



Chief Constable's

ANNUAL

REPORT

2007/2008



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S FOREWORD

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP FOR A SAFER NORTHERN IRELAND

Our aim as a professional policing service is to make Northern Ireland safer, by reducing the number of people who are victims of crime and bringing those responsible for committing crime to justice.

This report highlights some of the most challenging issues we have dealt with and the achievements we have made over the last year.

The key to our work is policing in partnership with the community, with the full support of the Policing Board, District Policing Partnerships and the many other agencies and community groups with whom we work. As a direct result of this collaborative approach to addressing local problems, the number of people who feel safer in their homes is increasing and confidence in the work we are doing continues to rise.

The annual statistics for the year in review, some of which are featured in greater detail elsewhere in this report, indicate that recorded crime is down by 10.5%, that's 12,676 fewer crimes than in the previous year.

This is a fantastic achievement, made possible by police officers investing huge effort, skill and available resources to prevent crime and keep our communities safe. Much of this



success is in my view a direct result of positive community engagement.

But the Police Service is not being complacent about these achievements. For example, we have made significant organisational change, reducing the number of Police Districts from 29 to eight, allowing a more efficient use of available resources.

We have commenced our Neighbourhood Policing Programme to give every neighbourhood across Northern Ireland access to local policing, offer opportunities to influence local priorities, deliver positive interventions with partners to tackle identified priorities and provide answers on what has been done.

Public Protection Units (PPUs), dedicated teams of specially trained officers to deal with child protection issues, domestic violence, sex offender management and missing and vulnerable people have also recently been introduced in every District Command Unit.

Since 2001, 50% of our recruits are drawn from the Catholic community and 50% from the

non-Catholic community. As of 1st February this year, almost 24% of officers were Catholics, well up on the 8% of 2001, and well on the way to the target of 30% set by Patten for 2010.

We have a service which is increasingly representative of the community, in terms of religion and gender. For example, in 2001 women made up 14% of officers, that figure now sits at 22% and is rising. In addition, we are taking positive steps to encourage more recruits from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Policing is a career of first choice for many people. We recruit in the region of 400 officers annually. Each place is hugely over subscribed. In fact, since coming into being some seven years ago the PSNI has received over 80,000 applications.

These officers come from all communities, backgrounds and ages. They are willing and indeed courageous enough to step up to the mark and try to make their society a safer and more secure place.

I use the word courageous quite deliberately, because there are still people out there who want to murder police officers. They have nothing to offer other than mayhem, injury and death. However, while they are small in number they remain dangerous and their intent is clear. In recent months they tried to murder off-duty police officers whilst they were going about their ordinary daily lives. Thankfully they didn't succeed.

They have also been involved in other terrorist activities. But the vast majority of those attempts have been frustrated and disrupted by robust, professional policing and significant and growing community and political rejection of their activities.

Our colleagues in An Garda Síochána (AGS) have also been critical to our success. Criminals and particularly terrorists do not respect boundaries. I meet regularly with the Gardaí Commissioner. We have officers seconded to work with us from AGS and vice versa. On a practical level, there is unprecedented co-operation in terms of tackling crimes and assisting in investigations.

Saving lives on the roads remains one of our top priorities. While 18 fewer people lost their lives on roads in Northern Ireland during the year in review, many road traffic collisions could have been avoided. We will continue to target the small minority of people who continue to flout the laws, whether speeding, driving while using a mobile telephone, not wearing seatbelts, or driving after taking drink or drugs. But we all share the responsibility to be safe road users.

As we move forward, I believe it will be a time of consolidating change, of growing confidence in policing structures and of increased professionalism and effectiveness.

But of course this is not just a matter for the police. Many others have a part to play, ranging from the individual citizen through to community and political leaders.

By working together I believe we can continue to make Northern Ireland a safer place for all.

Sir Hugh Orde OBE
Chief Constable

DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Against an ever-changing backdrop of political, community and social developments, together with national, local and world events, policing in Northern Ireland is never far from the news.

The Police Service also relies on public support and assistance, so we must be capable of communicating quickly and effectively with the public. One of the best ways of doing this is through local and national media.

The Department of Media and Public Relations supports policing by managing and responding to the huge number of media queries received on a daily basis. The department is also responsible for all internal and external communications support.

Through the department's three interlinked branches, News, Public Relations and Public Affairs, significant effort goes into explaining the major issues of development and change

facing the Service and supporting front line policing by working in partnership with local and national media and our key stakeholders.



Assistant Chief Constable Duncan McCausland is interviewed at the launch of the winter anti-drink drive campaign

NEWS

The story of policing in Northern Ireland continued to be one that made the headlines right across the globe. The News branch received nearly 19,000 calls from media outlets over the past 12 months.

We received 877 interview bids for officers at all ranks, from Constable to Chief Constable and arranged over 500 interviews for radio, television, print and online media. While the majority of media queries came from local and national news outlets, additional requests

came from mainland Europe, North America, Russia, Japan and China.

In addition to facilitating interviews with key staff, the department is also responsible for demonstrating the work of police by organising 'ride-alongs' which give journalists first hand experience of front line policing operations.

Over the past 12 months the Department has also issued hundreds of appeals for information through the media. These have made a huge contribution towards solving crimes, assisting and guiding police operations.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Staffed by public relations professionals, the Public Relations branch works in partnership with police officers and staff to develop communication strategies that support the work of the Service.

Recent examples of communications strategies developed to support major projects include an anti-domestic abuse advertising campaign, a series of anti-social behaviour initiatives, crime prevention advertising campaigns and ongoing road policing safety initiatives.

With responsibility for corporate internal communications, the Public Relations team produce 'CallSign Online', a fortnightly

online newsletter which delivers the latest news directly to officers and staff. This is complimented by our monthly staff magazine, 'CallSign', which keeps staff up to date on police events and best practice.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Public Affairs branch plays a key role in monitoring, assessing and reporting on the societal changes which impact on the structure and development of policing.

In addition to keeping the organisation informed of the constantly changing environment in which it operates, it assists the Service to engage with individuals of influence and stakeholders in the community.

The Public Affairs branch has also worked to facilitate effective communication between the Service and its many stakeholders, MLAs, business community representatives, the voluntary sector, local community groups, the education sector - indeed any group with an interest in policing or organisation keen to learn about and engage with the police.

This was achieved through attendance at conferences and meetings, as well as regular news bulletins, briefings and our 'Dispatch' Public Affairs Bulletin.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Criminal Justice Department is headed by Assistant Chief Constable Drew Harris

YOUTH INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUPS

The PSNI Youth Independent Advisory Groups (Armagh, Down, Fermanagh and Foyle) completed their 12-month pilot run in February this year. The completion of the initial phase of this initiative was marked with an event in Cookstown, which gave the young people an opportunity to outline their achievements over the past year to a select audience.

Those involved were aged between 13 and 18 years, from various backgrounds within the community, who were willing to provide unique and valuable input into both local and strategic policing.

The groups were actively involved in a number of projects, which allowed them access to key decision makers. They provided an input into local Policing Plans, devising a youth friendly version of the PSNI's policing with children and young people policy, input and participation in Critical Incident training, as well as contributing to an international Independent Advisory Group conference in Blackpool.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Neighbourhood Policing is about focussing our resources on the needs of the people we serve within relatively small geographic areas, i.e. 'neighbourhoods'. People's feelings of safety are strongly influenced by the signals, which they see and hear close to their home. Each local area is unique; what may be considered a concern to a community in one location may not be to another.

Our Neighbourhood Policing Programme was initiated in July 2007 to bring together the various frontline and support resources necessary to establish the systems, structures and policies required to support Neighbourhood Policing. Over recent months each of our Police Districts has worked with local residents and partners to identify 'neighbourhoods' within their area.

Our promise is to give every 'neighbourhood' across Northern Ireland access to local policing, offer opportunities

PUBLIC PROTECTION UNITS

In March 2008, Assistant Chief Constable Harris introduced Public Protection Units (PPUs) into every District Command Unit across Northern Ireland.

Public protection covers four key areas of Police business.

CHILD ABUSE

PPUs represent a return of child protection and child abuse investigations from Crime Operations Branch to local Districts. Child abuse detectives are trained to the highest levels. They bring those skills closer to the community by being attached to District Command Units. All major sex crime investigations in relation to adults still reside with Crime Operations Sexual Crime Unit. They will also deal with child 'stranger' rape. PPU's have a strong element of early intervention and prevention based on intelligence.

DOMESTIC ABUSE AND VIOLENCE

Domestic abuse and violence is a scourge in society. Specially trained Domestic Violence Officers are attached to each PPU. Intervention and prevention is the cornerstone of the general approach.

VULNERABLE AND MISSING PERSONS

Some vulnerable or missing people including those with physical or learning disabilities and older people, are subjected to physical or sexual abuse or are exploited. PPU officers have specialist interview skills. These skills will be used to give confidence to victims of crime to report cases of abuse.

MANAGEMENT OF VIOLENT AND SEXUAL OFFENDERS IN THE COMMUNITY

In Northern Ireland, police have a significant role in the management of sex offenders. Police officers and our partners act to protect the public through monitoring people who present a risk and take steps to manage and reduce that risk. Police officers who manage sexual offenders are attached to PPU's to ensure links are made and steps are taken to ensure sexual offenders are monitored effectively. The monitoring of specified violent offenders will commence in the coming months.

A recent PSNI anti-domestic abuse advertisement



to influence local priorities, deliver positive interventions with partners to tackle identified priorities and provide answers on what has been done.

This will be achieved by our Neighbourhood Policing Teams, made up of officers dedicated to specific geographic areas, who will be responsible for establishing the local issues identified by the community and take responsibility for working with them to find answers. Over the last year we have seen a strong network of Neighbourhood Policing Teams develop across Northern Ireland working to make the 'neighbourhoods' they work within feel safer places to live, work and socialise.

CRIME PREVENTION

The Crime Prevention Department has a challenging remit to support local and national crime prevention initiatives. During the past year, Crime Prevention has taken a new strategic direction, which it intends to build upon in the future.

For example, using targets identified in the policing plan as a basis for intervention, the department organised the largest mail shot advertising campaign ever carried out by the PSNI, using the 2008 delivery of rates bills to distribute information to help combat various forms of burglary, to every home and business in Northern Ireland.

Public Protection Units work closely with the other main arms of local policing - neighbourhood, response and community safety. They also engage with a range of bodies in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

PPUs will protect some of the most vulnerable people in society. They exist to protect victims. They exist to protect broader communities. By working closely with local people, police in Public Protection Units will seek to make communities safer and feel safer.

EXTRADITION

The increased movement of people throughout the European Community has presented new challenges for the PSNI.

We continue to improve International co-operation with the effective use of European and other International Arrest Warrants to detain criminals who seek to evade justice by crossing International borders. This demonstrates positive co-operation between police and judicial authorities internationally.

IMPACT (INI)

The IMPACT Nominal Index (INI) data system was designed to meet the requirements of Recommendation two of the Bichard Inquiry subsequent to the Soham murders.

The INI contains over 63 million nominal records and delivers the capability to identify the existence of information held in a wide variety of UK police systems against an individual in six business areas across 54 Police Forces in the UK. These are Intelligence, Crime, Custody, Domestic Violence, Child Protection and Firearms (Licensing Refusals and Revocations).

This is the first time a true national system has been available to PSNI. The project was completed in March 2008 having concluded a two-year back record conversion program and successfully delivered INI to PSNI. This will now support projected operational policing needs until at least 2010 and assist the delivery of the Police National Database (PND).

Linking information from one or more forces with names of offenders and suspects in another will enhance decisions on corroboration, risk assessment, operational priorities and action. Use of the INI will deliver an effective and integrated national information sharing capability that will improve the ability of the PSNI to safeguard children and vulnerable people.

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT



The Operational Support Department is led by Assistant Chief Constable Roy Toner

TECHNOLOGY

SUPPORTING FRONT

LINE POLICING

The deployment and use of efficient and effective Information and Communications Technology (ICT) systems is a key element of a modern and professional policing service.

Our Information and Communication Services branch (ICS) is firmly focused on increasing public confidence by providing innovative technology solutions to support the service. During 2007/08, ICS has made substantial strategic investments in technology to enhance the infrastructure and operational capability of the PSNI as well as supporting business critical systems, delivering flexibility at the front end. The year ahead will deliver continued achievements in the advancement of policing technology as the Branch strives to place the PSNI at the forefront of law enforcement technology.

SAFETY CAMERA

SCHEME

The safety camera scheme continues to expand. In November 2007 five further enforcement cameras at junctions controlled by traffic signals were launched.

The red light running cameras capture details of vehicles that breach the red light. The locations were selected because each had a history of killed or seriously injured (KSI) traffic collisions caused by a driver failing to obey the mechanical signal.

In addition, within the reporting year installation of the latest Average Speed Enforcement Camera System (SPECS) on the busy Holywood to Bangor Road began. A similar system installed in August 2006 on the A1 between Sheepbridge and the Mourne County Roundabout in Newry has successfully contributed to reducing incidences of speeding and road traffic collisions.

Excessive speed is frequently a significant factor in collisions and has a huge impact on the severity of injuries. As with all road safety strategies the aim of the safety camera scheme is to reduce the number of injury collisions on our roads.

PROJECT HORIZON

During the last year, our Horizon project team has made huge strides improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the service.

The time police officers spend entering data into computer systems has been significantly reduced, through the delivery of an innovative technology solution.

Our new NICHE Records Management System allows police officers to capture and

input offender's details once and link exhibits, documents and other items relevant to the crime as well as linkages to other offences, building the case electronically for submission to the Public Prosecution Service.

The system eliminates data duplication, improves the quantity and quality of information captured to support a 'RIGHT FIRST TIME' policy, makes information more timely and accessible for investigating officers, and allowing more time for investigating crime and other vital frontline duties.

TASER

In February 2008 the pilot scheme on the deployment of TASER® commenced with 12 TASER® units being made available to officers from the Special Operations branch for deployment in pre-planned operations and to support officers in dangerous and difficult situations.

Officers have been trained to the highest national standards with human rights compliant procedures and guidance

in place to govern the use of TASER®.

Its introduction gives the Police Service a greater range of tactical options and actually advances human rights. In situations where there is a real risk to life or serious injury to officers, members of the public or the criminal, TASER® remains a much preferable option to the use of conventional firearms.

The decision to pilot TASER® was taken following extensive consultation and research in relation to Human Rights and Equality considerations.



One of the taser units

INFORMATION

SECURITY

The PSNI recognises that information including personal data stored or kept by paper or electronic means, is a valuable asset. We fully understand our legislative responsibilities and our obligations to those to whom that information refers and accordingly have implemented appropriate steps to protect such information against loss or misuse.

Examples of the controls that we use include the monitoring of internet and email activity to ensure compliance with our 'Acceptable Use Policy' and the 'Manual of Protective Security'. We provide advice, guidance and training in respect of information and IT security and rigorously enforce user identification and authentication mechanisms.

We also submit to an annual independent 'IT Health Check' that is designed to test our IT systems, applications and network components against vulnerabilities which could leave them open to attack.

Following data disclosure incidents experienced by other government agencies during 2007 and into 2008 we initiated a comprehensive review of our current procedures in respect of the handling and protection of protectively marked material.

This review has led to the introduction of several stringent protection measures such as restricting the movement of unencrypted laptop devices outside of the PSNI estate and an examination of email traffic to ensure that protectively marked material cannot be transmitted via insecure channels.

This work will be ongoing as the organisation continues to evaluate the latest methods of protection and best practice and seeks to ensure that protection of information assets remains.

CAUSEWAY

In 2007/08, as part of the Causeway Programme, the PSNI has worked in conjunction with the other criminal justice agencies to prepare the way for the sharing of information electronically through a data sharing mechanism. The PSNI are now exchanging information electronically with the Public Prosecution Service and case files are transferred securely, speeding up the administration of justice process.

INFORMATION

MANAGEMENT

Throughout 2007/08, the PSNI has been introduced to new working practices through the implementation of a corporate file plan to improve the way information is shared within the Service, developing a culture of greater openness and accountability. Project Lexicon is adopting a corporate approach to the management of electronic documents and records, addressing the way the PSNI uses, stores, manages and shares information in order to put in place a robust electronic document and records management system (EDRMS).

Increasingly, e-mail has become an integral part of PSNI's operational processes and on average 2,000,000 e-mails are processed each month. The EDRMS enables emails to be managed as a corporate record. The project has been successful in rolling out the EDRMS to two thirds of the Departments within the PSNI and has established a corporate file plan so that electronic information is managed efficiently and used in the most beneficial way. The rollout of the electronic document and records management system will be completed in 2008/09, in line with the original project plan.

CCTV AND DIGITAL

TECHNOLOGY

CCTV plays an important role in providing public reassurance and the prevention and detection of crime. To support the restructuring of districts and make interface areas safer, work has been carried out to position CCTV cameras across Northern Ireland. Additional installations are planned for 08/09 in areas where public order and safety are of concern.

Internally, we have embraced digital recording and have made considerable investment in the use of CCTV, providing support to control rooms, prisoner holding areas and interview suites in order to improve security and safety.

The increased functionality of CCTV has proven to be an extremely important tool in the fight against crime, acting as both a crime deterrent and a source of evidence in court.

CRIME OPERATIONS



Headed by Assistant Chief Constable Peter Sheridan, Crime Operations Department is responsible for conducting all investigations into organised crime, serious crime, including murders and terrorism. Its teams of detectives work with in-house specialists, including police (crime) analysts, to deliver effective investigations and manage intelligence for the protection of the community.

ECONOMIC CRIME BUREAU

Cash seizures were up 500% on the previous year, topping over £1.8 million.

In December 2007, the Financial Investigation Unit won the Keith Hughes National award for excellence in financial investigation.

One man was given a suspended jail term and made to pay a £500,000 confiscation order after being convicted of four counts of money laundering.

During a separate investigation into money laundering police arrested three people in the Newry area. £750,000 in cash was seized and accounts containing around £5 million have been restrained. Two individuals have been charged with 15 counts of money laundering.

CHOPPER COPS

Under the management of Crime Operations, the police helicopter attended 1,268 incidents.

It has located 28 people and helped ground

DOORBELL DNA

Low Copy Number DNA (LCDNA) evidence collection by Crime Scene Investigators working with the PSNI continues to provide police officers with potentially important evidence that could be produced in a courtroom.

In 2006, an elderly man had reported the theft of his wallet during a distraction burglary. On investigation it was discovered that he answered his door to two men on hearing his doorbell ring. The men were enquiring about an advertisement placed locally by the householder. When they left, the man realised his wallet had gone missing from his pocket.

When police arrived, they isolated the doorbell, which was then swabbed by Crime Scene Investigators for traces of DNA. Using the most advanced and sensitive DNA technology a profile was obtained which subsequently identified a known offender. This evidence will form a key part of a future trial.

crews locate a further 33. The aircraft helped find eight people who were missing or vulnerable and was used in four medical emergencies to convey casualties to hospital.

The chopper located 24 vehicles with a combined value of £124,000, and has found property to the value of £39,000.



DRUGS

Eighteen drug gangs (an increase of 33% on last year) lost their drugs, their money and, for many, their liberty during the past 12 months as the Drug Squad targeted those who bring misery to our communities, making seizures worth more than £4.3 million.

During a three-month period Drug Squad made 36 arrests, disrupting 12 different crime gangs. These arrests had a direct impact on drug supply into Ballymena, Coleraine, Limavady, Londonderry, Belfast, Antrim, Craigavon, Banbridge, North Down, Newry and South Armagh.

INTELLIGENCE TRANSFER

The gathering and management of intelligence is an integral part of the overall PSNI approach to tackling all types of crime in our community.

We are committed to ensuring that intelligence gathering and its use must be for the protection of the human rights of everyone.

The Security Service (MI5) now has responsibility for matters of national security in Northern Ireland. The changeover occurred in October 2007 and brings arrangements for national security intelligence gathering in Northern Ireland into line with the rest of the UK.

A high level of co-operation between PSNI and MI5 has helped the transfer take place smoothly. Much work was done to ensure the Police Service did not lose intelligence-gathering capabilities.

e-CRIME

Serious Crime Branch recognises the increasing importance of e-Crime to modern policing and is investing significantly to combat it with a substantial increase in personnel to cope with growing demand for its services.

e-Crimes are now proactively deploying investigative techniques to identify online criminality with particular regard to the abuse of children. The unit now also undertakes all volume crime mobile phone examinations for the Service.

All types of crime are investigated, from the most serious to the most minor in what is often very time consuming work. One recent investigation involved a single officer for a total of five months identifying in excess of 180,000 indecent images of children out of a total of 4 million images that all had to be located and individually checked.

The unit is also developing links within the business community, including the banking sector, to identify and address areas of mutual interest.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CRIME

Last July a counterfeiting gang was dismantled and members charged after seizures of thousands of DVDs and CDs in two factories in the Dungannon area. Discs from these factories had been sold both North and South of the border. Six people have been charged with counterfeiting offences.

HOMICIDE

Detectives in Serious Crime branch continued their strong record of clearing homicides.

There were 26 incidents of homicide - 21 murders and five manslaughters. Of these, there has been someone charged with either murder or manslaughter in 20 cases.

In the remaining six incidents, in two cases the offender is believed to have then killed himself and another has seen the suspects released, pending reports to the Public Prosecution Service. Only three cases remain unclear.

The PSNI is taking progressive steps toward the gathering, handling and dissemination of relevant intelligence throughout the Service in order to reduce crime. The Security Service now provides all District Commanders with a weekly briefing, aimed at reducing all types of criminality.

EXTORTION

Police conducted successful operations in Lisburn, Greenisland and Belfast. Officers made 23 arrests as a result of which 20 suspects were charged and three reported to the Public Prosecution Service.

Police continue to operate a telephone helpline on 028 9092 2267 for victims or potential victims.

EXHIBIT STORAGE

The PSNI has opened a state-of-the-art storage facility for forensic exhibits used as evidence in legal cases.

How police handle such exhibits is an important part of the process of catching criminals. Police systems were criticised in last year's judgement of the Omagh bomb investigation.

The new facility in Greater Belfast sets a high standard for storing these items and has attracted interest from other forces keen to replicate its design and operation.

All evidential exhibits that the PSNI collects in relation to serious crime in Northern Ireland are documented and placed in this facility.

Evidential exhibits from volume crime (for example burglary, robbery and car theft) are also stored in such a way that their integrity for forensic examination is protected, and they can be found quickly and easily.

RAPE

Last year the number of rapes fell by 11.4% to 382. Encouragingly, the clearance rate increased slightly to 15.7%. The PSNI will focus on this a key priority.

During the year a considerable amount of work has been going on to restructure how sexual offences are investigated.

Child and adult sexual crime, which has historically been investigated within the same unit, CARE, will no longer be resourced and investigated in this way. All child and adult sexual crime, excluding rape, will be investigated within the context of the Public Protection Units (PPUs) in each District. All adult rape and child stranger rape will be investigated within three dedicated Rape Crime Units (RCUs). The objective is to create a larger pool of resources for investigation of child sexual crime and improve information sharing. In addition, the Serious Crime Review Team will review unsolved rape cases.

Responsibility for the investigation of Indecent Images of Children (IIOC) remains within Serious Crime Branch and continues to be investigated by a specialist unit.

POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY



Policing with the community is what we do. It is what we do best. It is delivered through two operational police regions. They are Urban region - which is essentially Belfast and its immediate environs - and Rural region, the rest of Northern Ireland. Assistant Chief Constable Duncan McCausland is responsible for Urban region while Assistant Chief Constable Judith Gillespie is in charge of Rural region. It would be impossible to detail all of the exciting, original and effective policing initiatives that take place throughout a year. Here is a snapshot.



ARMAGH ILLEGAL

GAS PLANT

DISMANTLED

Police from Newry and Mourne put on show a substantial quantity of illegally re-filled gas cylinders seized during a major police operation. Over 50 officers from Crime Operations, and local police from Newry and Mourne were supported by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and Customs officers.

During the operation police seized 3,500 illegally refilled gas cylinders and bulk storage tanks amounting to some 24 tonnes of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in an operation targeting illegal sales of gas based in South Armagh.

BANBRIDGE

LIFESAVERS

Two Banbridge police officers were praised for their actions after pulling a man from a blazing crashed car.

While on patrol the two constables came across a car, which had just crashed into a sign at Old Manse Green, near the Banbridge junction on the A1. It was on its roof and was on fire. The airbags were inflated and the casualty was frantically trying to get out.

Without thought for their own safety the two officers broke the driver's side rear window, reached in and pulled the man to safety, undoubtedly saving his life.

SAFETY FIRST FOR

CARRICKFERGUS

Officers in Carrickfergus achieved a Northern Ireland first with the launch of a hi-tech Community Safety Point in Whitehead Railway station.

The safety point will keep the local community in constant contact with the local police station. Designed to help tackle community issues including anti-social behaviour, the unit will allow the public to speak to a police officer at Carrickfergus Station 24 hours a day. The unit also displays safety information from a range of partners through a large screen.

LIMAVADY CUSTOM

CRUISERS

Road Policing Unit officers in Limavady played a key role in an innovative project designed to teach young car enthusiasts about the responsibilities that come with modifying cars legally and safely for use on public roads.

Financed by the Policing with the Community Fund, Limavady District Policing Partnership, Limavady College and other local partners, a group of students spent ten weeks

transforming an ordinary looking car into a highly modified vehicle.

As part of the project, participants were required to attend a number of information sessions covering the dangers of driving while under the influence of drugs and alcohol, a car tyre clinic, vehicle noise level checks and the repercussions of a serious traffic collision.

On completion the safely and legally customised car was then raffled off raising £26,000 for the Musgrave Park Hospital Brain and Spinal Injuries Units, which support people injured by road traffic collisions.

BALLYMENA

FIRE RESCUE

Officers on patrol in Princes Street area of Ballymena averted disaster when they noticed a column of smoke rising from the rear of a local building.

Arriving quickly at the scene, the officers were met by a man who informed them that children were trapped. They found a ten-year-

old boy in the garden of the house attempting to extinguish a fire that had flared to the height of the building, and a 3-year-old boy trapped behind the fire, between two gas cylinders.

One of the officers immediately ran over and pulled the toddler away from the flames before joining his colleague to extinguish the fire using buckets of water.

Their quick reaction to a very dangerous situation undoubtedly prevented a tragedy.

MAGHERA AND

MAGHERAFELT GET

HOME SAFE DRAMA

To raise awareness about the dangers of drinking and taking drugs, Maghera and Magherafelt police worked with local schools, the District Policing Partnerships and three drama students from Rainey Endowed Grammar in Magherafelt who

scripted and performed a thought provoking play called 'Get Home Safe'.

The play depicted a typical scenario of three young girls celebrating their exam results and illustrated the disastrous consequences and sequence of events which unfold after a drink is spiked with a drug by one of the girls so-called friends.

Seen by school pupils from across the two areas, the play was a successful peer-to-peer presentation of a very important personal safety message.

TASTE OF NORTHERN IRELAND

In response to reported cases of hate crime across Northern Ireland, police in Belfast organised a 'Taste of Northern Ireland' event to celebrate and provide an opportunity for the public to learn about people from different cultures who are now members of our community.

People from Poland, China, India, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania, Philippines, African Nations and Northern Ireland had the opportunity to showcase their foods, crafts and live music.



ACC Duncan McCausland and Gearóid ÓhEáira, Independent Member of the Policing Board, sample some of the cuisine from the Taste of NI event participants.

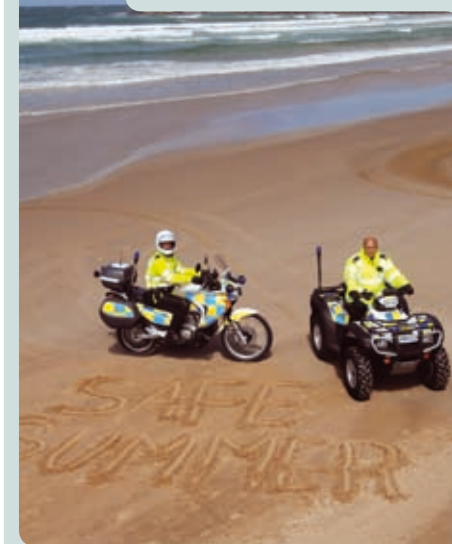
NORTH COAST

SAFE SUMMER

SUCCESS

Operation 'Safe Summer' a police led partnership initiative involving District Policing Partnerships, Borough Councils, Community Safety Partnerships, and local stakeholders, was created to ensure that residents and visitors to the coast between Castlerock and Islandmagee, had a safe and enjoyable time during July and August, was a great success.

Police hit the beach at the launch of Operation Safe Summer



The aim was to address violent behaviour, threatening, aggressive and abusive drunken behaviour, indecent behaviour, on-street drinking, excessive noise, vandalism and dangerous and careless driving, throughout the district, focusing the areas' extensive and popular stretch of coastline.

During the two-month period there were 144 additional high visibility patrols, and an extra 19 joint patrols with our partner agencies. This resulted in 358 detections being made in respect of breaches of the law and local by-laws. The reductions in crime and behaviour that causes many people annoyance are to be welcomed. It will undoubtedly help to reduce the fear of crime and make the 190,000 people who reside in the North East feel much safer.

CCTV INVESTMENT

The roll out of a £2 million investment programme making town centres safer began with the launch of the Newtownards CCTV scheme. The project will see 87 CCTV cameras erected across 19 town centres in coming months.

The new CCTV cameras will help reduce crime, the fear of crime and play a vital role in tackling antisocial behaviour. They will provide reassurance to both the business community and members of the public that they can go about their business and daily lives with confidence.

POLICE WORK WITH COMMUNITY IN COUNTY DOWN TO TARGET HATE CRIME

Police in North Down, Newtownards Castlereagh and Down are working in partnership with GLAD (Gay and Lesbian Across Down) to tackle homophobic and transphobic hate crime.

As part of the innovative scheme 20,000 information leaflets have been produced and distributed along with the provision of a mobile phone service with 5,000 texts for GLAD to encourage the reporting of hate crime in the area. The initiative was designed to build a positive partnership approach between Police and the lesbian, gay and bisexual community across County Down.

LAGAN RESCUE

Following a report of a woman in the water near Queens Bridge on the river Lagan in January this year, a local officer, assisted by his colleague, braved near freezing temperatures to save her from drowning.

When the constables arrived at the scene, three members of the public were trying to help the woman who was holding onto a boat anchor. Her head started to slip under the water so the police officer risked his life to enter the icy water and bring her to safety.

Speaking after the incident, the officer said: "At the end of the day, it is part of our job to save lives. This person was in distress and needed help so I took the decision to get into the water and rescue her. If I had to do it again, I would."

BELFAST SAFER SENIORS

Belfast Police working in partnership with Belfast City Council and other statutory agencies launched "Safe Seniors" packs to help older people feel more secure at home and in their communities.

The packs were available from all Belfast City Council-owned facilities including leisure and community centres, as well as GP surgeries, libraries, post offices, Tesco, Co-Op, Help the Aged and Oxfam shops. Each pack contained a number of items including a personal attack alarm, Message In A Bottle, a bogus caller advice card with emergency contact numbers, and information and advice leaflets on personal and home safety.

KILREA POLICE SURGERY OPENS

Kilrea residents are making use of a new police surgery, which opened in the town at the end of November last year.

Operating from the Town Hall from 10am to 12 noon on alternate Thursdays, the surgery provides people with an opportunity to speak to police in a neutral environment and discuss any issues affecting them.

The surgery style was adopted to further improve accessibility between the local community and the police, with a dedicated team of officers available to offer advice on local policing matters, personal safety and crime prevention.

EAST BELFAST TACKLES HATE CRIME

Police are dedicated to embracing and implementing the ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People in Northern Ireland. One pledge is to ensure that children and young people are supported to grow together in a shared, inclusive society where they respect diversity and culture.

To this end, police in East Belfast adopted a new approach to help reduce hate crime

and increase racial awareness and acceptance in the area. Young people from the Hells Kitchen area in New York travelled to Northern Ireland to spend a week attending classes and workshops with students from schools in East Belfast.

The multicultural delegation of students attend the High School of Hospitality and Management in New York where racial intolerance is rarely experienced. During the initiative Police, in partnership with schools in East Belfast, worked with all the young people involved to increase racial awareness through a series of learning and work based activities.

KILCOOLEY KEEP SAFE CAMPAIGN

Police in Bangor, the Kilcooley Forum and other local agencies launched the Kilcooley Education and Enforcement Programme with Substance Awareness for Everyone (KEEP SAFE) pilot anti-drugs initiative earlier this year.

The programme was developed to address issues of drug abuse and drug dealing in the area, with a sustainable, long-term programme of activity addressing key anti-social issues affecting the local community.

The ongoing three-stage initiative, which encompasses Education, Encouragement and Enforcement, has already successfully removed illegal and unwanted prescription drugs via strategically placed drug disposal bins and a number of suspected drug dealers have been arrested.

UNDERAGE DRINKING

Operation Marsham, which targeted underage drinking across D District hotspots in Greater Lisburn, Antrim, Carrickfergus and Newtownabbey successfully concluded recently with over 736 items of alcohol confiscated.

Officers from Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Response Teams and Tactical

Support Groups worked together during the operation, which led to 51 young people being cautioned and referred to Youth Diversion Officers. In addition, 24 adults were reported to local council officers for further action.

During the three-week initiative, officers from Antrim to Dunmurry were out each Friday and Saturday night confiscating alcohol and talking to young people about the dangers of these activities. Police are committed to tackling the issues of underage drinking and antisocial behaviour and plan to build on the successful outcome of Operation Marsham.



New York students Kimberly Renville and Jasmin Masas with Constable Anne Cooke during their visit to Northern Ireland.

CRAIGAVON ANTI-RACISM DVD

A new DVD, the first of its kind in Northern Ireland tackling the issue of racism was launched through a partnership between Craigavon police, Craigavon Community Safety Partnership, the DPP and Craigavon Borough Council.

The hard-hitting DVD helps police officers and professionals in community safety and

youth services, by educating and informing young people and community groups in an effective manner on hate crime.

The initiative was developed to help reduce the number of victims of racist incidents through education and discussion. The DVD, features local actors, locations and bands throughout the production. It also comes with an additional resource of key message for debate in the classroom in order to challenge attitudes in a safe environment and discuss potential positive options.



Superintendent Jonathan Kearney and Inspector Stephen Burns with the confiscated alcohol

PEOPLE OUR MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE



Director of Human Resources Joe Stewart

In 2007, we launched the Shared Future Strategy, a plan to ensure everything we do is underpinned with fairness and respect.

We aim to achieve this through:

- Ensuring equality
- Promoting diversity
- Developing an understanding of the different perspectives of our past
- Contributing to bettering relations between different groups in our society.

In order to be truly effective, we must use the skills and talents of all our police officers and staff, which we can only do by valuing everyone's contribution.

We agreed the following three objectives for the year 2007-2008:

- To provide a police service, which makes people from minority ethnic and European communities, feel safer
- To deliver a police service which both women and men experience as a professional and progressive service
- To deliver a police service that contributes to building a shared future, by ensuring it is developed by taking account of different interpretations of policing in the past.

The Service will endeavour to deliver these objectives within the context of the Policing Plan and we have identified a series of actions for the next twelve months to meet these.

The Shared Future Strategy is ambitious, but absolutely necessary to shape the way we deliver policing in the future.

WORKING

TO TACKLE

ABSENTEEISM

Like many organisations, the Polive Service recognises that high levels of sickness absence is a drain on resources and affects the level of policing we can deliver.

In 2007, we introduced a new absenteeism policy for both officers and staff. While the target of 10 working days has yet to be met,

we have achieved an average of 11.2 days for officers and 11.01 days for support staff. This means that less than 12 days of sickness was lost for each person working for the Service.

It also equates to a 5% improvement for the rate of sickness for police officers from the previous financial year, whilst the figure for police staff shows a 19% improvement from 2006/07.

We anticipate continuing improvement in this area, as we seek to extend our occupational health and rehabilitation services for both officers and staff and enforce our policy consistently across the organisation.

ONE TEAM, ONE ETHOS - MAKING THE BREAK WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE

Throughout 2007, the Links Project continued with its remit to re-orient the police staff structure away from the Northern Ireland Civil Service, part of our work to create an integrated Police Service, with all staff and officers working together to make Northern Ireland safer.

This Project is necessary to meet the needs of policing in the future. Put simply, the Service must ensure it has the right person in the right place with the right skills at a cost it can afford.

In December 2007, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Shaun Woodward announced the Northern Ireland Office would make legislation to allow the Service to make the break from the Northern Ireland Civil Service. This will come into force on 1 October 2008 and from this point, the Policing Board will directly employ all police staff.

This is a major step change for the organisation. For the first time in its history, all police staff will hold the same status and everyone will be under the direction and control of the Chief Constable.

POLICE COLLEGE

During the year, a total of 440 new Constables graduated from the College with a Certificate In Police Studies. Each of these officers undertook and successfully completed our intense 21-week programme, which involved diversity training, law, practicals, physical education, a personal safety programme and various community projects.

On completion of foundation training, the newly sworn Constables received further training in first aid, driving, firearms and tactical patrolling. In due course, they will all attend our stage three and four probationer programmes to develop their new knowledge, skills and experience.

Staff and Student Officer commitment to training is evidenced by consistently high exam grades, as is their commitment to the community - during the last financial year the students raised the fantastic sum of £19,660 for charity.

As part of an ongoing programme with Business in the Community, in 2007 over 400 of our students participated in 14 projects with community groups across Belfast and the North East coast.

The majority of the projects involved working alongside youth groups, offering practical support to develop and repair the buildings used for their events. It has been a worthwhile experience for both parties, with enthusiasm expressed by all those involved.

Student and trainer exchanges with our partners in An Garda Síochána, Jersey Police and The Ontario Police in Canada also continue, and we now have a reputation as world leaders in our field.



Student Officers graduating from the Police College

THE FUTURE OF THE FULL-TIME RESERVE

In September 2007, the Police Service made an announcement to the Policing Board, in which the Chief Constable concluded there remained a need to retain the services of a Full-Time Reserve complement, in order to secure the police estate and also provide protection and security in the external police environment.

However, taking account of the developments and improvements witnessed since September 2004, the decision has also been taken to reduce the requirement of Full-Time Reserve Officers from 680 to 381. This reduction of 299 officers began on a phased basis from 31 March this year.

The 381 officers retained will be concentrated in the areas of highest risk, mainly in Rural Region. The breakdown of numbers to be

retained is 134 in Urban Region and 247 in Rural Region.

The decision was not an easy one and required a careful assessment of a changing security environment. More particularly, it impacted not just on the individual officers but also their families and colleagues. However, the Police Service has been working closely with the Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust on a development programme for all affected officers.

An independent survey recently noted that this development programme met or exceeded the expectations of 90% of all those who participated in it. Over 80% of participants also believed the programme assisted them in meeting future career goals and helped highlight their level of skills awareness.

Since 1972, the Full-Time Reserve has served the people of Northern Ireland with a high standard of professionalism, dedication and commitment. Their contribution to the progress of Northern Ireland towards a peaceful and prosperous society cannot be under-estimated.

THE COST OF POLICING



The Department of Finance and Support Services is led by Director David Best

The total available revenue resource funding for the Service in 2007/08 was £1,193.5 million. Total projected net revenue resource expenditure projected for 2007/08 is £1,182.8 million, resulting in a surplus of £10.7 million (0.9%) of the available resource funding.

Projected net capital spend is £40.4 million against available funding of £38.4 million, resulting in a deficit of £2.0 million. The capital overspend is covered by the under spend on revenue.

The pie charts (right) detail how the money was spent on a resource basis for revenue and capital. The reported under spend, reflects the continued success of devolved budgeting and

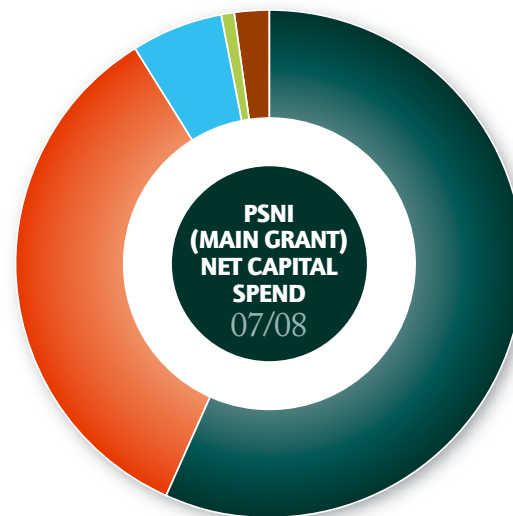
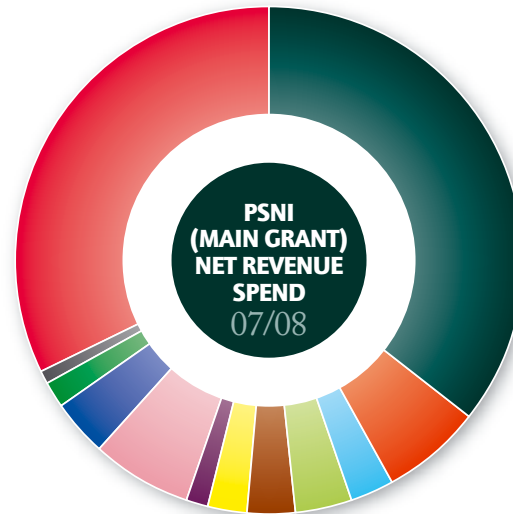
local empowerment of Districts and Headquarter Departments.

In 2007/08, the Police Service in accordance with HM Treasury requirements has produced for the first time its financial monitoring reports monthly on a Resource Basis rather than Cash.

This is to more accurately reflect the appropriate costs and charges relating to the financial years in which they were incurred.

With the restructuring of DCUs into Districts, Heads of Business Services have been appointed to assist the District Commanders more effectively manage their financial resources, allowing them to direct their activities more towards frontline policing.

We are pleased to note that Gershon Efficiency savings achieved during the last three financial years amount to £71.4 million, which is well above the savings target of £62.6 million set by Government.



THE POLICE ESTATE

This was the third year of the 2005 Estate Strategy, which involved investment of over £200 million for the period 2005 - 2011.

Significant projects during 2007/08 included the further development of a new £14 million District Command Headquarters at Omagh, scheduled for completion in January 2009. In addition, the Service commenced the construction of a new £20.5 million District Command Headquarters at Musgrave Street, Belfast servicing South and East Belfast.

The development of an enhanced PACE custody/CID facility at Bangor station was completed as was a combined Operational Training development at Magilligan, and the development of the Seapark Logistics site.

Significant maintenance and upgrade projects continued at our Strand Road, Antrim Road, Enniskillen, Oldpark and Newtownards facilities. An extensive minor works programme was completed providing additional accommodation at Lisnasharragh, Ladas Drive, Knocknagoney, Grosvenor Road and Mahon Road.

The normalisation works programme was completed during 2007/08 with final works being carried out at Mahon Road, Portadown. The 'softening' of the Estate designed to make the appearance of police stations more aesthetically pleasing, continue with work in 27 stations.

The development of the new Police Training College project progressed with the involvement of two other public sector bodies, the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and Prison Service.

PROCUREMENT AND LOGISTICS SERVICES (PaLS)

Following the introduction of the centralised facility for holding, tracking and administering all PSNI murder archive files in 2006, 2007 saw the opening of a sister facility which houses all Exhibits relating to Serious Crime. This is managed by a civilian workforce, supported by electronic tracking and top class business processes and procedures. The facility is a valuable resource for the PSNI and outside bodies.

The roll out of personalised dual purpose body armour continued, with 7,150 officers

measured and 6,900 sets of armour issued. There are only 200 officers still to receive armour 30 months into a three-year programme.

2007 also saw the first full operational year of our outsourced cleaning service, which has reduced costs by £1 million per annum.

With regard to procurement across the PSNI, we have 350 live contracts with an annual procurement budgeted spend of £162 million, 97% of which are procured under PSNI contract terms. We achieved £14 million [8.7%] savings on 57 new contracts awarded during the year. Over the last three years PSNI has achieved £25.8 million savings against the ACPO / Treasury target of £11.1 million for that period. Our supply base has reduced from 3,466 to 2,502 suppliers in the last year.

TRANSPORT

A programme of fleet reduction and rationalisation is progressing with a reduction of 400 vehicles across the Service. Fleet reduction will remain of major importance in future years. All vehicles that are marked with livery and light bars were purchased from three core manufacturers, which are included in Police National Procurement Contracts.

Vehicles supplied by manufacturers are tested to exacting standards in conjunction with the National Police Improvement Agency, to ensure they are suitable for use by emergency services.

During the year a decision was taken to replace the fleet of Honda ST1300 (and ageing ST1100) motorcycles with 30 BMW R1200RT motorcycles.



FINANCE

A clean audit opinion was received from the National Audit Office on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2007. A copy of the certified accounts is available on the Police Service website www.psn.police.uk. It is planned to have the full-certified accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008 available by 30 June 2008.

POLICE INTEGRITY

SECURING AND MAINTAINING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE



Deputy Chief Constable Paul Leighton is, amongst a range of other duties, responsible for professional standards within the Service and for internal discipline.

The Professional Standards Department reports directly to the Deputy Chief Constable, Paul Leighton, is headed by a Detective Chief Superintendent and staffed by 81 police and support staff.

The Professional Standards Department is committed to preventing and detecting

corruption, dishonesty or unethical behaviour. Integrity is fundamental to the standard of behaviour required from every police officer.

Each District and Department has a 'Discipline Champion' to promote the highest standards of behaviour, conduct, and to endorse the message that 'integrity is not negotiable'.

The standard of behaviour for police officers is governed by the Service's Code of Ethics, a copy of which is accessible on the website www.psni.police.uk.

UNACCEPTABLE USE

The PSNI is committed to a policy of openness and transparency and the media serves as a powerful tool in promoting police work and helping investigations. It also assists in helping the Police Service earn the respect, trust and support of the communities it serves.

However, information which is leaked to the media can damage the reputation of the Police Service and cause confusion and misunderstanding amongst the public.

Professional Standards has measures in place to vigorously protect the Service's assets and discipline any member of staff who is guilty of wrongdoing.

As an organisation, we hold confidential and privileged information about operations, individuals and our methods.

We take various steps to ensure this information remains confidential. Information access levels are determined by a user's role and responsibilities and monitored and logged by automated software.

LEGAL SERVICES

DEPARTMENT

The Legal Services department provides effective legal advice to meet the requirements of a progressive, modern police force.

A team of six lawyers and 17 administrative staff support the Head of Legal Services, Ms Donna Scott, who is also a member of the Chief Constable's senior management team.

The legal team is responsible for providing legal advice and guidance relating to all aspects of policing. The areas of law include operational advisory work, employment law, law relating to strategic and policy issues and litigation. The lawyers also assist in providing training to the service regarding legal issues.

The Department also has a dedicated Human Rights Adviser who contributes to promoting awareness and understanding of human rights law and advises on policies and procedures to ensure the PSNI complies with human rights requirements.

Part of the Head of Legal Services role is to ensure that there is effective management of all claims. To this end the Legal Adviser is a member of the Claims Management Committee, which operates to scrutinise

claims, their outcomes and allow the service to implement best practice in relation to claims handling.

The administrative support team assists in discharging the Services liability in respect of claims taken against the Service. The professional and administrative staff work closely with their colleagues in the Crown Solicitor's Office regarding the handling of claims.

Legal Services Department continues to manage the workload associated with the class actions against the Chief Constable by serving and ex officers in respect of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Breach of Working Time Regulations. A significant number of claims have also been recorded from officers claiming occupational hearing loss.

An increasing area of work for the legal staff within the Department is that of Proceeds of Crime Applications. Throughout this year legal staff have assisted their police colleagues in investigating 137 cases under the Proceeds of Crime Act, which has led to a total of £2 million being seized which it is believed to come from crime or was intended to be used to commit a crime.

There were 2,687 civil actions initiated during the year: 2,389 cases were disposed of, with damages of £3.5 million agreed or awarded. The bill for legal costs totalled £3.1 million.

A total of 1,760 requests for advice were sought and given by the Legal Team.

NOTIFIABLE

MEMBERSHIPS

Professional Standards Department is also responsible for the administration of the Notifiable Memberships Scheme. Police officers are required to notify the Chief Constable if they are a member of any organisation that may be perceived to affect their ability to carry out their duties impartially.

The Chief Constable has issued notes for guidance, which contains a list of organisations which he believes fall into this category. However, if an officer is a member of any other organisation not mentioned on this list, which could be perceived as affecting their impartiality, they must notify the Chief Constable of that membership.

Not a member of any notifiable organisation	8,257
Freemason	398
Loyal Orange Institution	138
Royal Black Institution	79
Apprentice Boys of Derry	29
Independent Orange Order	5
Member of an organisation not specified (e.g. sporting and church organisations)	23
Knights of Columbanus	0
Ancient Order of Hibernians	0
TOTAL	8,929

(Please note that there are a number of officers who belong to more than one notifiable organisation)

DRUGS TESTING

The public rightly expects that the PSNI is a drug free organisation. We are currently in the process of introducing revised measures to prevent substance misuse by PSNI personnel through the provision of education and support

programmes and the introduction of a compulsory drug-testing regime.

Whilst we are confident that the vast majority of our officers and staff are not involved in any kind of substance misuse, we have a responsibility to ensure we deal robustly with any officer or police staff who supplies or uses illegal drugs.

HEARINGS

During the year, 43 officers appeared at misconduct hearings charged with disciplinary or misconduct offences and 11 of those involved criminal behaviour. Three cases arose from complaints by members of the public.

The outcomes of the hearings were as follows;

- 18 officers dismissed or required to resign
- 2 officers reduced in rank
- 18 officers fined or reduced in pay
- 3 officers cautioned or reprimanded
- 1 officer not guilty
- 1 other result

DRINK DRIVING

Drink driving is viewed very seriously by the Police Service. In May 2006, the Deputy Chief Constable advised the organisation that any officer committing this offence can expect to be dismissed or be required to resign.

Professional Standards Department has run internal campaigns to raise awareness and remind officers of the consequences of drink driving. Of the 12 officers convicted of drink driving in the 2007/ 2008 fiscal year, nine officers were dismissed or required to resign.

999 CHARITY PARTNERSHIP

Northern Ireland's 999 Emergency Services, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and Her Majesty's Coastguard have joined together to raise money for Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children (NICFC) during 2008.

All funds raised will be used by NICFC to develop a first of its kind new cancer support service for children and young people who have a parent living with cancer, as well as help finance the purchase of a property to extend the NICFC Shimna Valley Retreat in Newcastle, Co. Down.



Anna Earls and Inspector Stevie Wilson at the launch of the 999 partnership charity of the year.

STATISTICS

The Police Service published its annual statistics for 2007/08 on 16th May and the complete set of results is available in full on our website www.psnl.police.uk. What follows on this page is a summary of key statistics, as well as the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order statistics, not previously released.

Recorded Crime: Offences Recorded and Cleared 2006/07 & 2007/08

	Total offences recorded				Sanction clearance rate (%) ¹		Non sanction clearance rate (%) ¹		Overall clearance rate (%) ¹	
	2006/07	2007/08	change	% change	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08	2006/07	2007/08
1 Offences against the person ¹	31,846	29,580	-2266	-7.1	25.9	27.9	8.5	0.0	34.4	27.9
2 Sexual offences	1803	1822	+19	+1.1	20.7	19.2	4.9	0.4	25.6	19.6
3 Burglary	11,562	11,698	+136	+1.2	11.6	11.0	0.8	0.0	12.5	11.0
Domestic burglary	6,831	6,712	-119	-1.7	10.3	10.0	1.0	0.0	11.3	10.0
4 Robbery	1,574	1,143	-431	-27.4	18.2	17.1	0.4	0.8	18.6	17.9
5 Theft	27,766	24,733	-3,033	-10.9	18.2	18.3	1.4	0.0	19.6	18.3
Theft from motor vehicles	3,994	3,395	-599	-15.0	4.4	4.9	0.2	0.0	4.6	4.9
Theft/unauthorised taking of vehicles	3,418	3,336	-82	-2.4	19.9	19.6	0.6	0.0	20.5	19.6
6 Fraud and forgery	4,495	2,796	-1,699	-37.8	20.3	21.1	11.1	0.0	31.4	21.1
7 Criminal damage	36,321	30,895	-5,426	-14.9	9.0	9.7	2.6	0.0	11.6	9.7
8 Offences against the state	1,285	1,130	-155	-12.1	51.2	53.7	3.4	0.1	54.6	53.8
9 Other notifiable offences	4,492	4,671	+179	+4.0	81.2	72.5	1.5	0.0	82.7	72.5
Drug trafficking offences	473	529	+56	+11.8	83.3	81.9	0.8	0.0	84.1	81.9
Drug non-trafficking offences	1,938	2,191	+253	+13.1	87.8	74.4	1.2	0.0	89.0	74.4
Violent Crime (classes 1, 2 and 4) ¹	35,223	32,545	-2,678	-7.6	25.3	27.0	8.0	0.1	33.2	27.1
Grand Total (all classes) ¹	121,144	108,468	-12,676	-10.5	19.6	20.5	4.0	0.0	23.6	20.5

¹ In April 2006 PSNI adopted a higher evidential standard in respect of non sanction clearances (those where no further action is taken by the police, mainly due to the victim not wanting formal action taken by the police or due to no prosecution being directed). This change was introduced in order to bring these clearance types more closely into line with police services in England & Wales where they have been applying the Crown Prosecution Service evidential test since 2002. In Northern Ireland the equivalent standard only became relevant to PSNI clearances with the establishment of the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) in June 2005. The Home Office significantly restricted the clearance types available to the police from 1st April 2007 which meant that virtually all clearances resulting in 'no further police action' (i.e. non sanction clearances) could no longer be claimed as a valid clearance. These clearance types accounted for 4 percentage points of the PSNI clearance rate in 2006/07 but only accounted for less than 0.1 of a percentage point in 2007/08 following this latest restriction. This means that the PSNI overall clearance rate and its sanction clearance rate are now virtually one and the same. This same change also applied to all police services in England and Wales from 1st April 2007.

Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order: Persons and Vehicles Searched 2007/08

	Stolen Property		Drugs		Firearms		Offensive Weapon		Going Equipped		Others	
	Searches	Arrests ¹	Searches	Arrests ¹	Searches	Arrests ¹	Searches	Arrests ¹	Searches	Arrests ¹	Searches	Arrests ¹
April	187	16	611	27	24	0	108	9	195	7	636	40
May	175	22	665	36	19	2	72	9	176	10	578	42
June	154	14	707	41	17	0	67	8	168	6	325	31
July	241	29	725	39	14	0	225	12	289	7	295	44
August	178	20	781	27	23	0	177	10	212	19	263	40
September	154	14	776	39	42	6	119	17	152	19	270	33
October	179	27	780	65	50	1	129	16	219	23	678	40
November	149	19	755	52	17	2	112	18	267	20	237	19
December	134	21	611	50	22	1	73	12	167	16	128	13
January	153	30	576	45	19	4	88	14	202	22	217	28
February	144	27	637	41	10	1	110	16	215	24	185	17
March	141	18	766	52	19	1	80	16	203	14	165	17
Grand Total	1,989	257	8,390	514	276	18	1,360	157	2,465	187	3,977	364

¹ Arrests as a result of search.

Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order: Detention Statistics 2007/08

	Arrests Under PACE				Requests/Delays			
	Totals	Gender		Arrests For Notifiable Offences	Friend/Relative etc		Solicitor	
		Male	Female		Requests	Delayed	Requests	Delayed
Quarter 1 April-June	6501	5642	859	4697	1182	3	2599	0
Quarter 2 July-September	6988	6055	933	5180	1230	12	2864	0
Quarter 3 October-December	6771	5875	896	5131	1208	1	2707	0
Quarter 4 January-March	6351	5502	849	4857	1233	0	2682	2
Grand Total	26611	23074	3537	19865	4853	16	10852	2

INTIMATE SEARCHES: There were five intimate searches carried out during 2007/08. **EXTENDED DETENTION:** During 2007/08, thirteen 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. Fourteen persons were subsequently charged.

Recorded crime in Northern Ireland is at its lowest level since 1998/99. Releasing the official statistics for 2007/08, Deputy Chief Constable Paul Leighton welcomed the significant decrease of 10.5% in crime this year, which is 12,676 fewer crimes than in the previous year. He highlighted that recorded crime is at its lowest level since the Home Office introduced revised counting rules for recorded crime in 1998/99.

He said: "For the last number of years crime in Northern Ireland has shown a downward trend. This year crime has fallen by 10.5%, which is a substantial decrease and is a testament to the work of police officers throughout Northern Ireland who have been working determinedly to drive crime down.

"Police officers in all areas have been working with local communities to listen to their concerns about crime and working in partnership to tackle those problems. It is clear that this work is paying off.

"This year violent crime, which is a cause of concern for many, has decreased by 7.6%. Robberies have reduced dramatically by 27.4%. Theft is down 10.9%. Criminal damage, which has been highlighted as a major concern, has decreased by 14.9%.

"The decrease in crime has come about because of the determined effort on the part of police officers and many in the community working together to prevent and reduce crime. However we have more work to do.

"Sexual offences rose by 1.1%. However within that category the number of rapes decreased by 11.4%. The number of burglaries overall rose by 1.2% but the number of domestic burglaries fell by 1.7%.

"There was a decrease in the overall numbers of domestic crimes. In relation to Hate Crime there was an increase of 61.5% (or 16 offences) in the number of crimes with a disability motivation, but there were decreases in all other categories including racist and sectarian crimes.

"All of these statistics clearly demonstrate that we are making Northern Ireland safer. Last year the Police Service reduced the number of District Command Units from twenty nine to eight. This was to ensure that we provided a more effective and efficient service and resources were targeted where they were most needed - in frontline policing. These statistics show that the restructuring is achieving results.

"I firmly believe that with the continued support of all communities, we can drive down crime and bring offenders to justice," he concluded.

ROADS POLICING

ROAD SAFETY

A PRIORITY FOR ALL

While the number of people killed on the roads in Northern Ireland during the reporting period fell by nearly 15%, down from 128 to 109 from the previous year, reducing casualties and increasing safety on our roads remains a core police priority.

Working in partnership with our regular police patrols, our specialist Road Policing Units will continue to target the small minority of people who continue to flout the laws, whether speeding, driving while using a mobile telephone, not wearing seatbelts, or driving after taking drink or drugs.

By using location, victim, and offender profiling to gather the best possible casualty and road crime intelligence, police presence will continue to be targeted in places and at times where casualty reduction and public reassurance are maximised.

In association with agency partners: the Department of the Environment, Department for Regional Development, the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and our Health Service colleagues, we will continue to focus our efforts on education, engineering and enforcement with effective evaluation.

Thanks to continuing support from AXA Insurance, Cool FM and our agency partners, almost 45,000 teenagers across Northern Ireland have now seen our award winning and hard-hitting interactive 'It Could Be You' Roadsafe Roadshow, which graphically depicts how a night out can end in tragedy and permanent disability.

Tragically, the number of motorcyclists killed on our roads has remained at an unacceptably high



Members of the new motorcycle support team

level with 19 riders and one pillion passenger killed, compared to 18 in the previous year. In response we have introduced a new Motorcycle Support Team to focus on enforcing traffic laws concerning motorcyclists and motorists who could prove to be a risk to them.

In addition, we continue to promote our BikeSafe Scheme and encourage motorcyclists to seek additional training. During the year PSNI motorcyclists worked alongside An Garda Síochána colleagues to promote safer riding at a number of events including the NW200.

Targeted advertising campaigns support a range of road safety messages at key times of the year. In addition, major road policing operations are widely publicised in the media. This year saw a change to the legislation regarding suitable seats and restraints for children travelling in cars. Northern Ireland also became the first region in the UK to introduce penalty points for seatbelt offences involving both children and drivers.

As a result of the increased penalty combined with police enforcement, the Northern Ireland Seatbelt Survey has reported the highest ever compliance rates at 93%. Excess speed continues to be a major

causation factor in fatal and serious injury collisions. Too many motorists continue to ignore police advice and the number of vehicles detected travelling at excess speed rose by over 13% to 30,291 during the year. An update on the Safety Camera Scheme can be found on page four of this report.

The Christmas Drink Driving campaign received backing from Coca-Cola who introduced a scheme to provide free soft drinks to 'designated drivers' during the party season. This is exactly the type of partnership and co-operation police welcome. In addition, local media outlets ran a series of reports focusing on drink drive offending, particularly in the border counties.

The Police will enforce the law and are determined to make Northern Ireland's roads safer, however all road users must accept their responsibility to think about their actions on the roads and modify their behaviour.

Every single road user can take the simplest steps, which will dramatically reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads - SLOW DOWN, don't use a mobile telephone while driving, wear a seatbelt and never, ever drive after taking drink or drugs.



Crime Support Department is headed by Assistant Chief Constable Alistair Finlay

Crime Support is our main interface with the three public inquiries in Northern Ireland - the Rosemary Nelson, Robert Hamill and Billy Wright Inquiries - through its Public Inquiry Liaison Unit (PILU).

It also provides an interface with public inquiries in the Republic, particularly the Smithwick Tribunal which is inquiring into suggestions that members of An Garda Síochána, or other members of the Irish state, colluded in the murder of RUC officers Chief Superintendent Harry Breen and Superintendent Robert Buchanan in 1989.

The PILU is responsible for meeting the Police Service's legal obligations to provide information and other material to the public inquiries. This involves a substantial undertaking to search for archive material within the organisation. In addition it has a dedicated legal team representing the interests of the Service and many serving and retired colleagues who are providing evidence.

A section of the department also deals with legacy inquests. These are inquests into deaths, some of which are of a high profile or contentious nature, which have not been completed, although the death occurred some years ago. The main delay has been over legal arguments with regard to the provision of information. With this aspect now having more clarity, the department works to research and provide the coronial service with the information necessary to hold the inquest.

Much of the information required by Public Inquiries and the Coroner is classified. This requires a significant amount of work to ensure that all information released is treated so that content is preserved and confidentiality of information sources is maintained.

A second branch within the Department is known as the Retrospective Murder Review Unit (RMRU). It is responsible for the re-evaluation of the unsolved murders that do not fall within the remit of the Historical Enquiries Team, up to the creation of Crime Operations Department on 1st March 2004.

This amounts to 236 murder incidents which remain unsolved and a comprehensive review process, which has been validated by the National Policing Improvement Agency, has been developed in respect of these incidents. The review process identifies those cases where there may be realistic opportunities for further enquiry.

HISTORICAL ENQUIRIES TEAM

The Historical Enquiries Team (HET) is a police investigation team created to re-examine 3,268 deaths which occurred in Northern Ireland as a result of 'the Troubles'.

The team has a two-fold role, to answer the questions families bring and to ensure that any new or remaining investigative opportunities are taken forward.

The Historical Enquiries Team is focused on offering families in Northern Ireland a thorough, professional and independent review of their case, however it also consults with families to find out exactly what they want to know. HET includes answering

family questions as part of their investigation work.

Central to this aim is the principle of maximum permissible disclosure and each family is given a report outlining the findings of the team in relation to their case.

There are four HET review and investigation teams, one staffed exclusively by officers and retired officers from Northern Ireland with the remaining made up of officers from outside Northern Ireland who can deal with cases where complete independence is beneficial to families. The structure of the teams is designed to deliver an effective response to the challenges ahead and reassurance where it is needed.

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HISTORICAL ENQUIRIES TEAM

So far the team have worked with 680 families and have logged 4,700 family questions.

The unit is looking at all deaths which occurred between 1969 and pre-Good Friday Agreement in 1998, with the general rule being the examination of cases on a chronological basis beginning in 1969.

The Historical Enquiries Team is based in Sprucefield near Lisburn, contact details are as follows: Telephone: 028 9258 9258, email at het@nics.gov.uk

ACCESS FOR ALL

The Police Service of Northern Ireland is committed to providing equal access to information for everyone. A summary of the Chief Constable's Annual Report for 2006-07 can be made available in accessible formats on request. **To access a summary in an alternative format (including Braille, large print, audio cassette or in minority ethnic languages for those not fluent in English) please contact:** The Department of Media and Public Relations, Police Service of Northern Ireland, 65 Knock Road, Belfast BT5 6LE, or telephone 0845 600 8000, or e-mail info@psni.pnn.police.uk General queries regarding this report should be directed to the Department of Media and PR.

