanwhile, Community Involvement Branch and crime prevention officers from Lisburn DCU, where the first School Watch initiative was launched, are now working with the local Education Board to expand their work with young people by developing a pupil 'School Safe' scheme.

The scheme would utilise e-mail to enable the police and schools to exchange information on potential risks to pupil safety. Lisburn hopes to pilot the scheme by the end of this year.

East Belfast DCU has dedicated specially trained officers providing a Citizenship and Safety programme in all local schools. The central themes of the programme are protection, education and prevention. The programme aims to enhance contact between the police, schools and parents and to equip young people with the necessary people skills to become good citizens. In the past year, around 500 lessons have been delivered in the school environment throughout the DCU.

Policing with the Community launched

The year has seen the launch of Policing with the Community, a new style of policing designed to work through District Policing Partnerships.

Policing with the Community reflects the concept that the police exist to serve the community. Policing should therefore be community-centred and it should be effective and efficient in addressing problems.

An implementation plan issued to the Service identified five key principles - service delivery, problem solving, partnership, empowerment and accountability.

A public launch of the new policing concept was marked by an advertising campaign aimed at parents, urging them to be aware of their children's whereabouts and their activities.

Advertisements showed that young people and children causing a nuisance, endangering themselves and others, take up a lot of police

time which could be spent preventing and solving crime.

The initiative emphasised the role the community must play in policing Northern Ireland effectively and the message was simple, as citizens we all have rights, but we also have responsibilities.

Market research showed that the advertisements reached 60% of the population and that awareness was still high three weeks after the campaign ended.

One of the key delivery mechanisms for Policing with the Community is the District Policing Partnership (DPP) network set up by the Policing Board this year.

DPPs exist to:

- Provide views to the district commander on any matter concerning policing in the district
- Monitor the performance of the police in carrying out the local policing plan

- Obtain the views of the public about matters concerning the policing of the district
- Obtain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime
- Act as a general forum for discussion and consultation on matters affecting the policing of the district

The establishment of DPPs is a significant step forward in developing community policing. Each DPP has been appointed with the aim of making it representative of the population in its area. DPPs will work with the local DCU commander to establish local policing priorities and tackle issues of community concern.

The formation of DPPs is about local people shaping local policing, utilising partnerships to make communities safer and policing more effective.

There will be 26 DPPs throughout Northern Ireland and 25 are currently in place.

Helping young people Get Home Safe

The Get Home Safe campaign aimed to reduce the levels of alcohol related crime and reduce fear of crime for residents in South Belfast DCU.

The campaign was launched in the wake of a 40% rise in levels of alcohol related crime in the district, accounting for almost 20% of local crime. This may have been caused by the increased number of licensed premises opening in Belfast City Centre and the increase in the number of people coming into the area to socialise.



Get Home Safe combined a series of policing operations with a focused public information campaign.

A core group of partners came together to tackle the problem with South Belfast police. Active support came from Belfast City Council, the Federation of the Retail Licensed trade, Queen's University, the University of Ulster, Translink, Belfast City Centre Management and Victim Support, resulting in a series of initiatives to ensure that people continue to socialise in the city centre without fear of violence.

Initiatives organised as part of the campaign included:

- An evening radio link allowing premises to stay in touch and keep trouble makers out of bars and clubs;
- Training for bar staff and door supervisors;
- Strict enforcement of existing city by laws;
- The introduction into 70% of premises of toughened glasses which shatter into tiny pieces and do not cause injury;
- The introduction of a free night bus for students;
- The distribution of personal attack alarms;

- The introduction of three additional CCTV cameras in the district and
- An alcohol referral scheme offering counselling and help to those suffering from an alcohol abuse problem.

Police also focused resources at key locations, called 'hot spots', where problems recurred, challenging all inappropriate behaviour and responding with advice, warnings or arrests

They also developed a public information campaign aimed at 18-24 year olds, distributing literature at key locations, running newspaper, billboard and poster advertising campaigns. These themed campaigns encouraged people to think twice about getting involved in trouble, emphasised the consequences and reminded people to plan their safe journey home.

Following the Get Home Safe Campaign police recorded a:

- 19.2% reduction in assaults
- 33% fall in the number of serious assaults
- 20% fewer people with serious injuries seeking victim support

These figures equate to 263 fewer assaults in the three-month campaign and Home Office figures show that a single assault can cost £130,000 in police, hospital and legal terms. The potential savings have therefore exceeded £10million.

Partnership approach adopted by DCUs

The partnership approach central to the Policing with the Community ethos has been adopted with enthusiasm by District Command Units (DCUs).

By April this year, 105 neighbourhood policing teams had been set up and around 700 officers have been identified as community beat officers.

Training for neighbourhood policing teams got underway in January and by the beginning of April, 194 officers had been trained. This training will continue throughout the summer.

The benefits of adopting a proactive, problem-solving approach and working with local communities are already apparent.

Foyle DCU's eight sectors have solved 113 out of 175 identified local problems (64.5%). With ten community forums now well established there, all communities have the opportunity to work with police officers to resolve local issues. Progress has been made in relation to the number of outside agencies who now work in conjunction with the police.

A working committee comprised of police, the Department of the Environment, the city council and Eglinton Community Forum, was set up in Eglinton to establish a Community Alert Scheme in the village. Funding was obtained and plans for the scheme are forging ahead.

In Lisburn DCU, the number of reported minor crime incidents in the city centre was reduced through a dedicated two-officer team being deployed to work in conjunction with traders and the CCTV system. A strong ethos of partnership working has evolved both with the community and other statutory and voluntary agencies.

In Ballymoney DCU, officers have become involved with a number of projects in conjunction with local businesses, including the creation of a youth club for skateboarders who had been causing problems for traders and locals. They work closely with 18 community forums set up to serve the town and outlying rural communities.

In Coleraine DCU, talks with Translink resulted in free transport for officers in uniform to travel within the area in an attempt to reduce problems occurring on the trains and buses.

Closer working relationships with Customs and Excise to tackle the trade in illegal tobacco and fuel and with the Housing Executive to reduce the number of houses unlawfully

occupied are also bearing fruit and the development of a 'ringaround' scheme in conjunction with local businesses has succeeded in providing an early warning of gangs of shoplifters operating in the District.

Community officers in Cookstown DCU organised a Crimestoppers Day in the town, where local students worked with the charity and local police to promote the Crimestoppers number. As a follow-on from this, Crimestoppers later held their 'Say No And Phone' roadshow in the town to promote drugs awareness, an event attended by students from both local secondary schools.

Forty young people from the DCU area also attended 'Prison - Me, No Way!', an initiative involving police and prison officers. The young people were spoken to by prison officers about life behind bars with follow up visits to a prison where prisoners spoke to the young people in a bid to deter them from entering a life of crime. Foyle DCU was also involved in the initiative.

During the summer months a number of joint operations were conducted in Ballynahinch, part of Down DCU, by the District Council's enforcement officer and community police officers. Quantities of alcohol were recovered and there were a number of referrals to the Youth Diversion Officer. This initiative was aimed at reducing drinking in public and underage drinking and is hoped that long term will lead to a reduction in anti-social behaviour.

In Dungannon and South Tyrone DCU, where 40% of all officers are now involved in neighbourhood police teams, steps have been taken to distinguish these officers from colleagues involved in response policing.

A number of specially marked neighbourhood policing team vehicles have been introduced. After positive feedback from both police officers and the public, all neighbourhood police teams in the District will now have specially branded vehicles.

In August 2002, Larne DCU formed two community police teams, one based in Larne and one in Glenarm. These teams made an immediate impact and received a very positive response from the public. They tackled issues from youths causing annoyance to counterfeiting and drug offences. Large numbers of partnerships were established with local community groups, charities and statutory agencies. Current initiatives include working with local young people from both communities and throughout the DCU to carry out beach and graffiti clean ups. A basketball competition has also been arranged following a successful 5-a-side football tournament where over 30 teams participated.

A partnership approach by community police in Limavady DCU this year proved successful in dealing with assaults, criminal damage and drunkenness. The community police team also made an impact in the delivery of the Citizenship and Safety Education programme to schoolchildren and by helping set up of a number of community forums. There are now 18 forums in operation in the District with the emphasis on local people being assisted to address local problems.

Role of media recognised

The Police Service fully recognise the importance of the role the media can play in helping to tackle crime and reduce the fear of crime.

The Media and Public Relations Department continued to implement a proactive media policy through its 24 hour headquarters press desk in Belfast and regional press offices in Derry and Portadown.

More media professionals were recruited to fill vacant press officer posts previously held by police officers. These new press officers worked closely with their experienced police colleagues to answer more media queries, issue more press releases, set up more interviews and facilities and provide a more effective media monitoring service than ever before.

The Department also developed its role from dealing predominantly with media inquiries to performing a full range of public relations, public affairs and marketing functions. This was demonstrated by the use of television, radio and newspaper advertising to launch Policing with the Community.

Through the Communication, Marketing and Image (CMI) board, the Department has also developed an effective strategy for internal and external communication.

Newspapers and broadcasters were very supportive and throughout the year carried many interviews, photographs, films and appeals which helped the police.

DCUs were encouraged to develop positive working relationships with local media.

Dungannon and South Tyrone DCU commenced twice weekly briefings with the local press, giving the District a forum to effectively advise the public on crime trends, traffic issues and public safety matters. Public appeals are made within days of occurrences. The initiative has proved to be very beneficial.

A major media breakthrough was made in Foyle DCU when a local paper, The Derry Journal, agreed to publish the photographs of suspects from the CCTV footage of a large-scale disturbance in the city centre as part of our investigation.

Larne DCU, in association with two local papers, initiated a local Crimestoppers column. This was used to great effect to appeal for information and proved a useful crime prevention tool, raising public awareness of emerging issues in the DCU.

In Omagh, police officers participate in a bi-weekly spot on local radio where crime trends are highlighted and appeals are made for assistance in specific investigations. This is in addition to a weekly briefing on crime related matters with the two local newspapers.

East Belfast DCU instigated the inclusion of an 'On the Beat' column in the weekly Community Telegraph which serves the local area. The success of the column encouraged other DCUs to get involved and North Belfast, South Belfast, Castlereagh, North Down and Ards are now actively involved in supplying articles for similar columns in the editions of the Community Telegraph which cover their areas.

Carrickfergus DCU's community involvement officers arranged a press 'ride along' in February to highlight the challenges facing frontline officers in delivering an effective policing service.



Working with the community

Making Northern Ireland safer and enhancing the relationship between police and public is central to the role of the Community Involvement Branch.

Community Involvement Branch, in consultation with partner agencies, has developed a new Youth Diversion Scheme to deal with children and young people who offend or are at risk.

The main thrust is to ensure that an effective, proportionate policy is implemented across all of Northern Ireland to divert young people from offending. The Branch is also involved in Government led initiatives regarding youth diversion, which is of particular relevance in interface areas and those of social deprivation.

Consideration is being given to establishing youth forums in each District Command Unit to make the police aware of how policing is affecting youth in that area and work in partnership with officers for the good of the community.

Although unofficial, these partnerships

would be a sounding board for the official DPPs and police, providing a valuable insight into youth issues.

Community Involvement developed a new education programme in partnership with schools in Northern Ireland over the past year entitled Citizenship and Safety Education (CASE).

Each District Command Unit now has several police officers trained by Queen's University involving both St. Mary's and Stranmillis to deliver the programme in schools. The programme focuses on safety issues such as internet use, drug education, personal safety, citizenship and many others. The CASE programme compliments the Northern Ireland curriculum drafted by the Department of Education.

A website entitled UrZone will be launched in September 2003 where advice on safety and interactive learning packages will be available.

Managing firearms licensing and safe use of explosives

The Firearms and Explosives Branch is responsible for firearms licensing and managing the safe use of explosives.

At the end of the year under review there were 79,223 certificates for 142,757 firearms in Northern Ireland.

There are 56 registered firearms clubs using 57 approved ranges. There are 146 registered firearms dealers in the Province.

A total of 36,855 applications for firearm certificates were processed by the Firearms Licensing sub-branch, of which 2,682 were new and 7,852 sought to vary the existing holding. A total of 26,321 renewal applications were submitted.

In all, 324 applications were wholly refused, 36 partially refused and 119 revoked. Appeals were lodged with the Secretary of State

against the decision by the Chief Constable to refuse, revoke or amend certificates by 121 applicants. Twenty-five applied to have prohibition removed. Two of the appeals were allowed, 72 were refused. Decisions are awaited on the others. In the case of the 25 appeals against prohibition, one was removed and 16 were refused, while eight remain ongoing.

The Branch has also been working with consultants in the redesign of business processes which will be facilitated by the enactment by new firearms legislation and the introduction of new IT.

The Explosives sub-branch managed the safe use of explosives and has officers in all three Regions.

A total of 1,270 blast operations took place and 2,335 tonnes of explosives were used.

Authorisation was given for the use of 2,827 tonnes of controlled chemicals and 1,937 authorisations were issued for explosives for other purposes, including Hilti cartridges or powder for home-made ammunition.



Communication key to community safety

The dedicated community safety officer in North Down DCU has implemented a number of partnership initiatives over the past year.

The Evening Economy Pub Watch scheme aims to reduce the number of drink-related incidents in Bangor town centre. Door staff at local licensed premises have a radio link with local police which enables a swift and co-ordinated response to incidents of disorder.

A community information network, which uses computer technology to share information with interested parties, has also been introduced and is the first of its kind in Northern Ireland.

Partnership approach to protecting the vulnerable

Officers from Armagh DCU last year worked with Armagh and Dungannon Community Crime Alert to identify 119 vulnerable persons in the area.

Each person was then presented with a home security package, including door chains and peep holes, which were fitted free of charge by the Council.

Open day draws the crowds

An open day at Armagh police station drew more than 200 people in March.

District Commander Superintendent Bob Moore threw open the doors of the police station to give a number of presentations to secondary school pupils and members of the business community, voluntary and statutory groups.

District Policing Partnership (DPP) and Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) members received a briefing later that evening.

New airport response vehicle

East Belfast DCU took delivery of a new airport response vehicle to enhance the response to Belfast City Airport both for everyday policing duties and any aircraft emergency.

The vehicle, a 4x4 Mitsubishi Shogun, is the product of a partnership between the airport and the DCU which has been modified and

specially equipped for its role.

The Shogun will allow police to respond to any incident at the airport. It has a fully fitted integral armoury, amber neon lights to permit airside operations and air band communications giving direct links to both the airport control tower and Fire Service.

Crews have been trained in airside driving techniques by Belfast City Airport. A training programme has also been rolled out to make officers aware of powers and offences in respect of aircraft operations and aviation security.

New era dawns for policing of Lough Erne



The launch of the Lady Grey II heralded the dawn of a new era for policing Lough Erne.

The police launch Lady Grey has been replaced after 30 years of service on Lough Erne. A familiar sight on Lough Erne over the years, the Lady Grey has been retired and been superseded by a new 'state of the art' RIB (Rigid Inflatable Boat) sourced and built locally in Northern Ireland.

The vessel is 11 metres long, powered by two inboard 300 HP Yanmar turbo-diesel engines, and is capable of 39 knots in almost any sea-state. Fitted with a full cabin, it is equipped with the latest communications and navigational equipment, and is ideal for its new role as Fermanagh DCU's Command and Control platform for Lough Erne.

Along with their partners in HM Coastguard, who now have responsibility for search and rescue on Lough Erne, and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute, which has established the RNLI's first inland lifeboat station in the British Isles, police can now deploy officers to any incident on Lough Erne requiring a police response.

The new boat will assist greatly in the prevention and investigation of crime on the

Lough, and the enforcement of firearms, game and fisheries legislation. While the RNLI and the Coastguard are responsible for search and rescue, it remains a police responsibility to take possession of the remains of any deceased person, on behalf of the Coroner, and carry out a subsequent investigation into the death and Lady Grey II will also assist officers fulfil these duties.

Constables Andy Galloway and Gavin Huey, coxswains for the new boat, were sad to see the old Lady Grey retire. She served the police well over the years, and responded to many incidents, rescues and calls for assistance. They are both confident, however, that the new technology will fulfil the old traditions equally well, and the new Lady will soon be as familiar a sight on the Erne as her namesake.

Free telephone information facility

Dungannon and South Tyrone DCU launched a freephone information line last year in a bid to improve communication with the local public.

A four month pilot of the scheme got underway in December. Residents were invited to call the freephone number, which operated 24 hours a day, and select the area in which they lived from a range of options. They were then given information about crime and the partnership work being undertaken in this area to tackle the problems.

The information available was regularly updated by Sector Inspectors.

In a further bid to improve communication between police and public in the DCU, two computer controlled display boards were installed at Aughnacloy and Fivemiletown police stations. A further display board is to be sited at Coalisland.

Opening times of the stations, the freephone Crimestoppers number and a range of crime prevention advice is displayed on the boards. The boards, which have been very well received in the community, are centrally controlled from Clogher and the local Sector Inspector manages the system.

In partnership with the Borough Council, the DCU has also utilised a computer advertising facility in a local leisure centre. This allows police to advertise Crimestoppers and communicate the PSNI's 'Don't drink and drive' and crime prevention messages to a large number of people, including many teenagers.

Royal Humane Society awards for officers

A number of officers received Royal Humane Society awards for saving lives.

Constable Gordon Buchanan, from the Neighbourhood Unit in Omagh, and Constable Robert Ennis, who is stationed in Ballymena, were part of the United Kingdom contingent serving with the UN's International Police Task Force in Bosnia.

They were awarded bronze medals after rescuing an elderly woman and her disabled son from severe floods in a town called Sekovici.

Constable David Beattie saved a 19-year-old builder who had fallen into the River Erne in Enniskillen. Constable Beattie, who cannot swim, threw a coat to the drowning man to hold on to and pulled him out of the water. He was awarded a certificate of commendation.

Constable Gavin Huey and Reserve Constable Ian Gillespie of Enniskillen also carried out a daring river rescue. The officers were crewing one of two police boats providing cover to Portora Royal School's annual 'Head of the River' rowing event on the River Erne at Enniskillen last March.

Due to heavy rainfall preceding the event, the River Erne was in full spate, and a number of junior crews had been withdrawn due to strong currents. Nonetheless, this event was attended by almost 50 boat crews from all over Ireland.

One boat crew, Trinity College Dublin's novice eight, found themselves in difficulties whilst rowing upstream through Enniskillen's West Bridge. The boat was caught by the strong current, and with the rowers helpless to respond, the boat was swept against the central parapet of the bridge, the impact of which knocked most of the occupants into the water. The boat immediately folded around the parapet, in doing so trapping one crew member, who was caught by foot straps and unable to free himself. His plight was further endangered by water pouring over his head.

Constable Huey manoeuvred his police boat through the strong current while Reserve Constable Gillespie threw life preservers to crew who were being swept downstream by the current. Constable Huey brought the police boat alongside the stricken boat and Reserve Constable Gillespie managed to haul the trapped crew member out of the craft moments before the craft broke up and went under the water. They managed to lift seven other crew members out of the water, whilst a rescue boat from Portora Royal lifted the ninth member.

Constable Huey and Reserve Constable Gillespie received the Royal Humane Society Award last November.

Two Portrush officers also received major Royal Humane Society life-saving awards at the beginning of this year after rescuing a man from a cliff ledge in August.

Sgt Robert Blemmings and Inspector Paul Trotter, both based at Coleraine, were alerted by members of the public to a man in a suicidal state near cliffs on the Bushmills Road, Portrush. When they arrived the man jumped over a crash barrier located above a 40-foot slope ending in a sheer 100-ft drop onto rocks below.

Despite the two officers' best attempts to hold on to him, the man slid down the slope before coming to a halt on a small cliff ledge. Braving heavy rain and darkness, Sgt

Police officers are ordinary people doing an extraordinary job

Across Northern Ireland, officers put their lives at risk on a daily basis to protect members of the public. Their efforts often go unrecognised outside the Police Service and are regarded by the officers themselves as just part of the job. But each year there are those whose courage demands wider recognition. Some of their stories are told here.

Blemmings was lowered down to the man by rope and managed to secure him before coastguards hauled both back to safety.

The Royal Humane Society, which dates back to 1774, is one of Britain's oldest bravery awards organisations. Its medals and certificates are awarded at monthly interviews throughout the year to people who have risked their own lives to save someone else.

Fire bravery recognised

The bravery of two North Belfast officers who rescued a man from a burning flat was recognised with a national award.

Constable Kenneth Campbell and Reserve Constable Ken Fisher received certificates from the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire.

The drama began at around 4.30pm on July 13 last year when the officers were on their way to Newtownabbey police station. They were alerted to smoke billowing from a complex of flats in Merville Garden Village.

The fire, started by an unattended chip pan, was in a first floor flat. Unable to raise the tenant, and fearing for the safety of others, they forced the front door.

They were confronted with flames and thick black smoke. Having searched the flat, which was in almost total darkness, they located the occupant, a 52-year-old man, semi-conscious in the bedroom and brought him to safety.

R/Con Fisher went back into the building and, despite increasing smoke and fumes, directed the other residents to a safe place.

Both the occupant and his rescuers were taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation and kept overnight.

The blaze completely gutted the flat and others in the complex were smoke damaged.

The actions of Constable Campbell and Reserve Constable Fisher undoubtedly saved the life of the occupant and other residents.

John's a life saver

Lisburn Road Constable John Montgomery was nominated in the Daily Express Life Savers awards last year after saving a man who had been stabbed in a vicious street attack.

In November 2001, officers from Lisburn Road were called to an incident on the Ormeau Road in Belfast where a man was bleeding profusely from a wound to his right arm.

John, who is trained in public order first aid and a member of St John Ambulance, realised the man had a severed artery.

To stem the rapid blood loss, he placed his fingers over the artery and pinched the ends to stop the blood flow. While doing this, he

constantly reassured the casualty. When paramedics arrived, John accompanied the victim to hospital.

Recognising that his prompt actions had probably saved the man's life, the NI Ambulance Service recommended John's nomination for the awards.

Seven officers named in New Year Honours List



Seven officers with the Police Service of Northern Ireland were honoured by Her Majesty the Queen in the New Year Honours List.

They included the long-serving head of the Underwater Search Team, which was much praised for its work in the search for the missing Kilkeel fishing vessel the 'Tullagmurray Lass'; two detectives attached to North Region Crime Squad, including its head and a Larne Inspector who has driven forward significant community relations initiatives in the District.

Four officers were awarded the MBE - Acting Detective Chief Superintendent Mervyn Hood, Chief Inspector John Barr, Sergeant Elvin Leech and Detective Constable Paul Bennett.

Three were honoured with the Queen's Police Medal. They were Inspector Noel Lusty, Detective Sergeant Trevor Currie and Detective Sergeant John McIlveen.

Officers raise almost £10,000 for charity

Three officers from Strabane DCU raised almost £10,000 for charity over the past twelve months.

Constable David Pointon and colleagues Reserve Constables Karen McFetridge and Mal Hewitt raised the money for the Make a Wish Foundation and the John Parkhill Transplant Fund.

Constable Pointon also arranged for disposal orders to be made at court directing that considerable quantities of goods seized as part of pre-emptive policing operations within the DCU were handed to the Make a Wish Foundation.

Alan nominated as Police Officer of the Year

Reserve Constable Alan Bowes was nominated to represent the Service in the Community Police Officer of the Year awards scheme this year.

This nomination, endorsed by local residents, clergy, elected representatives and community associations in Castlereagh DCU, where Alan serves, generated an immense sense of pride in all of the officers within the District.

The selection process culminated in a gala night in London, with Home Secretary David Blunkett the keynote speaker.

Afterwards, Reserve Constable Bowes said: "This award is not only for me. It reflects the positive contribution made by all the officers in Castlereagh DCU"

Operation Santa launched to give kids a happy Xmas

Officers from West Belfast joined forces with two major stores in a race against time to make Christmas happy for six children through 'Operation Santa'.

The tale began when three thieves broke into a house in the Old Suffolk Road area of west Belfast just after three o'clock on Christmas morning. While the children, aged between three and twelve, slept upstairs the thieves confronted their mother and stole 'Santa's presents' of two bicycles, a Barbie scooter, roller blades and a sum of money from a handbag.

This was the sad scene that confronted officers. However, under the guidance of Sergeant Albert White they contacted the managers of Makro and Musgrave Cash and Carry who, despite being woken in the middle of the night, very generously agreed to replace the goods.

As a result Santa 'revisited' west Belfast and all the toys were in place by 6.30am. A member of the public made a donation and officers also chipped in to replace the cash taken from the woman's handbag.

Incredibly, the children slept through it all.

'No Offence Project' targets

Young people detected for drugs or alcohol related offences in Lisburn DCU area are now offered the chance to take part in a new scheme which aims to turn their lives around.

The 'No Offence Project' is aimed at those aged ten or over and under 18. Young people are referred to the scheme by police, with their consent. They spend two hours a week taking part in the project, lasting for six weeks.

This project is a partnership between ASCERT (Action of Substances through Community Education and Related Training), the police and the Down Lisburn Health Trust.

It aims to actively engage with young people, look at their current activities, the consequences of those activities and the alternatives available.

Typically, those referred are as a result of operations targeted at identified 'hot spots' throughout the DCU, utilising regular and part time officers and the Tutor Unit.

Mobile station hits the road

In March this year, Armagh DCU launched a mobile police station.

This fully functional trailer has so far been in operation in Richhill village and housing estates within Armagh City.

Over the coming months, the service will visit outlying villages and isolated communities. This service offers communities the opportunity to interact directly with officers, report incidents, produce documents and influence local policing priorities.

Rural Watch schemes launched

The first rural watch scheme in Northern Ireland was launched by Banbridge DCU last year at Magherally.

The success of the project led to the creation of similar schemes in Gilford, Laurencetown and Scarva and prompted interest from other District Command Units.

Police from Armagh DCU worked with the district council and the local Community Police Liaison Committee to launch a rural watch scheme in Loughgall.

A rural watch scheme initiated in the Dundrod area by neighbourhood policing team officers from Lisburn DCU is also progressing well with a pyramid system in place for disseminating relevant crime information in the local area.

The team have devised personal business cards which carry the Crimestoppers and auto crime hotline number. Beat officers have also devised various information leaflets for distribution to local community groups regarding issues of local interest.

Rural watch scheme members work with police to increase awareness of crime prevention and promote community support.

High visibility signage is erected to deter criminals and to reassure members of the community.

Stranger danger message to pupils

Primary One students within Armagh DCU received a free lunchbox adorned with a 'Stranger Danger' message last September.

The free gift was accompanied by a talk from a constable in the District's Community Involvement Team.

Operation Socialise tackles town centre disorder

An increase in public disorder and assaults within Ballymena town centre led to the launch of Operation Socialise.

The Operation was the brainchild of Sector Commander for Ballymena South Inspector Kevin Hayes, working closely with local residents and community leaders.

Uniform beat officers provided a high visibility policing presence in hotspot areas, greeting young people in a friendly manner as they arrived at town centre nightspots. To support the uniformed officers, a Tactical Support Group team in full public order uniform was located at a discreet distance from the area as back up should serious disorder occur.

An officer from the DCU's crime team was placed in the local CCTV suite run by the Borough Council to assist with the identification of offenders.

Local journalists were also involved in the Operation, attending briefings and going out on patrol with officers to highlight the problem and the steps being taken by police to address the issue.

The Operation led to the strengthening of relationships with local licensees and demonstrated how effective approach to policing disorder can be.

Prison policing role for Lisburn officers

Lisburn DCU's Operational Planning team worked closely with Maghaberry Prison to train officers for deployment to the jail should the need arise.

The training proved its worth when officers were called upon to run the prison on three occasions due to industrial action by staff. Officers implemented procedures as they had been trained and all three occasions passed without incident



Resolving community tensions in Magherafelt

At the end of the marching season last year, around 50 union flags and Ulster flags, along with placards advertising various paramilitary groups, were still on display in Magherafelt DCU.

This caused considerable unrest among residents and traders from both sides of the community. However, people were reluctant to get involved.

Local community police initiated a number of informal meetings with interested parties and mediated between the differing factions. This initiative resulted in the removal of the flags by those responsible for erecting them.

Serious disorder continues to strain police resources

Public disorder continued to put a severe strain on finite police resources over the past year.

Problems were at their worst in Belfast, although areas such as Craigavon and Londonderry also suffered.

In North Belfast DCU, the Ardoyne Road, the Whitewell Road and the Limestone Road proved to be regular flashpoints for rival factions.

At one stage during the early summer, interface clashes were almost nightly occurrences. Policing these disturbances resulted in 19 officers being injured.

The North Belfast DCU command team, supported by sector policing teams and Community Involvement Branch officers worked hard on the ground to get communities to take responsibility for their actions with some positive results.

The ongoing public disorder eventually led to the erection and deployment of 21 closed circuit television cameras (CCTV) across the DCU at interface points.

The cameras have been an effective deterrent and have also enabled police to monitor the situation and identify people involved in public disorder.

A public order enquiry team was established in order to bring those identified as being involved before the courts. This team, working

in conjunction with the CCTV team and DCU personnel, was responsible for bringing upwards of 90 people to court.

The introduction of the cameras and the proactive approach adopted towards investigation and prosecution reduced the incidence of public disorder across the whole DCU during the latter part of the year.

In East Belfast, cameras were also deployed to assist officers policing flashpoint areas. A new CCTV system was introduced in the DCU area this February to provide an early warning of disorder at interfaces.

In Craigavon DCU, improved community

relations helped to ensure less disorder than has been experienced in recent years. The worst of the disorder came on Drumcree Sunday, when over 30 officers were injured and 30 people arrested. The remainder of the Drumcree period was relatively trouble free and the Eleventh night bonfire at Edgarstown passed off without disorder for the first time in 30 years.

Disorder remained a problem for police responding to incidents in the north Lurgan area, however, and continues to make it difficult for officers to provide a full policing service to the local community.



Co-ordinated response to disorder and major events

Planning and preparing for the public order problems associated with the summer marching season requires a partnership approach.

The Headquarters-based Operational Policy and Support Branch works closely with regions and district commands to ensure a co-ordinated approach to planning for not only anticipated public disorder but all major events throughout Northern Ireland.

The Branch is responsible for ensuring that the needs of the Police Service are met in respect of training, equipment, command and control and logistical support.

In the past twelve months, it has been involved in the co-ordination of the joint police and military operation to provide fire cover to the province during the industrial action by the Fire Brigade Union.

Planning for emergencies and disasters also forms an integral part of the Branch's work.

Contingency plans and the provision of effective training and equipment for responding to major emergencies are kept constantly under review.

During the course of the year significant progress was also made in discussions with police colleagues in An Garda Siochana in relation to the management of disaster planning on the land border.

Since the terrorist attacks on New York in September 2001, there has been a significant world-wide concentration on the potential dangers of such incidents.

Operational Policy and Support Branch staff have been engaged in developing protocols and operating procedures, in close partnership with other emergency services and Government departments, around the management of major disasters of this nature should they ever occur in Northern Ireland.

More recently, the Branch has played a co-

ordinating role in respect of preparations for the conflict with Iraq and the potential consequences both here and in the rest of the United Kingdom.

While preparing for an increased international terrorist threat, the Branch has also been engaged in a critical examination of security arrangements within Northern Ireland as part of the ongoing process of 'normalisation'.

Crucial role of TSGs

A crucial role in policing serious public disorder is played by the PSNI's Tactical Support Groups (TSGs).

There are 22 TSGs across Northern Ireland, with eight in both Belfast and North Region and six in South Region. A typical TSG consists of one inspector, five sergeants and 25 constables.

TSGs are to the forefront of policing contentious parades and protests, protecting the community at volatile interfaces, quelling serious sporadic and orchestrated violence and street disorder.

But they are multi-skilled groups and provide specialist support to District Command Units in search, surveillance, crime reduction operations and community safety initiatives. They also assist detectives with major crime scene provide expert assistance in firearms incidents.

North Region TSGs adopted a robust approach to public order incidents in Strabane, working with local officers and other agencies to effect 78 arrests for offences ranging from indecent to riotous behaviour. Ninety-six people were also reported for on street drinking.

Protection of officers and public top priority

Ensuring the safety of officers and the public is a top priority of the Police Service.

As the environment within which the police service operates continues to change, so too must the procedures, policies and methods of operating. Significant changes have been made in a number of areas over the past twelve months.

To reduce the number of officers injured while policing serious public disorder, the Operational Policy and Support Branch has been involved in the purchase of six water cannons.

The first four of these are expected to arrive in Northern Ireland before the summer. Policy guidelines in respect of the use of the cannons are being developed.

The PSNI has also been authorised to proceed with the purchase of new personal protection weapons. In the financial year 2003/2004, the roll out of training and the issue of Glock guns will commence. This process will take three years to complete.

Officers are also to be equipped with CS incapacitant spray, which is widely used by police forces in the rest of the United Kingdom.

The Operational Policy and Support Branch has been involved in work to improve the level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) available to operational officers. All public order units are currently being issued with new sets of PPE.

All of these issues are part of the Service's wider strategy relating to the management of conflict.

Major drive to reduce road deaths

Northern Ireland has one of the highest levels of road deaths and serious injuries in the United Kingdom.

In the year under review, 158 people were killed – five up on the previous year.

This is a situation which is unacceptable to the Police Service. It is also unacceptable to the community it serves.

Therefore, policing the Province's roads remains a Service priority.

The focus is on working in partnership not only with government, through the Departments of Environment and Regional Development, but also with the private and voluntary sectors and community groups.

Road policing in Northern Ireland centres on the three 'Es' – education, enforcement and engineering. These are also the underlying themes of the Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy 2002 – 2012 published by the DoE in November 2002, and which had been endorsed fully by the Police Service. The strategy aims at significant reductions in the number of killed and seriously injured over the next ten years through the partnership approach.

Road safety education is targeted at specific vulnerable groups to reduce their likelihood of becoming victims of road crashes. For example, the Roadsafes Roadshow – an initiative by Urban (Belfast) Road Policing Command Unit – has now been seen by 10,000 sixth form students on both sides of the Border. It depicts graphically how a night out can end in tragedy. The story is told by a police officer, a paramedic, a fire officer, a doctor, a representative of victim

support groups and a young man who was paralysed in a collision. The Roadshow, which during the year under review picked up the prestigious Prince Michael of Kent International Road Safety Award, now provides the basis for a video and teaching pack.

With concerns about the increase in deaths amongst motorcyclists, the Bikesafe initiative was launched in conjunction with Honda UK. Motorcyclists are given a talk about proper maintenance and handling and are then offered an 'assessed ride-out' by a police motor cyclist.

The Service's commitment to enforcement was brought into sharp relief with Operation Viper launched in February. More than 5,500 people were detected or reported for traffic offences in what was one of the largest single initiatives mounted by Road Policing Command Units. They were supported by colleagues in District Command Units and Tactical Support Groups. Those detected included 156 for drink driving, 1,900 for speeding and 1,000 for not wearing seatbelts. Further phases of Operation Viper will be staged on a random basis. The robust approach was also reflected in the annual winter and summer anti-drink driving campaigns and the policy decision to move from a practice of mainly giving advice and warning to those not wearing seatbelts to one of mainly issuing fixed penalty notices. All drivers involved in a collision, no matter how slight, to which police officers are called are breath tested.



Both the anti-drink driving and seatbelt campaigns – along with one targeted at pedestrians – were supported by high impact DoE advertisements which were used on television and in cinemas both in Northern Ireland and the Republic. This reflects the ongoing co-operation between the Police Service of Northern Ireland and An Garda Síochána.

When it comes to the 'engineering' aspect of road safety, the Police Service liaises closely with the Department for Regional Development where appropriate on road engineering solutions to roads identified to have high risks of collisions.

With speed the cause of one in four of all road deaths in the Province, police continue to deploy mobile speed cameras in support of a

range of other speed detection devices. During the year the Police Service tested three different types of fixed 'safety' cameras for the Home Office. It is intended to roll out a programme of installing these devices at sites across Northern Ireland which have a high incidence of speed or red light running. Similar schemes in England and Wales have shown a considerable reduction in the number of people killed or injured at camera sites.

The Police Service is committed to continue to work in partnership with all of the stakeholders who have an interest in road safety – including the broader community – and to keep pace with technological developments which could make the roads of Northern Ireland safer for all.

Fewer collisions but more deaths on roads

There were fewer injury road traffic collisions in Northern Ireland in the past twelve months but tragically more people were killed on the roads than in the previous year.

A total of 158 people died as a result of road traffic collisions, five more than in 2001/02.

Fifteen of the 158 fatalities were children, three more than in 2001/02. Sixty-two (39.2%) of those killed were drivers, 43 (27.2%) were passengers, 26 (16.5%) were pedestrians and 21 (13.3%) were motorcyclists – nine (75.0%) more than in the previous year.

The number of people killed or injured on Northern Ireland's roads decreased by 1,057 (8.4%) to 11,546. There was also a fall in the number of people seriously injured (down 9.2% to 1,487) and in those slightly injured (down 8.4% to 9,901).

In addition to the 15 child fatalities, a further 173 children were seriously injured and 1,248 slightly injured. Comparing 2002/03 with 2001/02 the number of children killed or injured on the roads decreased by 92 (6.0%) to 1,436.

During this period, 6,569 injury road traffic collisions occurred, a decrease of 564 (7.9%) compared with the previous year.

Drivers were the single largest casualty class, accounting for half of the total. They were followed by passengers (36.2%), pedestrians (7.5%), motorcyclists (4.1%) and pedal cyclists (1.5%). More than two thirds (68.9%) of child casualties were passengers and a further 23.4% were pedestrians.

The most common causes of injury collisions in 2002/03 were 'inattention' (1,359 collisions), 'emerging from a minor road/driveway without care' (831) and 'excessive speed' (801).



Bike patrol to reduce crashes

A dedicated motorcycle officer was appointed by Ballymoney DCU in December in a bid to reduce the number of road collisions.

The officer's primary role is to maintain a high profile on the A26 between Ballymoney and Ballymena, a busy road with a high number of accidents.

The role has been warmly welcomed by the local council and has already achieved results.

Positive action in Cookstown

Over 85% of drivers involved in road collisions which result in injuries are now being breath tested in Cookstown DCU.

Officers have also significantly increased the number of people who are breath tested after being involved in other traffic offences.

This has led to a noticeable increase in the number of people arrested under drink driving legislation. Enforcement has been coupled with education, resulting in a reduction in the number of people killed and seriously injured on the DCU's roads.

Pupils take part in poster competition

Over 370 P7 pupils in Down DCU took part in a poster competition designed to raise awareness of road safety issues relevant to their age group.

Judging by the high standard of imagination and artwork displayed, it was clear that the young people had absorbed important messages about road safety.

Education was backed up by enforcement, with local police working alongside the Road Policing officers.

Over 250 preliminary breath tests were conducted in the DCU, an increase of 31% on the previous year. There were 61 positive tests, an increase of 74% on the previous year. Local police issued 167 endorsable fixed penalty notices, of which 139 were for speeding, and 162 non endorsable fixed penalty notices, 85 of which were for seat belt offences. Road Policing officers issued 220 endorsable fixed penalty notices, 213 of which were for speeding, and 97 non endorsable fixed penalty notices, of which 85 were seat belt offences.

Given this success, further operations between motorcyclists and local police are planned.

SID bids to stop speeding

Larne DCU has recently taken delivery of 'SID' or Speed Indication Device. This is a large portable sign which displays a driver's speed as they approach. This is the first of these items to be employed by any DCU in Northern Ireland and it is hoped that this will help to reduce speeding and therefore casualties on the DCU's roads.

Operation Raker Breaker

Operation Raker Breaker was an initiative launched by Magherafelt DCU to target bad driving in the Draperstown area.

Analysis and research was carried out to establish times of offending and those involved. A process of education was then advanced with school visits, leaflets being distributed at vehicle checkpoints and local businesses displaying posters.

This was backed up by enforcement, which resulted in 96 detections for driving offences over the two months of the operation.

The entire operation received the support of local press throughout, and police received a number of letters of appreciation from local people.

New roads policing unit in Newtownabbey

Newtownabbey DCU launched its own Road Policing Investigation Unit last September.

The Unit initially consisted of four officers with a primary role in the investigation of all road traffic collisions in the DCU between 7am and 7pm. The officers also act as a back up to the response vehicles and provide valuable assistance in emergency situations.

The Unit is actively involved in the detection of motoring offences and is equipped with speed detection equipment. Officers in the unit work closely with the Road Policing Officers, DVLO and HM Customs officers and joint operations have been planned.

The Unit currently deals with well over 50% of all road traffic collisions in Newtownabbey and was recently expanded from four to six officers.

Fighting forecourt crime

A number of local service station proprietors in North Down DCU have come together with the police to create a garage forecourt watch scheme.

A radio link enables those involved to share information in a bid to reduce the number of bilkings and robberies. The system can also be used to alert police and other members of the system of suspicious vehicles.

A number of other DCUs, including Lisburn, also adopted the scheme.

Fingerprint success



Research in Lisburn DCU has been carried out over the past twelve months regarding outstanding fingerprint identification.

Over 40 crimes, ranging from robbery to burglaries, were identified where fingerprints had been found. These were researched and actioned. This resulted in over 40 people being arrested, 34 of whom were later charged.

Beating business crime

Consultation with members of the local business community in Lisburn DCU identified problems with criminal damage, theft and disorder.

As a result of discussions with business representatives, crime hot spots not covered by CCTV were identified. A high profile policing approach was adopted to target the problem, with beat officers used to patrol the area and give appropriate crime prevention advice to traders.

As well as receiving positive feedback from traders and members of the public in Lisburn, business people also reported a reduction in the number of public order offences and incidents of criminal damage in the area.

Focus on building site thefts

An increase in thefts from newly completed houses on building sites in Banbridge DCU led to the launch of a new initiative.

Officers were required to visit all building sites in their areas, making contact with the building contractor and asking them to notify the District's crime prevention officer every time there was a large delivery of fittings or fixtures.

This information was disseminated at briefings to all patrols so that they knew when to pay particular attention to the sites. Army patrols were also requested to keep an eye on the sites.



Clearing up more crime

A total of 142,496 offences were recorded during 2002/03 compared with 139,786 in 2001/02. This represents an increase of 1.9%. The overall clearance rate was 23.0%, 2.9 percentage points higher than that achieved in the previous year.

On 1st April 2002 a new National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) was introduced by the Home Office with the dual aim of promoting greater consistency between police forces in relation to crime recording and to ensure a more victim oriented approach to the recording of crime. Whilst the NCRS became a requirement during 2002/03, its main objectives were largely met within the PSNI during 2001/02 through the improved effectiveness in crime recording that resulted from the introduction of the Integrated Crime Information System (ICIS).

Theft, criminal damage and burglary offences accounted for more than two thirds (68.2%) of all recorded crime, a decrease of 1.7% compared with the previous year. During this period

burglary offences increased by 1,516 (8.8%) and thefts by 191 (0.5%), whereas criminal damage offences decreased by 3,382 (down 8.5%).

Violent crime (offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery) accounted for 22.8% of all recorded crime. Comparing 2001/02 with 2002/03, the number of violent crimes increased by 2,664 or 9.0%. This overall increase was reflected in varying degrees across each of the three component offence classes of robbery (12.4%), offences against the person (9.0%) and sexual offences (2.7%).

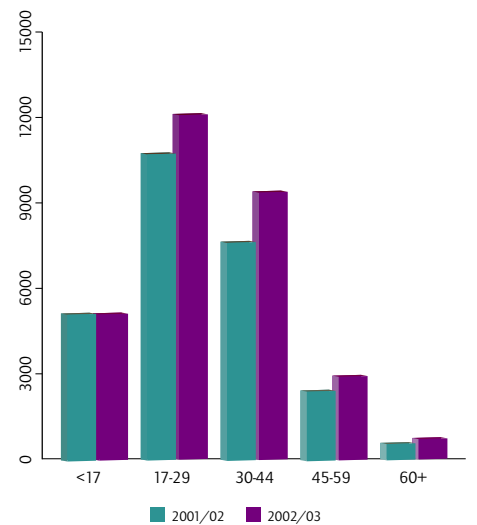
In relation to vehicle offences, thefts from motor vehicles increased by 556 (8.4%) while offences of vehicle tampering/interference increased by 3,071 (137.8%). In contrast the number of 'theft/unauthorised taking' offences decreased by 3,225 (down 27.7%). The figures relating to these last two offence types are somewhat misleading as in April 2002 a change in the rules for recording crime meant that most crimes previously recorded as attempted 'theft/unauthorised taking' of a vehicle are now recorded as vehicle tampering/interference. Hence the decrease in the former is matched by a similar level of increase in the latter.

Substantive offences of 'theft/unauthorised taking' of a motor vehicle (i.e. where the vehicle was actually taken or stolen as opposed to attempts being made to do so) were unaffected by the change in crime recording and therefore present a more meaningful indication of changes in the level of this type of crime. Such offences decreased by 688 (down 7.6%) from 9,005 in 2001/02 to 8,317 in 2002/03.

In general, those crimes where the offender tends to be more readily identified (e.g. certain

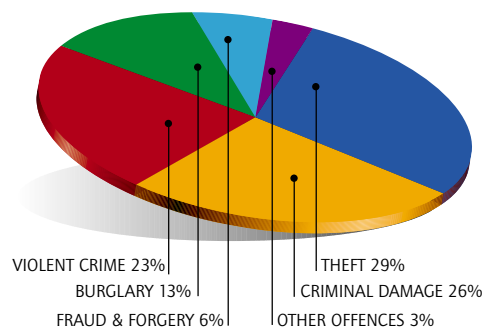
Age profile of Violent Crime Victims: 2001/02 - 2002/03

(excludes those where the age of victim is unknown or the crime has no victim)



violent offences) or where police knowledge of the crime directly identifies the offender (e.g. drug offences) tend to have higher clearance rates associated with them. During 2002/03 a total of 32,806 offences were cleared giving an overall clearance rate of 23.0%. Across offence type, clearance rates were highest for 'other notifiable offences' (67.4%) - which include drug offences, followed by offences against the person (51.4%) and sexual offences (46.6%). Conversely, they were lowest for burglary (9.9%), criminal damage (13.0%), robbery (13.4%) and theft (14.0%) offences.

Recorded Crime by Offence Class:2002/03



High profile cases solved

A number of high profile investigations reached a successful conclusion over the past year

Labour intensive murder investigations led to the conviction and imprisonment of those responsible for a number of horrific killings.

It took two years for the suspects in a murder investigation in County Fermanagh to be finally found guilty last year. Enniskillen man Gerald McGinley was violently murdered in August 2000, although his body was not found until ten months later.

The victim's wife, Julie McGinley, and her lover Michael Monaghan went on trial for the murder in September 2001 and were found guilty in December 2002. The father-of-two was killed because he was considered an "impediment" to the affair between his wife and Monaghan, who planned and executed the horrific murder together.

Another love triangle in County Down resulted in the brutal murder of Paul Gault, a father of triplets, who was found beaten to death at his Lisburn home in May 2000.

A month later, firefighter Neil Graham was charged with the brutal murder and in December 2002 he was found guilty and is now serving a life sentence. Lesley Gault, the wife of the murdered man, was found guilty after a retrial in March 2003 for her part in the slaying.

The scourge of car crime remained at the forefront of the news during the last year with a particularly emotive case. Fifteen-year-old Debbie McComb from west Belfast was mowed down by a stolen car on the Springfield Road in



March 2002.

A rigorous police investigation produced the evidence that led to the conviction of 20-year-old Henry Christopher Marley almost a year later for dangerous driving causing death. Marley was jailed for a total of twelve years.

Northern Ireland has witnessed many paramilitary killings and last year saw justice being done in the controversial case of loyalist killer Clifford McKeown. McKeown was convicted of murdering 31-year-old Catholic taxi driver Michael McGoldrick, in Aghagallon almost seven years ago. McKeown was jailed for a minimum of 24 years, for what Mr Justice Weatherup described as the "chilling execution".

In June 2002, a major police operation was launched in Mallusk, Co. Antrim, when a 16-year-old was kidnapped from his home in Belfast and a ransom of £100,000 demanded from his family.

Several hundred officers were involved in a massive covert surveillance operation, which extended across the Newtownabbey, Belfast and Downpatrick areas. Almost six days later police secured the release of the kidnap victim. Within a few hours, five people had been arrested. Within a week, four men were charged with kidnapping and blackmail and in February 2003, two other men were also arrested and charged with kidnapping and blackmail.

Fake goods worth millions seized by police

Significant successes against organised crime

Significant successes in the fight against serious and organised crime have been achieved over the past twelve months. Officers, working alongside their colleagues in the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF), have helped seize:

- almost £7 million worth of fake designer clothing, CDs, videos, computer games and software – more than all other UK police services combined;
- over £11 million pounds worth of illicit drugs, compared with under £7 million in the same period last year, and
- over £750,000 worth of counterfeit notes and coins, an increase of 110% on the year before.

The Task Force includes the Northern Ireland Office, Customs and Excise, the National Criminal Intelligence Service, Home Office, Inland Revenue and other government agencies. Working together, they have shown that real progress can be made against organised crime networks.

Speaking at an awareness evening aimed at increasing public knowledge of the Task Force's work, Chief Constable Hugh Orde said: "Society needs to realize that buying cheap fuel or fake designer labels may seem like getting a bargain, but ultimately the money could be funding terrorist operations and putting legitimate retailers out of business.

"We are under no illusions there are any quick fix solutions available, but we firmly believe that we can work together to stamp out the problem."

During the year, over £1 million worth of illegal and counterfeit goods were seized within Ards DCU alone.



In the lead up to Christmas, Police seized goods worth more than £500,000 as a result of raids at Jonesboro, Nutts Corner, Newtownards and Dundrum markets. Counterfeit goods worth £160,000 were recovered during searches at St. George's Market in Belfast.

At the beginning of March, police from Armagh DCU discovered a fuel laundering plant at Moy Road, Armagh. Along with the equipment used in the laundering of fuel, 16,000 litres of fuel were seized. This plant was capable of producing 50,000 litres of fuel a week, which would have amounted to £1 million fraud in lost revenue.

Officers from Armagh DCU also recovered two vehicles believed involved in road fuel excise offences later that month in a yard near Armagh. One of the Volvo box vans had a mobile fuel laundering plant on board. The other van had ten pods of fuel aboard and pumping equipment. The estimated annual output was some 2,400,000 litres.

Last August, officers disrupted a major counterfeiting operation in Newtownabbey DCU when £250,000 worth of fake notes were

recovered together with printing and copying equipment. Notes believed to have been produced at this facility prior to its disruption have been recovered from all over Europe – an indication of the increasingly international aspect to the problems which police face locally.

A search of premises on the Ballyclare Road, Newtownabbey, last May uncovered the largest counterfeiting operation ever discovered in Northern Ireland. A total of £280,000 of counterfeit CDs, videos, DVDs and Playstation games were recovered along with various computers and other machinery used in their production.

In August, police searched premises at Vaddegan Road, Glengormley, and recovered computers, £300,000 in forged bank notes and five rounds of ammunition. Two arrests were made at the scene.

There were also a number of significant seizures of contraband cigarettes. Three hundred thousand were recovered by Police and Customs officers at Belfast International Airport last October. They had been brought into the country from Spain and the Canary Islands.

Department driving the war on crime forward

Crime Department works at the heart of the OCTF to tackle armed robbery, drugs, extortion, counterfeit products, money laundering and illegal immigration.

Working on its own and in conjunction with key national and international agencies, Crime Department has inflicted considerable damage on a number of organised crime enterprises.

Attacking the wallets of the major criminals is a key focus of the Police Service's attempts to take the incentive out of crime. Crime Department's ability to investigate financial fraud and money laundering and increasing success in winning financial confiscation and restraint orders in the courts will be significantly enhanced as the working relationship with the newly founded Assets Recovery Agency blossoms.

Much of the Department's success derives from the patient application of routine detective work but, increasingly, there have been significant successes arising from the raw courage of surveillance and undercover officers who put themselves in harm's way to put criminals out of the way in prison, where they belong.

Considerable advances are being made in various other areas of work, especially scientific support. Automated Finger Print Recognition (AFPR) and developments in DNA profiling techniques are adding greatly to the PSNI's investigative capability.

With so many godfathers of terrorism also criminal gangsters, Special Branch - an integral part of Crime Department - remains at the cutting edge of intelligence-led operations.

During the year, over four thousand actionable intelligence reports led to a range of important arrest, seizure and disruption operations against key terrorist and criminal targets. Significantly, there was a sharp increase in the level of intelligence reports indicating threats to the lives of individuals leading to exhaustive efforts by officers to warn those concerned.

A vital component of Crime Department is the award-winning Analysis Centre, which provides a crime, incident and operational policing analysis service aimed at supporting front-line activity. The Analysis Centre last year won a prestigious National Training Award (NTA) for its unique training and development programme for crime and intelligence analysts.

Fifty-six analysts have been deployed throughout the organisation, working at district and headquarter levels, to provide key reports, briefs and other material to drive and support operational activity in respect of high volume crimes such as vehicle theft and burglary and to support the work of the Drugs Squad, Serious Crime Squad, Economic Crime Bureau, the Organised Crime Task Force and Road Policing.

Crime Department also contributes significantly to the development of policy and legislation in respect of such issues as special measures for vulnerable and intimidated witnesses, schemes for victims of crimes, bail reform, child abuse and rape enquiry, and preparations for the introduction of the new Public Prosecutions Service.

Despite their achievements this year, the Department is undertaking work to improve its operational crime-fighting capabilities. Structure and resourcing is currently being examined to ensure that Crime Department is best able to match the criminal threat in all its guises and the ground-breaking methods and approaches of the National Intelligence Model are being introduced to underpin a more focused and clinical attack on crime and criminality.

Police ACT to reduce vehicle theft

Vehicle theft has fallen across Northern Ireland over the past twelve months

The creation of a dedicated Auto Crime Team (ACT) by West Belfast and Lisburn DCUs made a significant contribution to an impressive reduction and other DCUs such as North Belfast soon followed suit in setting up such teams.

Vehicle related crime has long been recognised as a priority within West Belfast DCU, with 7.5% of all vehicles stolen in Northern Ireland being stolen in West Belfast and 20% of all stolen vehicles recovered in Northern Ireland being found in West Belfast.

The ACT team is comprised of one sergeant and three constables from Lisburn and six constables from West Belfast.

The team had an immediate effect, securing the arrests of over 200 suspected offenders within its first eight months of operation.

Despite this success, it was recognised that a long-term reduction in car crime could only be achieved with the support and co-operation of others.

The auto crime team have developed a close partnership with IMPACT, a multi-agency project consisting of the Probation Service, Social

Services and community representatives. They have engaged with their local community directly through leafletting campaigns, contact with schools, local clergy and the Families Bereaved Through Car Crime group, establishing a 24-hour hotline (028 9061 0202) for those wishing to provide information regarding car crime in the area.

As part of this inclusive approach, the motivation of the offender was also considered. Anyone arrested in relation to car crime is

provided with a comprehensive information pack providing details of organisations that offer advice, support and education. It is hoped that encouraging engagement with these groups may lead to a reduction in the number who re-offend.

Research is ongoing to come up with alternative methods of combating auto crime. The use of decoy vehicles and so-called 'rat trap' devices to assist in stolen and ringer vehicle surveillance operations are among the ideas under consideration.



Members of the ACT team which has achieved great success since its creation.

Arrests after armed robberies

A rise in the number of robberies with firearms over the past twelve months continues to cause police concern.

There were 676 armed robberies during 2002/2003, higher than in recent years.

However, the amount stolen in this financial year was down on the previous year approximately £3 million compared to £7.4 million in 2001/2002.

Officers thwarted a number of robbery bids.

Swift action by uniform and CID officers led to the arrest of four people after an armed robbery at a bank in Tandragee last October. Money and a firearm were also recovered.

In Craigavon, three people were arrested after an armed robbery at local shops in Magheralin. A 9mm pistol and ammunition were recovered.

Last June, a man was arrested after a robbery involving three men on the Buncrana Road in Londonderry. The man was later charged with attempted robbery and causing an explosion.

In July, three masked and armed men carried out a robbery at Pennyburn Credit Union on the Greenhaw Road in Derry. Tactical Support Group (TSG) officers were on the scene within minutes and pursued the armed gang. One of their crew was rammed twice by the getaway vehicle. The police officers in the first pursuit vehicle fired two shots. One man was arrested and a sum of money recovered.

The TSG then surrounded a house where the robbery gang had taken refuge and a hostage situation developed. Specially trained officers gained entry and arrested six people, recovering a firearm and a sum of money. Four people were subsequently charged in connection with the incident.

Massive policing operation at Fair

The annual Auld Lammas Fair last August involved a massive policing operation by Moyle DCU to ensure public safety and prevent crime.

The planting of a potentially lethal car bomb at last year's fair necessitated a high level of security, but traffic congestion was kept to the minimum.

Police conducted an operation at last year's Fair in conjunction with the Organised Crime Task Force and other agencies to thwart the sale of counterfeit goods after complaints from traders and members of the public.

This year's operation resulted in the seizure of counterfeit goods with an estimated street value of £400,000.

Good neighbours unite against crime

The introduction of 'Good Neighbour Schemes' in Portaferry and Cloughy, in partnership with the local council and the NI Housing Executive, is a new initiative introduced by Ards DCU to reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Bi-weekly 'surgeries' held in Comber and Ballygowan also give local people the opportunity to discuss local concerns with police officers. These have proved to be very successful for those who do not want to formally call at the local Police station.

Caught on camera!

CCTV has proved successful as both a deterrent and a detection tool in many areas across Northern Ireland.

In Coleraine DCU, the introduction of CCTV reduced crime within the town centre. Following this success, the scheme is being introduced to Portrush town centre.

CCTV was introduced to Foyle DCU in December 2001. The scheme brought together a wide variety of external agencies working closely with police officers to reduce crime and fear of crime in Derry city centre.

To date, there has been a significant reduction in the number of assaults in the city centre and it would appear the CCTV cameras are acting as a deterrent to potential criminals. Encouragingly, there is no evidence to suggest that crime has been displaced to other areas.

As a result, more CCTV cameras have been requested in flashpoint areas.

Their worth was proved when a gang of youths went on a rampage in Derry city centre at the beginning of December, assaulting anyone they encountered. Although no complaints were made by members of the public, CCTV footage of the incident allowed a dedicated enquiry team to make a number of arrests for assault offences, disorderly

behaviour and failing to give information.

The University sector within South Belfast DCU, in partnership with licensees and traders, introduced three new CCTV sites to the South Belfast Scheme this year. These cameras are in crime and public order hotspots and were facilitated by £53,000 of private sector funding.

In partnership with South Belfast DCU, Belfast City Hospital introduced a unique slave link integrating the hospitals CCTV system and radio link into the Musgrave Street CCTV control room.

This initiative was as a direct result of the increased verbal and physical attacks being

experienced by doctors and nurses both within and surrounding the hospital's accident and emergency department. This partnership permits police access to 18 specific cameras and assists in determining the appropriate police response, identifying offenders and in reducing the fear of attack experienced by members of the medical profession.

In East Belfast DCU area, a partnership with the Odyssey Trust security provided three CCTV cameras which are monitored from Strandtown police station. These cameras, backed up by a number of police operations, have greatly assisted officers dealing with car theft at the complex.



Moving forward in dealing with domestic violence

The way in which the police deal with domestic violence is currently under review.

A new domestic violence policy has been drafted by Community Involvement Branch. Work is also at an advanced stage to create a computer database of domestic incidents, which will enable police to be proactive in identifying vulnerable and repeat victims.

A number of DCUs have come up with innovative ways of tackling the problem of domestic violence over the past twelve months.



Armagh DCU established a domestic violence 'drop in' centre in October 2002.

Constable Irene Algie, the Armagh domestic violence officer, works in partnership with Armagh and District Citizens Advice Bureau and Craigavon and Banbridge Women's Aid to provide a one-stop shop for victims of domestic violence.

The centre is open one day every week and the pilot scheme will last for one year. This venture has proved very successful in terms of the holistic service available to victims and the reporting of previously unknown domestic incidents.

West Belfast DCU has also implemented a pilot scheme in relation to domestic violence.

The Domestic Violence Unit has been developed from its traditional support role into a fully investigative unit. Now working closely with CID and the West Belfast Crime Team, the full resources of those departments are at the unit's disposal.

Early results are encouraging and it is hoped that the changes will deliver a significant impact in the coming year.

Community Involvement Branch has developed a corporate policy in relation to the proactive use of Polariod cameras at all domestic violence incidents. They have been successfully used in Foyle, Larne and West Belfast.

An enormous amount of work has gone into promoting awareness about policing domestic violence over the past year through representation on the Foyle Inter-agency

Forum and through structured training sessions and presentations to outside agencies.

Foyle DCU also holds a clinic one day a week in a neutral location for victims who do not wish to attend a police station. The DCU intends to computerise all domestic violence incidents - specifically targeting repeat offenders. The initiation of joint protocols with outside agencies is also to be explored.

The procedures in relation to domestic violence and access to legally held firearms is being reviewed jointly by CID, Firearms and Explosives Branch with an input by an external consultant. The priority is to remove access to legally held firearms where domestic violence is evident

Advice to elderly on bogus caller threat

Fears that elderly people in Ards DCU could fall prey to bogus callers intent on theft led to a crime prevention campaign.

Around 60 senior citizens in Newtownards and Comber had secure door locks fitted throughout the year. Other vulnerable people across the DCU area were provided with personal attack alarms and churches, cross community groups and youth forums all benefited from crime prevention advice.

Police committed to tackling hate crime

The Police Service aims to make Northern Ireland safer for everyone and is committed to stamping out racism and hate crime.

In October, Chief Constable Hugh Orde hosted an International Human Rights Conference at a Belfast Hotel. The theme of the event was 'New Directions - A Human Rights and Racial Equality Focus on Policing with Ethnic Minority Communities'.

In partnership with the Equality Commission, the Community Involvement Branch is progressing the implementation of an inter-agency reporting structure for racially motivated incidents and crimes through a multi-agency working group to ensure that more offences are reported to police.

Attacks on other vulnerable and minority groups continue, including attacks on the elderly and disabled groups and those motivated by homophobia and sectarianism.

A number of incidents perceived to be racially motivated occurred in Portadown over the past 12 months. These took the form of assaults and damage to property against members of the Portuguese community in the town.

Dungannon and South Tyrone DCU also has a large Portuguese population and local police made strenuous efforts over the past twelve months to engage with members of this community.



A surgery is held twice weekly where an interpreter is available to facilitate communication between police officers and Portuguese residents. This is now well established and those using the service feel valued. Barriers have been broken down and trust, confidence and understanding have grown. This facility is now being shared by other agencies in a neutral venue.

In Foyle DCU, crime prevention advice was printed in Chinese for the first time to make it more easily accessible to members of the local Chinese community.

The Police Service fully recognises the importance of listening to victims and is

presently developing a number of Independent Advisory Groups to facilitate this process. These groups will represent people from minority ethnic communities, those with special needs, the young, senior citizens and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

A long-standing relationship exists between Victim Support and the Police Service, which includes the development of policy and procedures to support and assist victims and the implementation of information sharing protocols which have been formalised in a Memorandum of Understanding.

Protecting the vulnerable

Officers from Down DCU were involved in a scheme to protect some of the most vulnerable members of the community from crime.

Ballynahinch Community Forum, a group made up of 12 agencies including the PSNI, Housing Executive and Help the Aged, organised a series of Vulnerable Adult Information Days.

The events aimed to raise awareness of crime and offer vulnerable members of the community advice on personal protection.

Following several high profile crimes against elderly people living in the DCU, Larne police also implemented a Vulnerable Persons Scheme.

The scheme involves the distribution of door latches, security mirrors and attack alarms to members of the public who are most at risk. This was carried out in partnership with the local Council and Help the Aged and is proving effective at reducing the fear of crime in Larne.

To date, over 450 of these units have been distributed and an application for additional community safety funding has been made.

Officers get on their bikes

South Belfast DCU introduced police bicycle patrols in the city centre during the past twelve months.

Officers employed on these patrols are in direct radio contact with the retail trade and the use of bikes allows for greater coverage and quicker response to calls for assistance.

In addition to the daytime economy radio link, the DCU has, in partnership with the Federation of Retail Licensed Trade and Belfast City Centre Management developed a similar evening economy link.

The link connects police to the many licensed premises within the city centre and has shown significant results, from the arrest of people supplying cocaine to the deployment of police resources to quell disorderly behaviour.

Anti credit card fraud scheme

A number of DCUs this year adopted the 'Thumbprint' anti-fraud scheme to cut down on credit card crime.

As the name suggests this scheme prevents credit card and cheque fraud by taking a thumbprint from the customer, thereby deterring potential offenders.

Larne DCU employed the scheme shortly before Christmas and it has now been extended to Larne harbour, where drivers collecting consignments of goods (e.g. cigarettes) are also required to leave a thumbprint.

Foyle DCU's crime prevention officers worked with traders in Carlisle Road, Derry, to introduce the scheme.

Omagh was the first provincial town to implement the scheme. The Traders' Association and the Chamber of Commerce welcomed this initiative and to date there have been no incidents of cheque fraud at any premises operating the scheme.

North Down DCU has also adopted the scheme, with all the retailers in one local shopping centre now involved.

Senior officer becomes deaf champion

Chief Superintendent Eddie Graham, has become the Deaf Community's 'champion' within the Police Service.

Chief Superintendent Graham was nominated to represent the service on all matters associated with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Foyle DCU sets up Crime and Disorder Unit

Foyle DCU set up the first Crime and Disorder Unit (CDU) in Northern Ireland at the beginning of October.

The CDU co-ordinates the investigation of high volume crime within the District. It creates 'target packages' which includes analysis identifying crime trends and hotspots, coupled with intelligence. These packages are allocated to specific personnel within the DCU to investigate.

As part of this development, the Dedicated Source Unit also commenced in October 2002. This unit has assisted in the significant increase in the amount and quality of intelligence received in the DCU.

The structures and procedures used in Foyle DCU for implementing the National Intelligence Model have been identified as best practice and will be used as the benchmark for implementing the National Intelligence Model service-wide.

in January.

For the past three years, he has been heavily involved in the Deaf culture and Deaf awareness and is in his third year of learning sign language.

Ch. Supt. Graham will help fellow DCU commanders in their interface with Northern Ireland's large Deaf community. One of his ultimate aims is to see the creation of a Deaf Community Forum to liaise directly with police patrol and neighbourhood officers.

He is just starting to evaluate the current level and style of interaction between the

Police Service and those who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The need for training will be examined as will the technical implications for police services and buildings such as the minicom telephone and loop systems.

There is already some broad guidance on simple signage available to officers but Ch. Supt. Graham will be striving to ensure the PSNI becomes culturally Deaf aware; where there is improved technical communications flow both ways and where local Deaf communities are represented in local forums relating to policing.

TSGs fighting crime and fear of crime

Tactical Support Groups (TSGs) have worked alongside district police to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

TSGs provide personnel, highly trained in search procedures and associated specialist equipment for use in locating people, searching vehicles, occupied and empty buildings.

They also provide police search advisers and units to advise and assist Senior Investigating Officers during murder investigations and VIP visits.

Searches conducted by TSG officers in the past year have resulted in the recovery of huge quantities of contraband cigarettes and fuel.

Specific finds in Ballymena, Limavady, Coleraine, Omagh, Londonderry, Strabane and Fermanagh led to the recovery of assets worth around £1million, much of which can be associated with paramilitary organisations.

North Region TSGs conducted a series of operations in Fermanagh and Omagh DCUs in partnership with the Road Fuel and Anti Smuggling sections of HM Customs and Excise. This resulted in 67 offences being detected on one day alone, believed to be a UK record for this type of operation.

Ecstasy find on bus

Tactical Support Group (TSG) officers who stopped and searched a bus at Foyle Street Bus Depot in Londonderry this March recovered Ecstasy worth £50,000.

The drugs were found in a black bag on board the bus, which had travelled from Belfast to Londonderry. No arrests were made.

Drugs education in Armagh schools

In January, following a public threat to schoolchildren from the UVF which arose from allegations of drug dealing, Armagh DCU's neighbourhood police unit worked closely with secondary schools to provide drugs awareness advice and reassurance for pupils.

Officers mounted high visibility patrols in school grounds and accompanied children on school buses.

Partnership approach to drugs education

Police officers from Banbridge DCU teaching schoolchildren how to stay safe and be good citizens worked in partnership with the charity RESOLVE, which deals with solvent and substance abuse.

They have been jointly delivering a lesson on this important subject to year 8 pupils in the District. This is in keeping with the ongoing media campaign on solvent and substance abuse which the District is running.

Drugs find in Downpatrick

A search of a private dwelling in Downpatrick last September uncovered a kilo of cannabis resin with a street value of £5,000.

One person was arrested for possession and possession with intent to supply. The largest find of cannabis resin in the DCU, this seizure has now led on to other lines of enquiry in relation to identifying those responsible for drug trafficking locally.

Drugs crackdown continues in Limavady



A lengthy operation by Limavady DCU's crime team in January led to three people being arrested and charged with possession and possession with intent to supply controlled drugs.

Later that month, the DCU achieved another success in the fight against illegal drugs when a vehicle under surveillance was stopped on the Ballyleagry Road, Limavady. A search revealed 5kg of cannabis resin and three arrests were made. Over the next few days, further investigations led to the recovery of a further 4kg of cannabis resin, 15g of cocaine and 5,000 Ecstasy tablets. The total street value of the drugs recovered was around £100,000.

Police target growing illegal drug market

A growth in the market for illegal drugs has been accompanied by an increase in seizures by police over the past year.

While the drugs market here is still predominantly centred on the abuse of Class B drugs like cannabis, police seizures of stimulant drugs, including ecstasy, amphetamine sulphate and cocaine have risen. This may be indicative of the dance culture remaining a major recreational activity.

In February, Drug Squad officers seized 300,000 ecstasy tablets with an estimated street value of £3million in a successful operation at Belfast Harbour. This was the largest single recovery of ecstasy in Northern Ireland.

Over £9 million of drugs were seized in Urban Region throughout the year, with seizures



totalling over £3million in both Antrim and North Belfast DCUs.

In June, over 150kgs of cannabis were recovered at Hillsborough, with the overall total value of drugs seized in South Region

amounting to just under £800,000.

In North Region drugs seized by police amounted to just over £1.2 million over the year.

In common with police work in other areas, success comes from police and the community working together to combat the drugs culture in Northern Ireland.

The Drug Squad works with other agencies sharing information, and undertaking joint operations under working protocols with HM Customs and Excise, the National Criminal Intelligence Service, and the National Crime Squad. The Squad works closely with other international and European police services including An Garda Síochána.

The threat of illicit drugs cannot be eliminated by enforcement alone and requires the police and community to work in close partnership. Part of the police strategy is to provide drugs education to the community and to schoolchildren.

Through the CASE schools programme, open to every school in Northern Ireland, Community Involvement delivers education to school children of all ages about drugs recognition and the law regarding drugs according to ACPO guidelines.

During the year Community Involvement officers also undertook the Drugs Education Training programme in partnership with the Dunlewey Substance Abuse Centre, Belfast. The course equips officers to speak to youth groups, teachers and adult groups about the dangers of drugs, drug recognition and the wider issues around drug misuse.

At local level there are Drugs and Alcohol Co-ordination teams to tackle specific local issues in relation to drugs. Together with the Drugs Squad, Drugs and Alcohol Co-ordination teams liaise with local concerned groups, voluntary and statutory organisations. A drugs awareness package has been developed and is available to interested groups.

In Derry, a drug arrest referral scheme operates in partnership with the Sperrin Trust so that all those taken into PSNI custody can avail of a counselling service to help deal with personal issues including drug misuse. The scheme will be extended to Ballymena.

With the setting up of the Assets Recovery Agency (ARA) in the Northern Ireland Office a new opportunity to deprive drugs criminals of the financial proceeds of their crime has opened up. PSNI and ARA will work closely together to exploit these opportunities.

Drug seizures and arrests

A total of 1,781 drug seizure incidents were recorded in 2002/03, an increase of 16.2% on 2001/02. As in previous years most drug seizure incidents involved Class B drugs (such as cannabis and amphetamines).

The number of seizures involving Class A drugs was down by 13% on the previous year (from 385 seizures in 2001/02 to 335 seizures in 2002/03). As in previous years ecstasy was the most frequently seized Class A drug. Comparing 2001/02 with 2002/03, the number of ecstasy tablets seized showed a substantial increase (from 127,368 tablets seized in 2001/02 to 605,188 tablets seized in 2002/03). There was also a substantial

increase in the quantity of opiates powder seized in 2002/03 compared with the previous year (346.01 grammes compared with 102.11 grammes in 2001/02).

The number of seizures involving Class B drugs increased by 21.8% over the same period (from 1,259 seizures in 2001/02 to 1,534 seizures in 2002/03). Cannabis was the most frequently seized Class B drug. There was a substantial increase in the quantity of cannabis resin seized in 2002/03 (709.5kg compared with 417.2kg in 2001/02).

The number of persons arrested for drugs related offences increased from 990 in 2001/02 to 1,295 in 2002/03.

Drugs Seized	2000/01		2001/02		2002/03	
	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized	No. of Seizures	Amount Seized
Class A						
Cocaine :						
Powder (gms)	27	1,701.4	28	3,399.9	44	3,023.87
Wraps	0	0	4	4	3	12
'Crack' (gms)	2	43.1	4	66.5	1	50
Ecstasy :						
Tablets	346	410,671	262	127,368	258	605,188
Powder (gms)	6	498	8	232.81	2	1
Capsules	4	11	1	2	5	25
LSD :						
Doses	9	117	3	122	1	4
Microdots	2	201	0	0	2	1
Opiates :						
Powder (gms)	61	3,131.6	46	102.11	21	346.01
Tablets	7	1,670	4	51	1	41
Ampoules	4	203	1	4	1	1
Mls	6	121	8	366	14	428.52
Wraps	10	16	42	69	1	1
All Class A	455	-	385	-	335	-
Class B						
Cannabis :						
Resin (kgs)	1,320	384.4	1,126	417.2	1,366	709.5
Herbal (kgs)	45	21.6	65	49	78	27.7
Plants	11	210	14	141	29	202
Oil (gms)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Joints	131	253	119	273	104	169
Amphetamine:						
Powder (kgs)	51	3.9	70	8.8	83	27.6
Wraps	8	16	8	26	9	24
Tablets	8	458	3	118	4	11
Barbiturates :						
Tablets	0	-	0	-	0	-
All Class B	1,458	-	1,259	-	1,534	-
Total Seizure Incidents*	1,750		1,533		1,781	

* As seizure incidents can involve more than one drug type, seizure figures for individual drugs cannot be added together to produce totals.

Arrests	1,266	990	1,295
'Street Value' of Drugs Seized	£9,994,769	£6,559,700	£11,082,910

Number of dissident operations thwarted by good police work



Tackling the terrorist threat

Terrorist groups continued to pose a significant threat to the community in Northern Ireland over the past twelve months.

Dissident republicans were active on a number of fronts. They demonstrated their lethal capability last August when a construction worker, 51-year-old David Caldwell, was killed carrying out renovation work at the Caw Territorial Army centre in the Waterside area of Londonderry. Mr Caldwell picked up a lunch box which had been booby trapped and died in hospital as a result of his injuries.

The fact that no other innocent civilians or members of the security forces were murdered in this incident was due in no small measure to the bravery, dedication and professionalism of officers working in close co-operation with their military colleagues and other police services.

A number of dissident operations were thwarted. In March security forces defused a car bomb outside the Laganside courthouse in Belfast. Last October a mortar and launcher were seized in Londonderry. In September police, backed up by the Army, uncovered two under-car booby trap devices in an operation on the Omeath Road outside Newry. Two months later in Belfast city centre, police found a large incendiary bomb – made up of gas cylinders and pipe bombs linked to containers full of flammable liquid – in a car parked near the motor tax office in Upper Queen Street.

A number of individuals were arrested and charged in relation to these incidents and there is no doubt that lives were saved in these and other police operations against dissident republicans. There were a number of narrow escapes, such as at Enniskillen in February when a bomb exploded outside the town hall.



The dissident groups, Continuity IRA and Real IRA, are relatively small in number but that should not diminish the community's awareness of the serious threat which they pose. They have access to enough weaponry and engineering skills to cause death, injury and destruction to anyone who does not agree with them or simply happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

On an international front, the PSNI were able to bring six more individuals before the courts in Northern Ireland in connection with a long-running investigation into a republican gunrunning operation in Florida. Eight people have already received custodial sentences in connection with this case in the United States and the Republic. Officers work in close contact with law enforcement agencies throughout the world to ensure that terrorists do not succeed and will continue to strive, along with its international partners, to share information and work together to thwart them at every turn.

Closer to home, the so-called loyalist feud has left an indelible mark on many individuals, families and communities. It came to public attention last September with the murder of Stephen Warnock in Newtownards and resulted in seven deaths in the period up to February. In addition, significant numbers of people were injured in the tit-for-tat attacks by rival factions which damaged property, forced families to flee their homes and cast a cloud of fear over beleaguered communities.

Police established dedicated squads of officers to target both sides in this dispute. Officers mounted intelligence-led, disruptive operations which culminated in searches, arrests and seizures of arms and explosives.

Police successes included a foiled loyalist murder attempt in north Belfast last December; a substantial arms and explosives find in Rathcoole last October; and firearms seized in Craigantlet the same month.

These are just a few instances in which good police work has made our community safer. The Police Service could do more, much more, but needs information from people in the communities which are suffering because of this scourge. If the Service is given the information, officers will do their absolute best to turn that into evidence which can be placed before a court.



The Police Service firmly intends to shift fear away from potential victims and onto those perpetrating this misery.

While officers worked long and hard to combat the terrorist threat, from whichever side of the community, the Police Service was striving simultaneously to implement further organisational changes in Crime Department.

Last September Special Branch and Crime Branch formally amalgamated to become Crime Department working under the control of a single Assistant Chief Constable, the culmination of a key recommendation in the Patten Report. But this remains a work in progress.

The Policing Board commissioned Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to conduct a study of issues related to the relationship between Special Branch and Crime Branch. Along with the Board, the Chief Constable accepted the HMIC's recommendations which are consistent with the thrust of the Patten Report and also address concerns previously mentioned by the Oversight Commissioner.

The key recommendation in the HMIC's report relates to the implementation of the processes and structures of the National Intelligence Model (NIM), which is a Government reform to professionalise the management of intelligence in all UK law enforcement agencies.

That recommendation embraces the focus of all the other recommendations made in the report and work to implement the NIM is underway and is due to be completed by the end of 2003. When it is implemented, this process will strengthen links between departmental units and improve the flow and exchange of information. Crucially, it will leave the PSNI better equipped to embrace intelligence-led policing.

M16 mortar found

A M16 mortar was found at the rear of a private residence in Foyle DCU area last October.

A man was arrested and charged with possession of explosives with intent and having explosives in suspicious circumstances. Tactical Support Group (TSG) officers carried out the initial search and clearance operation and found a large number of other items and component parts which were forwarded for forensic examination.

Man charged with collecting information for terrorist use

A man was arrested and charged with collecting information likely to be of use to terrorists after Tactical Support Group (TSG) officers stopped a vehicle at a checkpoint last September.

The driver was searched and found to have in his possession a list of republicans' names and addresses in Derry. The arrest signalled a major breakthrough into UDA activities in Londonderry, leading to the arrest of 15 other people. Two other people have so far been charged.

Dissident attacks continue in Down

Dissident republicans are believed to be responsible for a number of attacks on the security forces in Down DCU over the past year.

Last April, pipe bombs were thrown at Downpatrick and Ardglass police stations.

In July, an armoured police car on the Killough Road, Downpatrick, was ambushed. An explosive device detonated at the roadside caused damage to the vehicle, leading to two officers requiring treatment for shock.

Two gunmen opened fire on police and army at Ballymote Walk, Downpatrick, last September. There were no casualties.

There were also attacks on properties owned by Catholic people last year, including pipe bomb attacks in April and June at private dwellings in Ballynahinch.

The activity in this area has had an adverse impact on how policing services are delivered to the people of Down DCU and hampered developments for progressing community-based problem-solving policing.

Targeting sectarian violence in Larne

Reducing sectarian violence was a top priority for Larne DCU.

Following a serious spate of loyalist sectarian attacks in May 2002, local police and military personnel began a series of proactive targeted patrols and vehicle checkpoints into hotspot areas. This swiftly brought the situation under control and police activity against loyalists was maintained for the rest of the year.

Criminal damage in the months following May 2002 was down 50% compared to previous years and this trend has continued. For the year up to February 2003 criminal damage is down 35%; analysis of the incidents has shown that this reduction is primarily due to a reduction in sectarian attacks.

Best practice in Court Service liaison

Ballymena DCU has introduced a number of initiatives over the past year to ensure improved efficiency in preparing files for prosecution and in liaising with the Court Service.

A dedicated officer has been appointed to attend Magistrates Court when defendants appear for the first time, which means the investigating officer is not required at this early stage of proceedings.

The court officer, a constable, liaises between the investigating officer, the Magistrate and the Court Service. This arrangement, which was introduced at the beginning of February with the approval of the local Resident Magistrate, solicitors, the Court Service and police, frees up the time of investigating officers.

The DCU also acted to reduce the time taken preparing files for the Director of Public Prosecution and measures were also introduced to expedite the execution of money warrants.

The innovative steps taken by the DCU have been identified as best practice by the PSNI.

Inspection and Review

The Inspection and Review Branch is responsible for carrying forward Best Value in the Service.

The Branch also monitors and acts on all Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary recommendations.

Over the past twelve months, the Branch has introduced the PSNI Best Value and Continuous Improvement standards. These provide an auditable business improvement methodology that complies with the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000.

New look Police Service to provide an even better service

Competing demands and strained resources led to a major rethink of how policing services can best be delivered to the Northern Ireland community.

This was undertaken with one aim foremost in mind – to ensure officers are deployed where they are needed most in front line policing.

A large-scale redeployment and civilianisation programme is central to the Human Resource Strategy agreed with the Policing Board in October 2002.

The Strategy set a target of having 5,400 officers deployed on frontline operation duty by April 2005.

It aims to achieve this target by:

- Moving officers from headquarters posts to regions and DCUs;
- Civilianisation of posts at HQ and DCU levels;
- Continued recruitment of police trainees;
- Reducing sick absence;
- Re-examining the deployment of officers on security-related duties in light of prevailing security considerations.

The civilianisation process has already begun. The Media and Public Relations Department recruited a number of trained media professionals to fill press officer posts previously held by police officers.

Station receptionist posts are also being civilianised, as are CCTV operator jobs.

The Service is committed to outsourcing posts in transport services, the postal unit and, to a lesser extent, in the Training and Education Development (TED) department.

Potential for further outsourcing is being



actively examined, and will have a significant role to play in releasing more and more officers to operational duty.

The recruitment of support staff was outsourced to Grafton Recruitment, who bring years of relevant experience in this field, and this is expected to enhance the PSNI's reputation as an employer of first choice for support staff as well as police officers.

The process is still at an early stage and the next few years will see a continuation of these efforts. The implementation of this strategy has been given the highest priority by the Chief Constable, and the PSNI will be subject to quarterly oversight by the Police Board.

The restructuring, ongoing at an organisational level was reflected in a number of DCUs.

The 'Centralisation of Response' project was a huge task undertaken by North Belfast DCU during the last year. The project involved

restructuring with the aim of improving organisational effectiveness. From April 1, 2003, all response policing is run from Tennent Street station. Sector policing teams are being expanded and tasked with implementing the Policing with the Community policy.

Castlereagh DCU undertook a major restructuring of resources in May 2002 to assist in the provision of community-based policing. This involved the centralisation of mobile response policing units at the District's HQ in Castlereagh.

Through this rationalisation, sufficient resources were released to form three dedicated and specially trained community policing teams. These now operate from each station within the sectors of Castlereagh, Carryduff and Dundonald and aim to resolve problems which impact on quality of life for local residents and businesses alike.

Looking after our people

The most important resource possessed by any organisation is its people.

The PSNI is committed to ensuring the health and wellbeing of its staff, both police and civilian.

The ongoing changes within the Service have meant a heavy workload for Occupational Health and Welfare (OHW) over the past year. OHW is focused on helping officers and staff achieve fitness for duty. The emphasis is on addressing these issues in a holistic and integrated way, particularly reducing the somewhat artificial barriers between physical and medical fitness for duty.

With this in mind, research was undertaken to assess the best means of delivering a proactive health screening and education



service and as a result a new initiative known as the Health Patrol was launched in February 2003. This involved OHW taking to the road to provide fitness testing and advice to staff on District.

Closer links were also forged with DCUs, particularly with direct referrals of sickness absence cases between Districts and OHW.

The extended physiotherapy service has continued to enable officers injured on duty to receive locally-based treatment within days of the injury. Initial results indicate this has helped officers return to duty earlier.

The Health and Safety Unit also had a busy year with the appointment of PSNI's first professional Health and Safety Adviser. John Orchin, who has considerable experience in the engineering industry, joined the Service from the Royal Group of Hospitals.

Achievements during the year include:

- The appointment of specifically skilled and qualified Accident Investigators and a Fire Safety Adviser;
- Development of a Health and Safety Strategy and associated training;
- Purchase of a software package to enable trend analysis and the electronic reporting of accidents.

The past year has also seen the appointment of two junior psychologists to support the work of the existing occupational psychologists.

Key work undertaken includes the evaluation of student officer training and the development of selection and training processes for part-time police officers. The occupational psychologists also contributed to the work of the Police Skills and Standards Organisation and were heavily involved in designing the selection and assessment system for new staff.



Improving working conditions

Efforts to update and improve working conditions for police and civilian staff have continued this year as part of the overall drive to improve operational effectiveness.

The Independent Commission on Policing recommended an extensive programme of modernisation and improvements to police buildings and also recognised the need for a number of new build projects.

Progress on upgrading enquiry offices and improving the appearance of police stations is continuing and Coleraine's new £7.5 million police station - the first purpose built DCU headquarters in the Province - became operational in January this year.

The 4,000 sq m building, with 975 sq m of external stores, provides modern and much

needed facilities to enable the 194 officers and civilian staff to provide the best possible policing service to the people of the Coleraine area.

In accordance with Patten recommendations the station - erected on the site of the old station - has additional inbuilt security features whilst the exterior has the appearance of a more 'normalised' type of building.

Work started on the perimeter in December 1999 and on the new station in April 2001. There are two further phases - the demolition of the old station and the construction of a 'satellite' reception facility and vehicle entrance. This is expected to be completed at August of this year.

Year of challenges for HR Department

The past year has brought many challenges for the Department of Human Resources.

The restructuring which the department commenced last year has now been completed and the focus is firmly on achieving the targets set in the Human Resource Strategy. While progress in the first year of the strategy has been good, difficult challenges lie ahead.

Many functions are being devolved to DCUs with the appointment of local personnel managers. The Personnel Directorate is refocusing to become a strategic business unit which provides corporate support with recruitment, personnel policy and strategic resourcing. This will mean a significant staff downsizing.

The New Year saw the launch of part-time police recruiting, which has focused initially on four DCUs – Lisburn, Newtownabbey, Coleraine and Banbridge.

The resource allocation model, which is used to decide what resources are used where in the

organisation, has also been updated and will be used to shape the future staffing complements of DCUs.

A backlog in internal selection processes, including promotions, has now been cleared and a new police appraisal system was introduced. Competency related threshold payments have also been introduced.

The Police Service has adopted the Home Office's High Potential Development Scheme, which replaces the Accelerated Promotion Scheme previously used to identify and support officers of exceptional talent to ensure they reached full potential, and a fresh competition for new applicants is currently underway.

Much work has been undertaken to develop joint protocols regarding reciprocal secondment with colleagues in An Garda Síochána. While these have been agreed between both organisations, relevant legislation still needs to be passed through Westminster and the Dail.



Significant success in reducing sick absence

Significant success has been achieved over the past year in reducing the number of officers absent from work through sickness.

Levels of sickness have gradually reduced over the twelve month period and appear to have broken away from the cyclical peaks historically experienced in winter months.

In 2001/02, an average of 23.77 working days per officer were lost through sickness. This year, that figure has fallen significantly to 20.14 working days per officer. Sickness figures for civilian members of staff have also fallen slightly from 15.97 working days per employee being lost through sickness in 2001/02 to 15.95 over the past twelve months.

The Employee Relations branch of the Department of Human Resources has undertaken a number of initiatives to address attendance issues this year by:

- Launching a direct referral system between DCUs and the Occupational Health and Welfare Department;
- Gradual devolvement of attendance management procedures to Districts;
- Holding an attendance management conference in February for managers.

Employee Relations continues to perform the vital role of formal consultation and negotiations with trade unions.

Training essential for effective policing

The provision of high quality training is essential to ensure effective policing and the PSNI has continued to push this year for a new college to replace the current outdated facilities.

Possible sites for a state-of-the-art college are still being considered, but the Training, Education and Development (TED) has made considerable progress over the past 12 months in a number of key areas despite the limitations of the current training facility at Garnerville.

An annual training plan was produced and Dr James Drennan, from Ontario, Canada was appointed as the first civilian Director of TED.

TED was also responsible for delivering the Course for All, a two-day course for police officers and support staff which addresses the constitutional changes within the PSNI, the introduction of the Code of Ethics and the concept of problem-solving policing.

It also developed a structured Detective Training Programme, assisting the PSNI's drive to increase the number of trained detectives in the organisation.

TED's Foundation Faculty was the focus of considerable external scrutiny as it delivered the Student Officer Training Programme with a fresh intake of students every five weeks. The University of Ulster continues to accredit the course, which is now being critically examined by

Centrex, the national centre of excellence for police training, and others as a blueprint for officer induction training.

Fresh developments this year included the design of a blended learning programme for part-time police officers which combines traditional methods of delivery with e-learning.

The Policing Services Faculty's Combined Operational Training (COT) continued to provide training to officers involved in a range of specialised roles.

Firearms Training Unit as usual experienced a high throughput of students. In total, 8,455 officers received handgun training, 5,142 received Heckler and Koch MP5 training and 2,348 received Heckler and Koch 33 and G3 training.

Interesting developments included the development of judgemental training and the move towards using civilian firearms instructors in some roles. The PSNI also acquired three mobile ranges to ease training capacity problems.

A review of the Boat Training Unit resulted in a decision to relocate training from Belfast to Enniskillen.

Search Training Unit continued to provide an essential service. Further work will be undertaken in the year ahead to further integrate the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Manual for Guidance on Search into PSNI training materials. A formalised qualification and refresher structure is also to be woven into Search Training.

The Dog Training Unit benefited from a

relocation to Steeple Road in Antrim, offering improved facilities for dogs, trainers and students alike.

Traffic and Driver Training Unit (TDTU) trained 451 student officers through the Standard Driving Course. It experienced further civilianisation to assist in meeting training capacity demands. TDTU will relocate from Sprucefield to purpose-built facilities at Steeple Road, Antrim, later this year.

The First Aid Training Unit recruited new trainers to increase its capacity.

Public Order Training continued to provide a full range of training to officers. The new service issue baton was introduced in 2002 and CRS Trainers (Conflict Resolution Skills) have been training officers in the deployment of this new piece of equipment.

Baton gun training continued and was the subject of external scrutiny by the Police Ombudsman and Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission.

The Crime Training Unit developed a modular system for detective training, paying close attention to the National Intelligence Model. A total of 160 CID aides were trained and training was also delivered on advanced interview techniques, house-to-house search co-ordination and a development plan for Senior Investigating Officers.

The Communications Training Unit trained 2,306 students throughout the year, covering all of the communication and IT systems currently used by PSNI. It also received accreditation in August 2002 from the Institute of Information Technology Training.

The Policing Skills Unit provided training for custody officers and community beat officers, playing an important role in preparing officers to police with the community.

TED's Support and Development specialism continued to support the function of TED by offering courses for police trainers and training development officers. Newly qualified police trainers continue to work towards a relevant NVQ qualification.

The Evaluation Unit prepared and presented a business case to the Northern Ireland Office for the outsourcing of Needs Analysis. This is consistent with the Patten Recommendation in that regard.

Putting staff ideas into action

Staff ideas to improve organisational effectiveness are harnessed through Ideas in Action.

The police service suggestion scheme aims to encourage police and support staff to put forward new and innovative proposals to improve efficiency and the quality of policing.

As a result of an increasing awareness of the scheme, a total of 531 suggestions were received up to the end of February 2003.

This represented a 26% increase on the previous year. The Ideas in Action panel recommended that 26 ideas should be implemented by way of policy or good practice. Some £2,050 was paid by way of award to those who came up with the good ideas.

Protecting the rights of the individual

Protecting the rights of the individual is central to the ethos of the Police Service.

During the past year, the Data Protection Unit (DPU) has managed the Chief Constable's statutory obligations in respect of the Data Protection Act.

This includes notification of processing to the Office of the Information Commissioner, compliance with data protection principles and securing the individual's rights under the Act.

The Unit has embarked on a five-year audit strategy as recommended by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary with all major information systems throughout the Service subject to systematic audit and monitoring. Each system has been risk assessed and will be regularly audited.

As part of securing individuals' rights within the Act, the PSNI has processed an average of 300 applications per month for subject access requests.



Planning key to policing success

Planning for the future is central to achieving organisational effectiveness.

The Policy, Planning and Performance Branch liaises with the Policing Board and Government departments in the formulation of policing objectives.

Once the objectives are set, the Planning Unit consults and prepares the text of the Policing Plan for presentation to the Policing Board by the Chief Constable.

During 2002/03 the Unit also helped DCUs prepare for the publication of local policing plans designed to ensure local community involvement through District Policing Partnerships and enhance the service provided by the police to the public.

By means of vigorous examination of the policies, guidelines and instructions issued to the Service, the Policy Unit of the Policy, Planning and Performance Branch ensures they meet human rights, equality, integrity and cost requirements. A process of internal and external consultation exists to validate proposed policies.

The Performance Unit prepares monthly reports for the Chief Constable and quarterly reports for the Policing Board on targets set in the Policing Plan, based on information supplied by DCUs and Departments.

In preparing DCUs for consultation with District Policing Partnerships, the sub branch provides invaluable collaboration experience to assist with reporting and monitoring processes.

The creation of a Risk Management Unit over the past year assisted the PSNI ensure appropriate policies and procedures are in place to manage the challenges which face the organisation.

The Risk Management Unit was responsible for ensuring processes were in place throughout the organisation to enable the Service to meet its required objective of corporate governance signed off by the Chief Constable by 1 April 2003.

Over the past twelve months, the Unit worked with DCUs and Departments to produce and maintain risk registers. These registers summarise risks at DCU, Business Unit and Corporate level in the organisation.

Human rights lawyer appointed

The Service has a dedicated human rights lawyer to advise on policies and procedures to ensure compliance with human rights requirements

The lawyer has undertaken a review of human rights programmes and a

The lawyer is based within the Legal Services Branch.

The Branch, which also has three assistant legal advisers, provides the Chief Constable, his senior officers and local DCU commanders with effective and efficient legal advice in support of PSNI objectives.

An administrative support team assists in discharging the organisation's liability to those who suffer through the wrongful or negligent acts of police officers and others for whom the PSNI are liable.

Tasked with processing and administering claims against the Chief Constable, this team has recently initiated a review of working practices to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of existing processes and to identify and implement best practice in relation to handling claims.

During the year 2002/2003, 2,434 civil actions were initiated. A total of 649 were disposed of, with damages of £1.8 million agreed or awarded. The bill for legal costs totalled £1.2 million.

Safecall line to report wrongdoing

An independent and confidential telephone line for police and civilian staff to report breaches of integrity and professional standards was launched in March.

The introduction of Safecall made the PSNI the first police service in the UK to implement such a system. An independent external body was commissioned to provide the telephone service.

Safecall aims to help uphold professional standards, thereby securing and maintaining public confidence. Any member of staff may phone the Safecall line 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. People experienced in dealing with organisational issues staff the lines.

By using the telephone line, staff can report suspected acts of corruption, dishonesty and unethical behaviour.

The development of an independent telephone line for reporting concerns is an integral part of the Police Code of Ethics launched in February.

The telephone hotline complements the work of the Internal Investigation Branch (IIB) which exists to prevent and detect corruption,



dishonesty and unethical behaviour.

The Branch has developed a robust integrity and professional standards policy which focuses on prevention and detection of wrongdoing, creating a shared responsibility for this across the Service, developing and supporting police and civilian supervisors to challenge and deal with breaches of integrity and devising effective security screening and vetting procedures.

Ensuring officers are where they are needed when they are needed

The PSNI is committed to ensuring police resources are where they are needed, when they are needed.

To achieve this, some DCUs introduced special call management systems over the past year.



The demands placed upon resources in South Belfast DCU led to the development of the Call Management Unit which now deals with over 4,000 non-emergency calls per month.

This ensures the District's limited resources are freed up to deal more efficiently with those calls for assistance which require a police presence.

Call handlers now resolve a large percentage of requests for police assistance on the telephone, with an average of 30% of all calls not requiring a direct response of any nature.

The Call Management Unit recently introduced a Minicom facility to assist those members of the Deaf community who require the assistance of police.

A call management centre with dedicated call handlers was also established at the Castlereagh DCU's headquarters. All calls for assistance within the DCU are channelled through this centre to ensure the most effective response and allocation of resources.

Working closely with Director of Public Prosecutions in criminal justice pilot

The police continue to work closely with the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and other criminal justice agencies to implement the recommendations of the Criminal Justice Review.

Intensive planning is underway to support the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) pilot project which commences on 1 December 2003.

This will give the pilot project responsibility in all criminal cases for determining whether to prosecute and for undertaking prosecutions in South Belfast DCU area.

In addition, the pilot project will have responsibility for these determinations in all juvenile cases for those DCUs in the Belfast Magistrates' Court area, which are Belfast South, North, East, West, Carrickfergus and Newtownabbey.

Within these areas the project will:

- make prosecutorial decisions on all submitted police files;
- provide prosecutorial and pre-charge advice to police in certain circumstances in an agreed protocol;
- review all charges prior to court;
- produce defendant's summons and witness invitations to attend and summons;
- have lead responsibility and be the primary contact point for victims, witnesses and defendants on receipt of the police file;
- conduct these prosecutions in Magistrates' Courts and also conduct County Court appeals.

Transparency policy adopted

In April 2003, the Service adopted a transparency policy in line with the recommendations in the Report of the Independent Commission on Policing and Freedom of Information Legislation.

The document sets out policy in relation to transparency and Freedom of Information and outlines guidelines to follow when issuing information.

An open and transparent police organisation informs the community about its actions and responds to questions about what it is doing and the reasons why.

Within the Service, there must be a dynamic culture of accountability which supports and underpins the principles of openness and transparency.

Transparency is more than an information sharing issue; it is a cultural issue affecting all parts of the Service. A transparent organisation does more than disclose its policies, it addresses and accounts for its thinking, actions and conduct on a day to day basis.

All staff must be willing to engage in dialogue with the community in relation to policing issues and provide full and frank information about our performance. Without waiting to be asked, the PSNI should place as much information as practicable into the public domain in keeping with the commitments outlined in the Freedom of Information Legislation.

By June 30, 2003 the PSNI and all other UK police are required to have established a publication scheme which provides up to date information in the following categories:

- Who's who and where? - To include details of organisation structure and key personnel;
- What are our aims, objectives & plans? - To include corporate strategies and plans;
- Annual report;
- Executive decision meetings - To include minutes of the 'open section' of Service level decision-making meetings;
- Our policies - To include corporate policies, some parts of which such as police tactics, may be exempt;
- How are we doing - Performance against objectives;
- Items of significant public interest.

The classes of information included in the publication scheme were agreed by an ACPO project team working with the Information Commissioner.

Course for All

The 'Course for All', a two day programme for all police officers and civilian support staff began in November 2002 and by April 2003 had been completed by 8,146 staff.

The two-day programme addresses the constitutional changes within the Service, the Code of Ethics and introduces the concept of problem-solving policing.

The course allows all members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland to contribute to the future of the Service in a constructive and positive manner.



Protecting human rights a key tenet of change programme

The Police Service believes policing means protecting human rights and this is a key tenet of the change programme.

Over the past year, much work has been done to ensure the principles of human rights underpin every area of police activity.

The Service has developed a comprehensive human rights plan which the Policing Board, with the assistance of a recently hired human rights adviser, is reviewing.

The launch of the Code of Ethics, unique in UK and Republic of Ireland policing, fulfilled one of the key recommendations made by the Independent Commission on Policing.

The creation of a Human Rights Team, to ensure the PSNI complies with the Human Rights Act, was another major step forward.

Throughout the year, this Branch has worked closely with the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, the Equality Commission and other relevant bodies to ensure the Police Service has access to the best advice available

on human rights issues.

All officers undertake a basic awareness course on human rights and specialist training has also been provided for groups such as middle management, police prosecution staff and officers who police difficult parades.

Two ground-breaking initiatives were developed and hosted by the PSNI in October 2002 and March 2003.

In October, a landmark conference on Policing with Ethnic Minority Communities, took place in Belfast. One of the aims of the conference was to identify key recommendations from local ethnic minority groups to further develop Policing Action Plans.

The two-day conference examined four core themes through a programme of international, national and local keynote speakers. The

conference attracted high profile speakers such as Imran Khan, solicitor for the Stephen Lawrence Enquiry, Lord Herman Ouseley and Zelda Holtzman, Deputy Provincial Commissioner, South African Police Service.

Fundamental to the success of the conference was the partnership approach that the PSNI has adopted with ethnic minorities in Northern Ireland. The Service is in the process of setting up an ethnic police association.

'Always Seen, Rarely Heard' was a pioneering initiative focusing on the relationship between young people and the Police Service. A forum for listening to young people, the conference addressed a wide range of issues relevant to the youth market. Speakers included a young victim of crime, a student officer and a young person who has had contact with the justice system.

Code of Ethics launched

The Northern Ireland Policing Board launched the PSNI's new Code of Ethics in February.

The Code, a world first, sets out standards of conduct and practice for all officers and makes police officers aware of the rights and obligations arising out of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Based on a draft submitted by the Chief Constable, the Code was published by the Policing Board after wide consultation with organisations concerned with Human Rights and policing, including the Human Rights Commission and the Police Ombudsman.

The new Code provides an ethical framework for decisions and actions made by police officers, from Constables to the Chief Constable, making clear what standards and behaviours are acceptable and what are not.

It provides clear guidelines on such issues as use of force, the responsibilities of supervisors and standards of integrity. Failure to comply with the standards laid down in the Code can lead to discipline and, in the case of serious breaches, the ultimate sanction of dismissal.

Speaking at the launch, Chief Constable Hugh Orde said: "Integrity is not negotiable. We have to demonstrate it to retain the support of the local community."

A copy of the Code of Ethics has been given to all full time and part time police officers and civilian support staff. Over 13,000 copies were distributed within the Service

Approval for Equality Scheme

The PSNI is committed to promoting equality of opportunity.

Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 the Service is required to ensure equality of opportunity between:

- persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- men and women generally;
- persons with a disability and persons without; and
- persons with dependants and persons without.

An Equality Scheme introduced by the Service to ensure these requirements are met was approved by the Equality Commission in February this year.

The Scheme encompasses how the Service proposes to fulfil this requirement within all its policies, functions and duties.

Already the Service has provided specialised training for senior ranks and disseminated training to all staff using the medium of a training video as part of the Course for All.

A 'Respect' leaflet explaining the requirements has been produced and sent out to every member of staff, police and support staff. The leaflet has also been produced in six minority languages; Arabic, Hindi, Portuguese, Irish, Urdu and Cantonese. These are displayed in the public areas of police stations to explain the PSNI's commitment to equality to those whose first language is not English.

The Police Service also works closely with the RNID and the British Deaf Association. The BDA has provided deaf awareness training for the Service throughout the province.

Training, the screening of policies, consultation and monitoring in order to update the Equality Commission annually will be ongoing.

Cost of policing

The baseline financial allocation for policing services in 2002/03 was £662.8 million.

However, funding arrangements for the Patten severance scheme require that savings resulting from officers leaving must be surrendered to pay for the scheme.

As a result, after taking this into account, along with the cost of new recruits, and additional funding for specific items, the opening amount available for policing was reduced to £616.1 million.

Due to the significant shortfall in funding the Police Service was unable to 'balance the books' for 2002/03, and as a result a forecast over spend of £15 million was declared at the start of the financial year.

During the year, there were high overtime levels resulting from the reduced police numbers, the demands of public order and the on-going security situation.

As a result, in-year bids were submitted for additional funding, and the Northern Ireland Office held an extra £39.5 million (of which PSNI availed of £36.5 million) primarily to cover the opening forecast deficit and the overspend on overtime. In addition, £2.7m of the carry forward from 2001/02 was applied to cover pressures other than overtime.

In all, this had the effect of increasing the total main grant available for policing to £655.3 million. Actual net expenditure was £654.2 million, resulting in a surplus of £1.1 million (£0.5 million revenue and £0.6 million capital), in total 0.17 percent of total available grant.

The overtime target for the year was 8,000 Average Daily Hours (ADH) of overtime activity. Actual overtime was 14,451 ADH, including a peak of 19,700 ADH in July.

This represented an increase of 29 per cent on 11,189 ADH of the previous financial year. The growth in overtime was caused by a number of factors including public disorder in North and East Belfast, Drumcree, dealing with the on-going terrorist activity, and maintaining minimum health and safety levels with reducing police numbers.

A total of £31.1 million was allocated by the Northern Ireland Office to finance 'non-severance' Patten expenditure. The actual expenditure during 2002/03 on the projects was £26.3 million, leaving £4.8 million to be carried forward into 2003/04.

This money was used to take forward the implementation of work in the following areas: provision of training, education and development; external recruitment of police and civilian staff; purchase of new soft skin

police vehicles; acquisition of a new radio system; major developments in information technology infrastructure and systems developments; building of a new holding centre in Antrim; purchase of new uniforms; and the promotion of the new Service.

Some 512 officers left under the voluntary scheme for regular and full-time Reserve officers at a cost of £ 42.2 million. This brings the total officers leaving to 1,789 since the scheme started.

Ensuring effective and value for money policing

Overall responsibility for ensuring the PSNI makes best use of the funding it is allocated lies with the Finance Department.

Good progress was made during the last twelve months in the implementation of the Finance and Resource Management Project (FARM). A new financial framework was established through agreement of the 'Management Statement' and 'Conditions of Grant' documents with the Northern Ireland Office and the Policing Board. A joined-up planning strategy was adopted as corporate policy within the Service.

There were also major developments in progressing the Local Financial Management (LFM) initiative. These included the provision of IT access to financial systems for DCUs, Regions and HQ Departments; the delegation of pay budgets within Urban Region; provision of financial management training to DCU Commanders, Business Managers and Finance Managers; the introduction of the local initiative budgets of between £15,000 and £20,000 for each DCU and significant planning work in preparation for the policy, process and systems changes required for the roll-out of Local Financial Management across PSNI in 2003/2004.

In addition, a costed policing plan was

developed for the first time, linking costs to policing objectives. Full implementation of financial processing in all 29 DCUs was also achieved.

Commercial style financial statements were prepared for the year ended March 31, 2002, in accordance with Section 12 (3) of Schedule 2 to the Police Act (NI) 2000. As the Northern Ireland Policing Board replaced the Police Authority for Northern Ireland, and the Royal Ulster Constabulary became the PSNI on November 4, 2001, two sets of statements were required.

The first statements were for the period April 1, 2001, to November 3, 2001, for the Police Authority for NI, and the second were the PSNI's first set of Financial Statements, prepared for the period November 4, 2001, to March 31, 2002. These financial statements were the first to be signed by the Chief Constable of PSNI in his new role as Accounting Officer for the police grants. A clean audit opinion was received from the Northern Ireland Audit Office for both sets of financial statements.

A certified copy of the 2002/03 Annual Financial Statements will be included on the PSNI website as an addendum to this report in January 2004 and copies will also be made available at The Stationery Office (TSO).

>> Statistics

NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED 2001/02 AND 2002/03

	2001/02			2002/03 ¹		
	Total Offences Recorded	Total Offences Cleared	% Clearance Rate	Total Offences Recorded	Total Offences Cleared	% Clearance Rate
Offences against the person (class 1)						
Murder	49	29	59.2	42	28	66.7
Manslaughter	3	6	200.0	3	0	0
Infanticide	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted murder	164	47	28.7	235	68	28.9
Threat or conspiracy to murder	740	406	54.9	898	497	55.3
Causing death by dangerous driving	23	10	43.5	31	30	96.8
Wounding with intent/GBH with intent	410	115	28.0	475	166	34.9
Wounding/GBH/AOABH	6,097	1,913	31.4	5,795	2,142	37.0
Aggravated assault	941	608	64.6	1,486	979	65.9
Common assault	13,971	6,924	49.6	14,619	7,681	52.5
Assault on police	1,563	1,222	78.2	1,951	1,621	83.1
Obstructing police	491	409	83.3	878	795	90.5
Intimidation	816	79	9.7	1,186	122	10.3
Harassment	499	316	63.3	562	389	69.2
Explosives offences endangering life	85	10	11.8	64	7	10.9
Firearms offences endangering life	113	43	38.1	111	46	41.4
Other offences against the person	139	52	37.4	119	47	39.5
Totals	26,104	12,189	46.7	28,455	14,618	51.4
Sexual offences (class 2)						
Rape	252	131	52.0	317	143	45.1
Attempted rape	40	18	45.0	40	25	62.5
Buggery	27	17	63.0	45	28	62.2
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14 years	6	4	66.7	1	2	200.0
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl 14 years and under 17 years	36	19	52.8	43	22	51.2
Indecent assault on a female	280	112	40.0	231	110	47.6
Indecent assault on a female child	308	183	59.4	284	173	60.9
Indecent assault on a male	34	16	47.1	34	18	52.9
Indecent assault on a male child	55	48	87.3	84	47	56.0
Indecency between males	5	5	100.0	15	3	20.0
Indecent exposure	333	90	27.0	289	73	25.3
Indecent conduct towards a child	23	14	60.9	33	16	48.5
Other sexual offences	32	14	43.8	53	25	47.2
Totals	1,431	671	46.9	1,469	685	46.6
Burglary (class 3)						
Domestic Burglary (Total)	9,064	876	9.7	10,125	987	9.7
Burglary in a dwelling	8,971	839	9.4	10,042	962	9.6
Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	93	37	39.8	83	25	30.1
Non-Domestic Burglary (Total)	7,926	745	9.4	8,409	754	9.0
Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	7,916	743	9.4	8,405	752	8.9
Aggravated burglary other than in a dwelling	10	2	20.0	4	2	50.0
Going equipped	153	133	86.9	125	104	83.2
Totals	17,143	1,754	10.2	18,659	1,845	9.9
Robbery (class 4)						
Robbery	815	117	14.4	894	107	12.0
Armed robbery	1,191	159	13.4	1,375	200	14.5
Hijacking	216	28	13.0	228	27	11.8
Totals	2,222	304	13.7	2,497	334	13.4

	2001/02			2002/03 ¹		
	Total Offences Recorded	Total Offences Cleared	% Clearance Rate	Total Offences Recorded	Total Offences Cleared	% Clearance Rate
Theft (class 5)						
Theft, one person from another	1,534	73	4.8	1,624	84	5.2
Theft in a dwelling	853	186	21.8	896	205	22.9
Theft by an employee	275	150	54.5	367	221	60.2
Theft of pedal cycles	1,000	45	4.5	815	44	5.4
Shoplifting	5,494	2,581	47.0	5,075	2,690	53.0
Theft from motor vehicles	6,584	151	2.3	7,140	240	3.4
Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles	11,635	996	8.6	8,410	932	11.1
comprised of: substantive offences ²	9,005	835	9.3	8,317	875	10.5
attempted offences ³	2,630	161	6.1	93	57	61.3
Vehicle tampering/interference ³	2,229	45	2.0	5,300	201	3.8
Handling of stolen goods	283	221	78.1	317	266	83.9
Other thefts	11,833	1,037	8.8	11,967	984	8.2
Totals	41,720	5,485	13.1	41,911	5,867	14.0
Fraud and forgery (class 6)						
Deception	3,962	1,161	29.3	4,321	1,213	28.1
Forgery and counterfeiting	1,110	166	15.0	733	147	20.1
Making off without payment	3,081	426	13.8	2,889	475	16.4
Other frauds	466	256	54.9	858	666	77.6
Totals	8,619	2,009	23.3	8,801	2,501	28.4
Criminal damage (class 7)						
Arson	2,924	162	5.5	2,598	141	5.4
Petrol bombing offences	216	11	5.1	207	10	4.8
Explosives offences	125	4	3.2	77	3	3.9
Criminal damage/ Malicious damage offences	36,527	4,038	11.1	33,462	4,485	13.4
Other criminal damage offences	161	93	57.8	227	133	58.6
Totals	39,953	4,308	10.8	36,571	4,772	13.0
Offences against the state (class 8)						
Offences under anti-terrorism legislation	17	11	64.7	21	14	66.7
Firearms offences	89	32	36.0	161	48	29.8
Offences under the Public Order (NI) Order	427	295	69.1	478	382	79.9
Other offences against the public order	634	54	8.5	1,111	147	13.2
Totals	1,167	392	33.6	1,771	591	33.4
Other notifiable offences (class 9)						
Blackmail	37	8	21.6	39	11	28.2
Kidnapping and false imprisonment	84	19	22.6	74	22	29.7
Drug offences (Total)	1,108	850	76.7	1,924	1,308	68.0
Trafficking offences	210	165	78.6	291	203	69.8
Non-Trafficking offences	898	685	76.3	1,633	1,105	67.7
Dangerous driving	166	131	78.9	276	232	84.1
Other notifiable offences	32	22	68.8	49	20	40.8
Totals	1,427	1,030	72.2	2,362	1,593	67.4
Violent Crime (Classes 1, 2 and 4)	29,757	13,164	44.2	32,421	15,637	48.2
Grand Total (all classes)	139,786	28,142	20.1	142,496	32,806	23.0

1. Figures for 2002/03 are recorded according to the National Crime Recording Standard, which was introduced on 1st April 2002.
2. Substantive theft/unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle is where the vehicle is actually stolen or taken, rather than simply an attempt being made to do so.
3. From 1st April 2002, most attempted thefts/unauthorised taking of motor vehicles are recorded as vehicle interference due to a change in the Home Office Counting Rules.

NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES RECORDED AND CLEARED BY DISTRICT COMMAND UNIT 2001/02 AND 2002/03

	2001/02			2002/03 ¹		
	Total Offences Recorded	Total Offences Cleared	% Clearance Rate	Total Offences Recorded	Total Offences Cleared	% Clearance Rate
Antrim	4,282	561	13.1	3,957	604	15.3
Belfast East	7,164	1,240	17.3	8,429	1,395	16.6
Belfast North	12,605	1,265	10.0	12,137	1,899	15.6
Belfast South	18,191	2,399	13.2	18,389	2,917	15.9
Belfast West	6,511	1,191	18.3	6,346	1,253	19.7
Carrickfergus	2,288	479	20.9	2,211	557	25.2
Castlereagh	4,802	804	16.7	4,221	668	15.8
Lisburn	8,527	1,615	18.9	8,558	1,796	21.0
Newtownabbey	6,162	803	13.0	6,671	1,011	15.2
North Down	5,806	1,064	18.3	5,849	1,249	21.4
Urban Region	76,338	11,421	15.0	76,768	13,349	17.4
Ards	5,112	1,232	24.1	4,969	1,287	25.9
Armagh	2,699	813	30.1	2,967	1,032	34.8
Banbridge	2,364	714	30.2	2,624	1,011	38.5
Cookstown	1,971	721	36.6	1,894	569	30.0
Craigavon	6,067	1,300	21.4	6,406	1,390	21.7
Down	4,642	813	17.5	5,245	1,313	25.0
Dungannon & South Tyrone	2,625	920	35.0	2,840	984	34.6
Newry & Mourne	5,177	1,203	23.2	5,517	1,347	24.4
South Region	30,657	7,716	25.2	32,462	8,933	27.5

Source of statistics: Central Statistics Unit

	2001/02			2002/03 ¹		
	Total Offences Recorded	Total Offences Cleared	% Clearance Rate	Total Offences Recorded	Total Offences Cleared	% Clearance Rate
Ballymena	4,286	1,178	27.5	4,594	1,385	30.1
Ballymoney	1,175	293	24.9	1,294	473	36.6
Coleraine	4,644	1,049	22.6	4,676	1,329	28.4
Fermanagh	2,610	736	28.2	2,539	747	29.4
Foyle	7,799	1,809	23.2	7,888	1,937	24.6
Larne	2,127	522	24.5	1,925	659	34.2
Limavady	1,946	539	27.7	1,979	595	30.1
Magherafelt	1,662	444	26.7	1,673	509	30.4
Moyle	1,017	237	23.3	989	351	35.5
Omagh	2,980	1,163	39.0	3,162	1,335	42.2
Strabane	2,531	1,034	40.9	2,547	1,204	47.3
North Region	32,777	9,004	27.5	33,266	10,524	31.6
Grand Total²	139,786	28,142	20.1	142,496	32,806	23.0

1. Figures for 2002/03 are recorded according to the National Crime Recording Standard, which was introduced on 1st April 2002.
2. Grand Total includes offences for which the offence location was unknown.

**NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES CLEARED BY METHOD OF CLEARANCE
2001/02 AND 2002/03**

Method of Clearance	2001/02	2002/03
Charge / Summons	11,808	13,896
Caution	2,079	2,393
Taken into Consideration	439	612
Offender Under Age / Juvenile Advice & Warning	1,646	1,731
Complainant Declined to Prosecute	10,140	12,051
Otherwise disposed of	2,030	2,123
Total Offences Cleared	28,142	32,806
Clearance Rate	20.1%	23.0%

POLICE AND CRIMINAL EVIDENCE ORDER (PACE)

A total of 25,613 arrests were made under PACE during 2002/03 compared with 24,147 during the previous year, an increase of 6.1%. The vast majority of those arrested (87.2%) were male.

POLICE AND CRIMINAL EVIDENCE (PACE) ORDER - PERSONS AND VEHICLES SEARCHED 2002/03

	Stolen Property	Firearms	Offensive Weapon	Going Equipped	Others	Totals
April	63	7	19	0	24	19
May	55	3	0	0	35	21
June	60	5	7	0	19	21
July	53	5	7	0	35	29
August	69	5	9	1	20	17
September	92	16	22	2	19	41
October	113	15	8	0	28	30
November	129	9	11	4	29	26
December	123	15	4	0	27	38
January	80	5	26	1	29	31
February	109	12	12	0	31	42
March	92	9	7	2	25	30
Total	1038	106	132	10	321	345

■ Searched ■ Arrested as a result of search

POLICE AND CRIMINAL EVIDENCE (PACE) ORDER - DETENTION STATISTICS 2002/03

	Arrests Under PACE				Requests/Delays			
	Totals	Gender		Arrests For Notifiable Offences	Friend/Relative etc		Solicitor	
		Male	Female		Requests	Delayed on Superintendent's Authority	Requests	Delayed on Superintendent's Authority
Quarter 1								
April-June	6407	5602	805	4826	1044	5	2441	8
Quarter 2								
July-September	6373	5608	765	4481	1047	4	2506	2
Quarter 3								
October-December	6440	5641	799	4623	1111	3	2616	0
Quarter 4								
January-March	6393	5492	901	4627	971	0	2386	5
Totals	25613	22343	3270	18557	4173	12	9949	15

Intimate Searches:

Three intimate searches were carried out during 2002/2003. Two of these were drug offence searches. One drug offence search had a positive result and the other two searches were negative.

Extended Detention:

During 2002/2003 eight persons were detained in police custody for more than 24 hours and released without charge. There were seventeen applications to Magistrates' Courts for warrants of further detention, all of which were granted. Thirteen persons were subsequently charged.

**NUMBER OF DEATHS DUE TO THE SECURITY SITUATION
1993/94 - 2002/03**

	Police	Police Reserve	Army	UDR/RIR*	Civilian	Totals
1993/94	3	2	4	1	58	68
1994/95	2	-	1	2	49	54
1995/96	-	-	-	-	12	12
1996/97	-	-	2	-	12	14
1997/98	3	1	-	-	29	33
1998/99	1	-	1	-	42	44
1999/00	-	-	-	-	7	7
2000/01	-	-	-	-	18	18
2001/02	-	-	-	-	17	17
2002/03	-	-	-	-	15	15

* Figures include Royal Irish Regiment (Home Service Battalions).

SECURITY-RELATED INCIDENTS 1993/94 - 2002/03

	Shooting Incidents	Bombings*		Incendiaries*	
		Incidents	Devices Used	Incidents	Devices Used
1993/94	426	278	303	104	135
1994/95	272	132	146	20	24
1995/96	65	-	-	7	7
1996/97	140	50	65	7	7
1997/98	245	73	91	6	6
1998/99	187	123	229	20	20
1999/00	131	66	86	5	5
2000/01	331	177	206	9	22
2001/02	358	318	407	5	6
2002/03	348	178	226	8	8

* Includes explosions/ignitions and defusings.

**FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND
EXPLOSIVES FINDS 1993/94 - 2002/03**

	Firearms	Ammunition (rounds)	Explosives (kgs)
1993/94	194	19,488	4,554.6
1994/95	139	7,998	448.4
1995/96	116	18,372	6.4
1996/97	103	12,043	2,462.5
1997/98	97	9,984	661.7
1998/99	104	13,416	778.4
1999/00	110	12,414	240.4
2000/01	134	12,970	98.9
2001/02	96	9,241	96.2
2002/03	129	18,549	19.9

CASUALTIES AS A RESULT OF PARAMILITARY-STYLE ATTACKS 1993/94 - 2002/03

	Shootings			Assaults*			Total Casualties (Shootings and Assaults)
	Total	By Loyalist Groups	By Republican Groups	Total	By Loyalist Groups	By Republican Groups	
1993/94	83	59	24	42	37	5	125
1994/95	98	55	43	105	46	59	203
1995/96	6	6	-	246	90	156	252
1996/97	41	37	4	291	125	166	332
1997/98	73	33	40	125	70	55	198
1998/99	73	40	33	172	112	60	245
1999/00	75	53	22	103	70	33	178
2000/01	162	99	63	161	89	72	323
2001/02	190	124	66	112	76	36	302
2002/03	165	110	55	144	94	50	309

* Beatings

>> Statistics

NUMBER OF PERSONS CHARGED WITH TERRORIST AND SERIOUS PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES 1993/94 - 2002/03

	Persons Charged
1993/94	374
1994/95	262
1995/96	476
1996/97	591
1997/98	423
1998/99	441
1999/00	288
2000/01	269
2001/02	315
2002/03	358

PARADE STATISTICS 2002/03

	Loyalist	Nationalist	Other	Total
Total parades	2,449	129	478	3,056
Legal parades	2,448	128	477	3,053
Illegal parades	1	1	1	3
Of the total:				
Parades re-routed	39	1	1	41
Parades with other conditions imposed	66	2	0	68
Parades at which disorder occurred	22	4	0	26
Parades banned	0	0	0	0

Loyalist parades include those organised by the Orange Order, the Royal Black Preceptory and the Apprentice Boys as well as band parades/contests or protest marches involving the Loyalist community. *Nationalist* parades include parades organised by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Irish National Foresters as well as band parades/contests or protest marches involving the nationalist community.

INJURY ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS AND CASUALTIES 1993/94 - 2002/03

	Number of Injury Collisions	Casualties			Total Casualties
		Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured	
1993/94	6,604	149	1,713	9,553	11,415
1994/95	6,797	148	1,588	10,224	11,960
1995/96	6,690	139	1,543	9,910	11,592
1996/97	7,325	153	1,645	11,237	13,035
1997/98	7,081	143	1,526	10,912	12,581
1998/99	7,460	150	1,462	11,682	13,294
1999/00	7,827	150	1,573	12,170	13,893
2000/01	8,361	163	1,801	12,620	14,584
2001/02	7,133	153	1,638	10,812	12,603
2002/03	6,569	158	1,487	9,901	11,546

INJURY ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION CASUALTIES BY SEVERITY OF INJURY AND TYPE OF ROAD USER 1998/99 - 2002/03

Type of Road User*	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Fatalities:					
Pedestrians	40	40	30	37	26
Drivers of motor vehicles	53	71	86	59	62
Motor cyclists	9	8	7	12	21
Pedal cyclists	5	-	5	1	3
Passengers	42	29	34	43	43
Pillion passengers	-	2	-	-	1
Other road users	1	-	1	1	2
Totals	150	150	163	153	158
Serious Injuries:					
Pedestrians	285	292	267	276	236
Drivers of motor vehicles	587	637	774	710	643
Motor cyclists	82	105	139	148	166
Pedal cyclists	53	53	52	40	27
Passengers	438	469	546	439	395
Pillion passengers	4	7	14	7	14
Other road users	13	10	9	18	6
Totals	1,462	1,573	1,801	1,638	1,487
Slight Injuries:					
Pedestrians	839	871	821	652	607
Drivers of motor vehicles	5,702	6,023	6,375	5,532	5,073
Motor cyclists	206	265	315	254	284
Pedal cyclists	244	226	205	156	141
Passengers	4,598	4,714	4,821	4,134	3,739
Pillion passengers	12	15	21	28	19
Other road users	81	56	62	56	38
Totals	11,682	12,170	12,620	10,812	9,901
All Casualties:					
Pedestrians	1,164	1,203	1,118	965	869
Drivers of motor vehicles	6,342	6,731	7,235	6,301	5,778
Motor cyclists	297	378	461	414	471
Pedal cyclists	302	279	262	197	171
Passengers	5,078	5,212	5,401	4,616	4,177
Pillion passengers	16	24	35	35	34
Other road users	95	66	72	75	46
Totals	13,294	13,893	14,584	12,603	11,546

* 'Passengers' include pedal cycle passengers. 'Other road users' include drivers/riders and passengers of 'other vehicles' (e.g. tractors, invalid carriages, horse-drawn vehicles).

Source of statistics: Central Statistics Unit

CHILD CASUALTIES (UNDER 16) IN INJURY ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS BY SEVERITY OF INJURY, TYPE OF ROAD USER AND AGE GROUP 2001/02 AND 2002/03

Type of Road User*	2001/02				2002/03			
	Under 5	5 - 10	11 - 15	Totals	Under 5	5 - 10	11 - 15	Totals
Fatalities:								
Pedestrians	-	2	4	6	1	-	1	2
Pedal cyclists	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Passengers	1	-	3	4	3	2	3	8
Others	-	-	2	2	-	1	1	2
Totals	1	2	9	12	4	4	7	15
Serious Injuries								
Pedestrians	20	46	42	108	11	36	35	82
Pedal cyclists	1	10	8	19	-	5	5	10
Passengers	27	24	29	80	18	23	26	67
Others	-	3	9	12	-	3	11	14
Totals	48	83	88	219	29	67	77	173
Slight Injuries								
Pedestrians	45	139	109	293	28	120	104	252
Pedal cyclists	4	37	42	83	-	33	30	63
Passengers	201	337	358	896	183	378	354	915
Others	1	4	20	25	-	1	17	18
Totals	251	517	529	1,297	211	532	505	1,248
All Child Casualties								
Pedestrians	65	187	155	407	40	156	140	336
Pedal cyclists	5	47	50	102	-	39	37	76
Passengers	229	361	390	980	204	403	383	990
Others	1	7	31	39	-	5	29	34
Totals	300	602	626	1,528	244	603	589	1,436

* 'Passengers' include pedal cycle passengers. 'Others' include drivers of motor vehicles, riders and pillion passengers on motor cycles and drivers/riders and passengers of 'other vehicles' (e.g. tractors, invalid carriages and horse-drawn vehicles etc.).

MOST COMMON PRINCIPAL FACTORS IN INJURY ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS 2002/03

Principal Factor	Number of Injury Collisions	Casualties			
		Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured	Total Casualties
Inattention	1,359	13	136	2,200	2,349
Emerging from minor road/driveway without care	831	14	152	1,334	1,500
Excessive speed having regard to the conditions	801	42	339	1,227	1,608
Alcohol or drugs (all road users)	454	42	200	665	907
Turning right without care	348	5	86	571	662
Driving too close	320	-	17	544	561
Overtaking without care	295	5	81	442	528
Pedestrian heedless of traffic	281	12	91	206	309

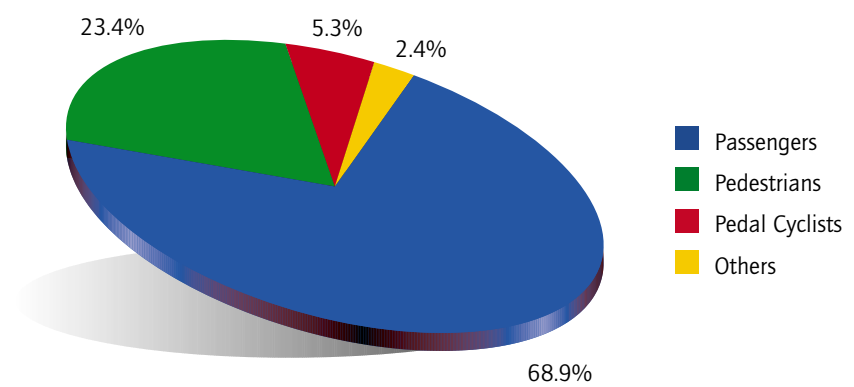
MOST COMMON PRINCIPAL FACTORS IN INJURY ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS INVOLVING CHILD CASUALTIES 2002/03

Principal Factor	Number of Injury Collisions	Casualties			
		Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured	Total Casualties
Inattention	172	-	10	241	251
Pedestrian heedless of traffic	145	2	44	104	150
Emerging from minor road/driveway without care	137	4	17	167	188
Excessive speed having regard to the conditions	102	5	27	163	195
Walk/run movement masked	101	-	20	83	103

INJURY ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS INVOLVING CHILD CASUALTIES (UNDER 16) 1993/94 - 2002/03

	Number of Injury Collisions	Child Casualties			
		Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured	Total Casualties
1993/94	1,300	20	278	1,288	1,586
1994/95	1,400	21	282	1,430	1,733
1995/96	1,385	18	248	1,448	1,714
1996/97	1,419	14	273	1,578	1,865
1997/98	1,398	16	248	1,488	1,752
1998/99	1,472	15	218	1,641	1,874
1999/00	1,402	20	201	1,546	1,767
2000/01	1,376	12	226	1,566	1,804
2001/02	1,201	12	219	1,297	1,528
2002/03	1,039	15	173	1,248	1,436

CHILD CASUALTIES (UNDER 16) BY TYPE OF ROAD USER 2002/03



FORMAL DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS HEARD DURING 2002/03 - CHARGES DEALT WITH

Charge*	Reported by Supervising Officers	Complaints made by the Public*
1988 (Regs)		
Criminal conduct	3	0
Discreditable conduct	3	0
Misconduct towards a member	1	0
Wilful / Careless falsehood	1	0
Neglect of duty	2	1
2000 (Regs)		
Politeness and tolerance	2	0
Criminal Offences	10	0
General Conduct	2	0
Performance in duties	2	0
Lawful Orders	1	0
Honesty & Integrity	1	0
Total	28	1

* Most serious charge shown. The PSNI (Conduct) Regulations 2000 came into effect on 6th November 2000.
 ** Figures refer to complaints that were initially recorded up to 5th November 2000 only. From 6th November 2000, responsibility for the recording and investigation of complaints against the police passed to the Office of the Police Ombudsman.

OUTCOME OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE COMPLETED DURING 2002/03*

Type of complaint	Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Withdrawn	Incapable of Investigation	Total Completed
Assault	1	163	10	46	220
Incivility	2	33	0	3	38
Neglect of duty	2	27	1	6	36
Oppressive conduct/harassment	0	19	1	8	28
Unlawful arrest/detention	0	10	0	3	13
Irregularity in procedure	0	11	0	2	13
Irregularity re evidence/perjury	0	6	0	1	3
Traffic offence	0	0	0	0	7
Irregularity in search of premises	0	3	0	0	0
Corrupt practice	0	1	0	0	4
Mishandling of property	0	4	0	0	0
Discriminatory behaviour	0	0	0	0	1
Other	3	13	0	2	18
Totals	8	290	12	71	381

* Figures refer to complaints that were initially recorded up to 5th November 2000 only. From 6th November 2000, responsibility for the recording and investigation of complaints against the police passed to the Office of the Police Ombudsman.
 During the period 2002/03 the Police Service for Northern Ireland resolved 291 Complaints with 332 allegations forwarded to them by the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland for Informal Resolution.

FORMAL DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS HEARD DURING 2002/03 - RANK OF OFFICERS INVOLVED IN PROCEEDINGS

Rank	Reported by Supervising Officers	Complaints made by the Public*
Inspector and above	3	0
Sergeant	1	0
Constable	20	1
Reserve Constable (Full or part-time)	4	0
Total	28	1

* Figures refer to complaints that were initially recorded up to 5th November 2000 only. From 6th November 2000, responsibility for the recording and investigation of complaints against the police passed to the Office of the Police Ombudsman.

FORMAL DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS HEARD DURING 2002/03 - OUTCOMES OF PROCEEDINGS

Outcome*	Reported by Supervising Officers	Complaints made by the Public*
Dismissal	1	0
Required to Resign	1	0
Reduction in Rank	1	0
Reduction in Pay	3	0
Fine	8	0
Reprimand	7	0
Caution	4	1
Found Not Guilty	3	0
Total	28	1

* Most serious penalty shown.
 ** Figures refer to complaints that were initially recorded up to 5th November 2000 only. From 6th November 2000, responsibility for the recording and investigation of complaints against the police passed to the Office of the Police Ombudsman.

JUVENILE REFERRALS 2000/01 - 2002/03

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Total Number of Referrals	12862	11920	9683
Resulting in Cautions	1314	1095	1045
Resulting in Advice & Warning	6494	5070	4385
Resulting in Prosecution	443	462	404
Number of Pending Decisions	2108	2677	2265
Resulting in No Further Police Action	2503	2616	1584

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS 2000/01 - 2002/03

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Total Number of Domestic Incidents	14325	14937	15512
Total Number of Incidents involving Domestic Violence	7254	7814	7961

RACIAL INCIDENTS 2000/01 - 2002/03

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Total Number of Racial Incidents	260	185	226

HOMOPHOBIC INCIDENTS 2000/01 - 2002/03

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Total Number of Homophobic Incidents	57	40	35