

THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY

THE CHIEF CONSTABLE'S ANNUAL REPORT 1995

Brooklyn
Knock Road
Belfast
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June 1996

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE POLICE AUTHORITY FOR NORTHERN
IRELAND

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

In accordance with Section 15 of the Police Act (Northern
Ireland) 1970 I have pleasure in presenting my report on the
Royal Ulster Constabulary for the year ended 31st December 1995.

H N ANNESLEY
Chief Constable

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ROLL OF HONOUR

It is with deep regret that I record the death of this former
officer who died as a result of terrorist activity.

Constable Arthur Robert James SEYMOUR
Died 2 March 1995

Constable Seymour suffered a serious gunshot wound during an attack on Coalisland RUC Station 4 May 1973. He remained in a coma until his death.

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FOREWORD BY THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

If 1994 produced the ceasefires, then 1995 was the year that saw the desire of the community for peace given expression in scenes of hope and goodwill. The powerful symbolism of the Queen opening the futuristic new bridge across the Lagan and the practical demonstration of people coming together during the historic visit of President Clinton were vivid and powerful images of the aspirations of so many for a better future.

But ceasefires are not synonymous with total peace, and in my public statements throughout the period I was careful to urge a sense of realism. Terrorist organisations were still intact, still armed, still targeting and training and the RUC had to strike a balance between being ready and able to protect the community again if necessary, while at the same time ensuring that we responded positively to the changing situation.

The evidence of that approach was soon apparent - officers patrolling the streets without flakjackets or rifles; the cities, towns and villages where soldiers no longer patrolled at all; the absence of vehicle checkpoints and the removal of some of the antiterrorist defences from police stations. Border roads were re-opened, foot patrols replaced many of the landrovers, and more liveried saloon cars took to the roads in place of armoured vehicles.

If the transformation was a surprise to some sections of the community, it was a revelation to many of my officers, all but a tiny percentage of whom had never experienced a career free from the immediate threat of death and destruction. As police and public alike shared this new experience, the combination of lowered tension and greater personal contact was a major factor in developing closer links with the community. However, some sections of the community were not left to enjoy the full benefits of a new and hopeful future. Paramilitary organisations still sought to exercise control by vicious and disgraceful so-called punishment beatings - ironically often causing more serious and lasting injury than bullet wounds. And where that was not considered sufficient, the guns came out again to murder people, often on the flimsiest and most contemptible of pretexts.

Let me make it absolutely clear that no-one can afford to shrug their shoulders or turn a blind eye to such activities because of innuendo that the victims are petty criminals or drug dealers, or have been branded as such by those who are guilty of even greater crimes. The motive is not the punishment of anti-social elements: it is naked intimidation designed to bolster the influence of yesterday's men - terrorists who have no place in this society.

The legacy of terrorism, however, remains with us. The long-term suffering caused by serious injury to officers continues to take its toll and Constable James Seymour, who was shot at Coalisland on 4 May 1973, died on 2nd March 1995 having remained in a coma until his death. Further tragedy struck the Force during the year with the sudden and premature death of Assistant Chief Constable Robin McLaughlin, MBE who had served the Force with outstanding courage and commitment for some 38 years. He was an officer renowned for his leadership, and with an uncompromising pursuit of high standards. We miss him as a superbly good colleague as, indeed, we miss all our colleagues who through natural causes and injury have, so sadly, been taken from us throughout the year.

On the subversive front, two bombs were planted, and armed crime designed to raise funds for the terrorists continued. Police investigations into these and earlier incidents resulted in a total of 440 people being charged with terrorist-related or serious public order offences. Of these 10 were charged with murder or attempted murder, 31 with firearms offences, 18 with armed robbery, and the remainder with offences related to serious public disorder; 118 firearms and 17,878 rounds of ammunition were also recovered, together with 5kgs of

explosives.

Action against the financial lifeblood of terrorists and other criminals also continued, with further inroads being made by the Serious Crime and Fraud Squads in identifying and investigating fund-raising through intimidation, fraud, the production of illegal tapes, videos, compact discs and extortion.

However, the dramatic decline in terrorist crime enabled the RUC to make remarkable progress in addressing its future role. At the highest level, a fundamental review of policing was launched involving all levels of the police service, the Police Authority and the Northern Ireland Office, while immediate steps were taken to use resources freed from anti-terrorist duties to tackle the rise in drugs offences, road deaths and injuries, and community policing problems.

The Force built on its intensive programme of consultations with public representatives, community groups and individuals to ensure services were tailored to local needs, while expanding its involvement with the community through participation in public meetings and visits to schools on such topics as crime prevention, road safety, drugs awareness and the Safer Towns initiatives. Such contact must continue to be the bedrock of our efforts as we continually strive to provide a better service.

Regrettably, it is necessary to highlight the practice of pressurising local people in some areas not to engage in police/public consultation. This odious practice is not only clearly unacceptable, but it deprives members of the community of the benefits of information on important subjects such as drugs, child abuse and crime prevention. I salute the courage of those members of the public who have so firmly resisted this blatant attempt to thwart their freedom to talk to, and listen to, whom they wish.

The public desire for information on crime and social problems was nowhere more apparent than in the field of drugs awareness. Drugs Squad officers were heavily involved in an extensive programme of meetings, seminars and media interviews. To stress our deep concern about drugs, a major public seminar took place at Garnerville on 19 September 1995. A national and international list of speakers involving police; HM Customs; Garda Siochana; Drug Enforcement Administration and the Northern Ireland Committee on Drug Misuse gave information to, and sought questions and suggestions from, social and community workers; the church; teachers; local councillors and many others.

Whilst the RUC will continue to do what it can to prevent and detect the evil of drug abuse, the solution does not lie in police hands alone. The enthusiastic response from this seminar confirmed that the current multi-disciplinary approach is the most productive way forward.

Once again, I take heart from the continuing downward trend in road traffic deaths, the two most significant causes being inattention and excessive speed. In the past 10 years, there has

been a 39% decrease in fatalities, despite the huge increase in the number of vehicles in use. While we can never be satisfied with the continuing carnage on our roads, a combination of increased police activity and imaginative educational programmes, including our own Operation Roadsafe, made a significant contribution to the reduction in deaths and serious injuries.

The overall crime picture remained broadly similar to that for 1994. There was a slight increase in recorded crime, offset by a marginal improvement in the detection rate. The figures show wide variations in specific offences: while the number of murders fell from 82 in 1994 to 22 in the year under review, sexual offences increased by 26%.

If the reason for the dramatic fall in one category is obvious, the explanation for the rise in sexual offences is not so easily determined. As with other categories of crime, part of the explanation may lie in the greater confidence of victims in reporting crime, and increased belief that the police and Courts will treat victims with sensitivity.

One such area where great strides have been made is that of our Child Abuse and Rape Enquiry (CARE) Units and, in paying tribute to all the officers involved throughout Northern Ireland, I would like to congratulate the CARE Unit at Grosvenor Road which broke new ground in being awarded a coveted Charter Mark by the Prime Minister.

It is with some sadness that I now turn to the continuing problem of public disorder, regrettably a constant feature of previous reports. Whilst the vast majority of more than 3,000 parades and demonstrations each year pass off with little or no trouble, they require a major deployment of police resources. The disgraceful scenes at Drumcree in Portadown, and the Ormeau Bridge in Belfast, were a stark reminder that, even during a period when overt terrorism was largely absent, major inter-community tensions remained.

Only the communities themselves can settle the vexed question which has bedevilled this society for so long: who is right - those who wish to exercise their 'right' to parade; or those who are equally determined to use their 'right' to deny the marchers the use of 'their' roads?

If we are to avoid similar scenes in future years, a solution must be found which challenges organisers, and ultimately the communities which they claim to represent, to face up to their responsibilities without placing the RUC in the unenviable position in which they have found themselves in the past. In the meantime, my officers at all levels will continue their considerable attempts through meetings with the various groups to seek sensible alternatives to confrontation. A solution will inevitably involve compromise, goodwill and common sense; but the rewards in terms of public safety and reduced community tension will be immense.

Parades, demonstrations and major public events are high-profile examples of the vast range of duties and services performed each year by the men and women of the RUC and I wish to reflect the immense debt of gratitude owed to them by the people of Northern Ireland. Their professionalism and courage, particularly during a period of great change and uncertainty, have earned my profound respect and gratitude. They have had to get used to a style of policing which only a handful had ever experienced before: they adapted and improvised, quickly and enthusiastically embracing the new challenges, and they did so with a maturity and commitment which showed just what the RUC can contribute to society as it moves, slowly and with hope, towards a normal policing situation.

'Normal policing' has to be a two-way contract, a partnership between the RUC and the public. Examples of the public's wish to be involved are legion, from routine contacts between ordinary citizens and the officer on the beat to more formal meetings with senior officers. I am immensely encouraged by the steady growth in such contacts at all levels and across the entire community. In particular, I record my appreciation of the interest shown by the 200 guests representing so many different backgrounds and organisations who attended our Public Information Forum in March to hear our views on the future of policing. Their open and candid input made a major contribution to the success of the occasion.

The RUC remains fully committed to participating in the debate on the future policing needs of Northern Ireland; a debate that must be informed and balanced, avoiding rancour or recrimination. We need a vision for the future, calmly and constructively reasoned and explained. That is what the RUC, in association with others of goodwill, is working towards.

It is appropriate at this point to pay tribute to all those in the community who share a similar desire to move forward. I wish to thank the many thousands of ordinary men and women, the organisations, agencies, and informal groups who have again demonstrated their support for the police and who in a very real way have contributed to our successes. Without overwhelming public acceptance and positive assistance, we simply could not have achieved so much.

I also wish to pay a very special tribute to our colleagues in the armed forces. In many parts of Northern Ireland their presence has not been so obvious during the ceasefires, as frequently it was no longer necessary for them to act in our support. That should be welcomed by everyone as a positive indication of the lower risk of violence.

Their continuing presence remains an invaluable asset and a source of reassurance to many, and I wish to record our heartfelt thanks to them all. Any eventual lasting settlement will owe so much to the sterling work, over so many years, of our military colleagues.

I couple that tribute with my sincere thanks to our Staff

Associations, which have played a vital role during such a difficult and challenging year; to our civilian support staff; to the Police Authority and to the Northern Ireland Office.

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INFORMATION FORUM ON POLICING

In March this year, I was pleased to host an Information Forum on Policing at Garnerville. Over 200 guests, representing a wide cross-section of the Northern Ireland community, attended this forum, whose theme was Policing in Partnership. The debate underscored the RUCs belief that partnership between police and community is the fundamental requirement for the future of policing in Northern Ireland.

The forum provided an unprecedented insight into the nature and scope of policing activities, including the opportunity to question senior officers on aspects of crime, drugs, personnel and operational policing.

The programme included a number of presentations from police speakers and a range of display stands allowing people to meet and question specialist officers on a wide range of policing activities. The final session of the forum included an open discussion during which views and concerns on policing issues were debated.

This forum, the first such event to be hosted by the RUC, was an extremely useful exercise and I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to all those who took part.

ORGANISATIONAL STRATEGY

Our Strategy Statement for the period 1992-1995 is reproduced at Appendix 1. I believe this strategy has served us well over that period in helping us to direct and prioritise our activity.

Work is already well under way to devise our future strategy and this will, of course, take into account any significant changes in the environment in which we deliver the policing service.

LOCAL POLICING INFORMATION

In May 1995 a new initiative was launched, aimed at providing the public with policing information relevant to their local area. Rather than include such detailed information in this report, which is intended to be a general summary, a separate package was produced for each sub-divisional area. It is intended that this will be updated annually.

Each package contains statistics on crime, road traffic accidents and complaints, and there is a section by the Sub-Divisional Commander which covers all aspects of the work

undertaken in the sub-division. There are also contact telephone numbers for various specialist officers, such as Crime Prevention and Drugs Liaison officers, and details of the hours of opening of all police stations in that area.

The main recipients of the first issues of the folders were members of the Community and Police Liaison Committees, who were surveyed by Force Research Branch to see if they found the publication helpful. I am pleased to say that reactions to the package were very positive with respondents rating it as useful (98%), important (95%) and well presented (96%). Some constructive suggestions for amendments were received and, where possible, these have been acted on.

The package is, of course, available to anyone and copies can be obtained by contacting the relevant sub-division(s). The addresses and telephone numbers can be found in Appendix 8.

RUC CHARTER

Inspectorate Branch monitors the standards of service that the public can expect when telephoning the police, calling at a police station, writing to the police, or attending court as a witness. Police officers are also required to keep victims of crime informed of the progress of their investigations.

A typical inspection will include discussions with the sub-divisional commander, inspections of offices and interviews with a variety of personnel. Inspections of all stations were completed in June 1995.

The Charter is presently being reviewed to bring it more into line with current community needs.

Sample surveys are conducted throughout the Force to ensure that target times are being met. The following table shows the percentage of telephone calls sampled which complied with the standards set.

Telephone Call	Sample size	Target	96 success
Routine	72,423	95% within 30 seconds	97%
Emergency	19,849	98% within 10 seconds	98%

The Force aims to acknowledge correspondence within 5 working days, except where it is of a routine nature, and, where the information is available, to send a full written reply within 28 days or an explanation for the delay. Inspectorate Branch continues to ensure compliance by examining registers and correspondence during station visits.

In line with our commitment to seek the views of the public, a survey of people whose homes had been burgled was undertaken

during the year. The aim of the survey was to assess the extent of victims satisfaction with police dealing with the crime. An independent research company was invited to undertake the survey. Of the 1,144 victims contacted 790 responded, representing a response rate of 69%.

Respondents contacted police in a number of different ways, the most popular being telephone contact with their local police station (63%). A further 24% of respondents dialled 999, while 8% called personally at a police station. Some 91% of respondents were satisfied with how their initial contact was handled by the police whereas 4% were dissatisfied; the remaining respondents declined to comment. Of the respondents who expressed dissatisfaction, over one-third felt that the police were not very interested.

The majority of respondents (86%) expressed satisfaction with the service provided by the police officers who first attended the scene of their burglary. A further 9% were dissatisfied, while 5% declined to comment. Of those dissatisfied, one-third stated that the police were not interested while just under one-fifth felt that police made insufficient enquiries.

When asked how police could improve on their initial response to victims, most respondents (72%) either praised the police for the way in which they responded or said that they could not suggest ways for them to improve. Some respondents (20%) did however suggest ways in which the initial police response could be enhanced, including: the police being more understanding (4%); having a more positive attitude (3%); providing better follow-up (3%); taking more decisive action (2%); and providing a quicker response (1%). A further 8% of respondents declined to comment. The results will be studied and, where necessary, action taken.

LAY VISITING

The Lay Visitor Scheme, set up in 1991, consists of 5 lay visitor panels covering the whole of Northern Ireland. Those appointed to the panels are independent members of the public who make unannounced visits to designated stations (of which there are now 22) to observe, comment and report on the conditions under which persons are detained under the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order.

During 1995 the lay visitors made 393 visits to designated PACE stations and spoke with some 94 detained persons. In his address at the 1995 Lay Visitors Conference, the Chairman of the Police Authority said can think of no greater compliment to the RUC than this - in four years of lay visiting no substantial complaint has been made by persons held in any designated PACE station.

Since its launch the scheme has operated smoothly and continues to do so due to the enthusiasm for high standards shown by all

concerned.

PARADES AND DEMONSTRATIONS

I have written in previous Annual Reports about the effect contentious parades can have on our relationship with the community. There remains much confusion in the public mind about our role in this area. I repeat again that we are not a licensing authority for parades. We are guided in our decisions by the simple parameters of whether serious disorder, serious disruption to community life or serious damage to property are likely outcomes if notified processions are allowed to take place. It is in everyone's interest that all those involved continue their efforts to eliminate contention and controversy.

A total of 3,500 parades took place during 1995, of which 2,581 were loyalist and 302 nationalist. It was necessary to re-route 20 parades and 2 had other conditions placed upon them. There was public disorder at 13 parades. In addition, 7 loyalist and 17 republican parades were illegal: these were mainly protest-type parades/rallies to do with the peace process. In the majority of cases, however, parade organisers co-operated closely with the police.

The main parades at which trouble occurred were Drumcree Loyal Orange Lodge (LOL) Church Parade on 9 July, Ormeau Road on 12 July and the Apprentice Boys Parades at Ormeau Road and Londonderry on 12 August.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The aim of the branch is to enhance contact and consultation with all sections of the community, to develop a safer community through partnership and prevention and to maintain and develop diversionary ways of dealing with young people.

Policing with the support and confidence of the community is, of course, of paramount importance to the RUC as a whole, but the Community Affairs officers are able to devote more time and expertise towards promoting partnership and involvement with all sections of the community.

Following the 1994 ceasefires there were increased opportunities to enhance contact and consultations as security constraints reduced.

The Community and Police Liaison Committees have continued to provide a forum for representatives of the community to meet their local police and discuss local issues. Such meetings often produce joint solutions to problems, allowing those who take part to make useful contributions to progress.

Community Affairs officers hold meetings with a wide variety of

community groups, such as tenants associations, parents and church groups, which ensures that needs and concerns are passed directly to the local police commander.

Open Days have continued throughout the Province, with displays, competitions and similar events for all the family. This year Armagh was granted official city status, an opportunity for local officers to put on an event showing all aspects of policing while also raising money for charities in the area.

The Force recognises the importance of maintaining and improving contact with young people. The Ramble Scheme, a joint initiative between the RUC and local councils, continues to be very popular, with 16,252 participants in 1995. The scheme aims to develop young people through the medium of outdoor pursuits in a challenging series of hill walks culminating in a rigorous residential assessment.

Forty-five scholarships were awarded for Outward Bound centres in Great Britain, and the young people who attended were excellent ambassadors for Northern Ireland's youth.

This year, there was increased participation in outdoor pursuits by adults with disabilities. In Portadown, an adult group with severe learning difficulties from Eden Social Education Centre were involved in a full range of activities with local Community Affairs staff, as part of the Craigavon Ramble scheme. Participants, accompanied by police officers, travelled to the Eskdale Centre in the Lake District where they engaged in abseiling, high-ropes courses, canoeing and many other exacting challenges. Through this partnership with the centre, officers are now much more aware of how some people can overcome their disabilities.

The Northern Ireland Institute of Directors, in conjunction with the Scientific Exploration Society, organised an expedition to India in April 1995. Because of its recognised skills in the Ramble scheme, Community Affairs Branch was approached to assist in the selection of the 18 young people who would make the trip. There followed two gruelling residential weekends at the RUCs residential and outdoor centre, Ramore, where candidates from all parts of the Province displayed great enthusiasm and commitment. A further privilege was the unexpected invitation for 2 Community Affairs officers to join the expedition to India. The trip was a truly memorable experience for all concerned and many friendships were made.

This year for the first time the Community Affairs Branch, on behalf of the Force, hosted the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award presentations at the RUC Training Centre at Garnerville. Over 350 young people, their parents and friends heard an address by Assistant Chief Constable Hall who, accompanied by Mrs Hall, presented the awards. The RUC Band provided a musical treat for those attending. A young participant commented: Police officers came into our school every week to tell us about the police service. It was really interesting and we had a real opportunity to see police in a different light.

A SAFER COMMUNITY

The RUC is committed to assisting in the development of a safer community by prevention and education in partnership with the community.

A number of interactive and multi-agency projects, with the aim of making young people street smart and street safe, were facilitated by Community Affairs officers this year. Partnerships with the Safer Towns initiatives, Health Boards, the Fire Authority and many others, tackled issues such as cycle safety, fire safety, first aid, stranger danger and safety at home and at play.

JUVENILE CRIME

Community Affairs officers aim to reduce the levels of juvenile crime and delinquent behaviour by prevention and diversion, in a joint effort with statutory and voluntary agencies.

In 1995 a number of local initiatives were undertaken, with the aim of providing young people at risk of offending and delinquent behaviour with the challenge of outdoor physical pursuits. These were combined with an opportunity to discuss and debate issues in an informal setting with police officers from their local areas.

Quest 1995 was a pilot scheme project run jointly with the Probation Board for Northern Ireland. The scheme, for young adults aged 17-25, was organised along the lines of the existing Ramble scheme, with particular emphasis on developing personal communication and team-building skills. The scheme had an assessment element to encourage achievement and culminated in a presentation evening in the new Shankill Probation Offices.

The Forces primary diversion programme, the Juvenile Liaison (JL) Scheme, dealt with a greater number of referrals this year. This increase can be attributed to the resources that became available to ordinary policing roles, such as beat officers and neighbourhood officers, post ceasefires, rather than an upsurge in juvenile crime.

The JL scheme aims to identify those young people at risk of delinquency at an early stage, and intervene in a supportive role with parents and guardians to reduce the likelihood of offending. The use of the juvenile caution is an effective method of dealing with young persons for less serious crimes.

The multi-agency Juvenile Bureau project (a partnership with statutory agencies involved in youth matters eg the Probation Service, Social Services, Educational Welfare Officers) continues to flourish and is expanding to other areas of

Northern Ireland. The Bureau provides the opportunity for the sharing of information and professional expertise to the benefit of the individual.

Referrals during the year to Juvenile Liaison Offices	14,141
Potential offenders given warnings and advice	7,423
Official cautions given	2,029
Prosecutions	1,242
No further police action taken	2,004
Cases pending	1,209

(Figures include referrals carried forward from 1994)

RACIAL INCIDENTS

Without a legislative framework, the Community Affairs Branch this year voluntarily undertook the monitoring of racial incidents among the ethnic minorities using the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) guidelines for England and Wales.

Officers have been engaged in building a network of contacts with representative groups, together with the provision of advice and support to the victims of racial incidents.

Training has taken place at supervisory level with the assistance of the Multi-Cultural Resource Centre, Bryson House. This training will be extended to other officers during 1996.

A total of 66 racial incidents were reported to the police in 1995. We believe this figure is less than the total number of actual incidents that occurred and we would encourage victims to report every incident to their local police. We are determined to do all in our power to prevent the development of the scourge of attacks on vulnerable ethnic minority groups within our society.

POLICE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

The Police Educational Programme (PEP) continues to flourish, thanks to the continued support of principals, teachers, youth leaders and educational authorities throughout the Province. Close links with schools and youth groups provide the Force with a positive role in schools.

Partnerships with other concerned adults from a wide range of agencies involved in the safety and protection of young people are highly valued by Community Affairs officers and continue to

extend and develop each year.

The increasing number of Safety Trails is clear evidence of the growing relationships between voluntary and statutory groups. The combined efforts of various agencies at such events provide young people with a series of unique learning situations where crime prevention and safety lessons can be learned through actual experience in mock scenarios. Safety Trails reinforce the 3 central themes of PEP - protection, education and prevention.

While PEP has a set of core issues relevant to the safety of young people, the programme also gives priority to local needs and requests. This year has seen an increased PEP involvement among nursery and primary school children. Demand for drugs education is also high and Community Affairs staff are committed to supporting schools drug education programmes with information and guidance on the legal and social consequences of substance abuse.

Community Affairs Branch has been pleased to support the Police Authoritys schools competition. The competition, which is aimed at Key Stage 2 pupils (P5-P7), gives young people the opportunity to express and develop their views on policing. Officers have responded to requests from schools by organising station visits, interviews, visits to the RUC museum and other activities to assist with their research.

RUC BAND

In 1995 the RUC Band undertook over 150 engagements, varying from performances by small groups at senior citizens sheltered dwellings to formal concerts in the Provinces most prestigious venues.

Highlights of the year included ...

- the gala concert with the Western Band of the RAF at Belfast City Hall, followed by a service of commemoration in St Anne's Cathedral, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of VE Day;
- the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Part-Time Reserve; both choirs joined the band for this event;
- an international gala concert in Liverpool, featuring police bands from all over Europe, at which members were privileged to perform under the baton of the internationally acclaimed conductor Carl Davies;
- a series of performances in Belfast city centre in December, entertaining Christmas shoppers, tourists and sightseers.

Many letters of appreciation from all sections of the community have been received, illustrating the continuing popularity and success of the RUC Band.

RUC PIPES AND DRUMS

During 1995 the RUC Pipes and Drums took part in a total of 25 public appearances, including VE Day parades and charity events.

The band also took part in a total of 14 competitions in Scotland and Northern Ireland, competing in the premier grade of competition and winning a number of prizes. The Drum Corps are the 1995 European, All-Ireland and Ulster Champions, whilst the full band won the Marching and Discipline prize at the World Championship and the Cowal Championship.

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RECORDED CRIME

1995		1994	
Recorded	%Cleared	Recorded	%Cleared
68,808	36.1	67,886	35.9

There were 68,808 crimes recorded by the police in 1995, representing an increase of 1.4% on the 67,886 recorded in 1994. This continues the relatively slight upward trend in recent years. Burglary and theft offences accounted for 73% of the total crime recorded while violent crime (offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery) accounted for a further 12%. A substantial decrease in the number of murders and attempted murders was recorded in the first full year following the ceasefires by republican and loyalist paramilitary groups.

There were 24,838 offences cleared in 1995 (496 more than in 1994) representing a clearance rate of 36.1%. The trend in clear-up rates has remained steady at 36% since 1993.

Violent crime (offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery) totalled 8,368 offences representing a 9% increase on 1994. Details relating to each of the three crime categories follow.

OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON

There were 5,150 offences against the person recorded, 7.4% more than in 1994. A steady increase in the trend for this category of crime has been recorded in recent years. A total of 22 people were murdered in 1995 compared to 82 in 1994, while 35 attempted murders were recorded compared to 255 in 1994. Similarly, a decrease in threats or conspiracy to murder was recorded: 162 in 1995 compared to 221 in 1994. Other serious assaults increased by 19% to 4,127; an increase was also

recorded for 'wounding/grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent of 21 (12%) to 194.

The percentage clearance rate was 66.9%, compared to 67.0% in 1994. There was a clearance rate of 63.6% for murders, 74.3% for attempted murders and 90.7% for threats or conspiracy to murder. The clearance rate for serious assaults was 66.3%.

SEXUAL OFFENCES

There were 1,679 sexual offences recorded in 1995, an increase of 346 (26%) when compared to 1994. Substantial increases were recorded for most offences: rapes increased by 36% to 229; indecent assaults on males increased by 76% to 240; indecent assaults on females increased by 23% to 692; unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17 increased by 36% to 260.

The overall clear-up rate for sexual offences was 81.5% compared to 88.9% in 1994. There was a clear-up rate for rape of 82.5%, indecent assault on a female of 79.8%, and indecent assault on a male of 83.8%.

ROBBERY

A total of 1,539 crimes were recorded in this category, a similar number to the 1994 total of 1,567. Among the individual offences, there was a slight decrease in the number of armed robberies from 657 in 1994 to 620 in 1995. Robberies not involving weapons decreased to 586 (18%), whilst hijackings increased to 331 from 194 in 1994.

The overall clear-up rate for robberies was 19.4%, similar to the 19.7% in 1994. Armed robberies had a clearance rate of 17.3%, again similar to the 1994 rate of 17.8%. A 10% clearance rate for hijackings was recorded compared to 21.6% in 1994.

PROPERTY CRIME

Crimes against property, including burglary, thefts and criminal damage accounted for 53,701 (78%) of all recorded offences. BURGLARY A total of 16,457 burglaries were recorded in 1995, 445 (3%) fewer than in 1994. Burglaries in dwellings accounted for 9,774, similar to the number (9,833) recorded in 1994. In addition there were 142 aggravated domestic burglaries, almost twice as many as the 72 recorded in 1994. Burglaries of non-dwellings totalled 6,094 including 4 which were aggravated, 6% lower than in 1994. There were 778 attempted burglaries recorded during 1995, similar to the number recorded in 1994. Overall the clear-up rate for burglaries in 1995 was similar to that recorded in 1994 - 19.4% and 19.7% respectively. There was an increase in the clearance rate for domestic burglary, 17.9%

in 1995 compared to 16.1% in 1994. A corresponding decrease was recorded for burglaries in non-dwellings of 2.7% points to 19.4%.

THEFT

There were 33,472 recorded thefts in 1995, similar to the number recorded in 1994. Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles accounted for 7,794 (23%) of all thefts, 1,180 (13%) fewer than in 1994. A further 6,715 (20%) were thefts from vehicles, an increase of 2% on 1994. Incidents of shoplifting increased in 1995 by 20% to 5,410. A similar number of pedal cycles were stolen in 1995 (1,898) as in 1994.

More thefts were cleared in 1995 than in the previous year, a clear-up rate of 31.4% was achieved compared to 30.9% in 1994. The clear-up rate for theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles was 18.0% compared to 19.4% in 1994. The clearance rate of thefts from vehicles was 9.9% compared to 8.3% in 1994.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

Incidents of criminal damage totalled 3,772, 23% more than in 1994. Offences of arson increased by 20% in 1995 to total 1,132, whilst other criminal damage offences similarly increased by 27% to 2,627.

Overall 32.7% of criminal damage offences were cleared in 1995 compared to 35.6% in 1995.

OTHER OFFENCES

FRAUDS AND FORGERY

The number of frauds and forgeries recorded decreased by 4% to 4,884. Deception offences remained at a similar level to 1994 with 3,229 recorded. Forgery and counterfeiting offences decreased during 1995 by 30% to 680.

A clear-up rate of 62.7% was recorded for fraud and forgery offences in 1995 compared to 64.7% in 1994.

OFFENCES AGAINST THE STATE

Crimes recorded within this category stood at 339 in 1995, a decrease of 23%. This fall was accounted for by decreases in offences under the NI (Emergency Provisions) Act and firearms

offences, which were recorded at 18 and 42 respectively.

The overall clearance rate for this category of offences was 90.0% compared to 80.9% in 1994.

OTHER NOTIFIABLE OFFENCES

The number of offences recorded within this category was 1,516, of which 1,426 (94%) were drug offences. An increase of 11% was recorded for drug offences continuing the sharp increase over the past few years. Trafficking offences increased by 129% to 358, whilst other drugs offences, mainly involving possession, remained at a similar level.

Overall, the clear-up rate for this category of offence was 92.9% compared to 90.4% in 1994. 85.8% of drug trafficking offences and 96.8% of other drug offences, mainly possession, were cleared in 1995.

Additional crime statistics can be found in Appendix 3.

SECURITY SITUATION STATISTICS

There was a substantial reduction in the number of incidents related to the security situation during 1995.

In total nine people died as a result of the security situation compared to 61 in 1994. This was the least number of deaths recorded in any one year over the last twenty-six years. One of those who died was Constable Seymour, who received his injuries in 1973. The other eight individuals were all civilians.

There were 50 shooting incidents in 1995 compared to 348 in 1994. The number of bombing incidents was also substantially lower with 2 occurring compared to 207 in 1994. One device partially exploded and 1 was defused. The respective figures for 1994 were 123 exploded devices and 99 defused. Of the ten incendiary devices planted, only one ignited.

There was an increase in the number of so-called punishment attacks during the year, 220 in 1995 compared to 192 in 1994. Of the 220 attacks, 217 were assaults (76 by republican groups and 141 by loyalist groups) and 3 were shootings, all by loyalists. In 1994, of the 192 attacks 70 were assaults (38 by republican groups and 32 by loyalist groups) and 122 were shootings (68 by republican groups and 54 by loyalist groups). A total of 440 people were charged with terrorist-related or serious public order offences. Of these 10 were charged with murder or attempted murder, 31 with firearms offences, 18 with armed robbery, and the remainder with offences related to serious public disorder.

The security forces continued to uncover terrorist arms and

ammunition throughout the year. In total 118 firearms, 17,878 rounds of ammunition and 5kgs of explosives were found.

Additional security situation statistics can be found in Appendix 4.

DRUGS

Since 1990 there has been a significant increase in the availability of illicit drugs within Northern Ireland. The principal drugs being abused are cannabis, amphetamine sulphate, LSD and MDMA (Ecstasy) - this last being the most popular and prevalent. Police action has resulted in large increases in the quantities of drugs seized.

Seizures of opiates and cocaine are down on previous years and are minuscule in comparison to the rest of the United Kingdom. There is no indication of an increase in abuse of these drugs and this gives some cause for optimism.

Significant factors in the continuing development of a drug culture in Northern Ireland are the rave music scene, the profits available from drugs, the increased mobility of the population - affecting both young people and drug traffickers - and the convenience of direct travel to the continent.

Unfortunately the drug commonly known as Ecstasy has become synonymous with the rave music scene, a connection that has been well proven in the last number of years, largely as a result of significant seizures of the drug at popular rave venues. Given this situation and a number of unfortunate fatalities directly attributable to abuse of the drug, it is inevitable that police attention must focus on these venues. The target of the attention is not the rave scene itself, but the drug suppliers and abusers associated with it. Responsibility rests particularly heavily with the management and organisers of rave events to ensure drugs are neither supplied nor abused on the premises. The police are, however, aware of the pressures and difficulties faced by management and officers are available to offer advice and assistance to proprietors and organisers in their efforts to ensure that events remain drug free.

During 1995 there were a number of significant drug seizures in Northern Ireland, including:

35 kilos of Cannabis Resin found during a planned search of a house;

13,000 Ecstasy tablets, concealed behind the dashboard of a car that had previously been rented in England;

10,000 Ecstasy tablets and 20 kilos of cannabis resin, discovered in a car that had evaded a police road stop and chase, and was subsequently abandoned;

6,000 LSD doses found during a planned search of a house;

200 cannabis plants discovered during a planned search of vacant property, which was equipped with a sophisticated heating and lighting system, designed to accelerate growth; and

approximately 1/2 kilo of cocaine seized during two separate operations.

Close liaison with HM Customs and Excise continues and this has resulted in other significant seizures in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, notably 50 kilos of cannabis resin at one of the major English ports and 24,000 Ecstasy tablets in a combined operation in Belfast.

The Drugs Squad also maintained their contacts with mainland and foreign forces, giving and receiving assistance and taking part in planned joint operations. Co-operation with the Australian police resulted in the arrest of an Australian national for the exportation of Ecstasy tablets from Northern Ireland to Melbourne. There was also liaison with forces in Holland, France, Spain, the Republic of Ireland and America.

The Drugs Squad continues to lead all major investigations into drugs trafficking, and in recognition of the growing drug problem in Northern Ireland, the number of officers in the squad has been increased and new squad offices have been opened at Armagh, Enniskillen, Londonderry and Ballymena.

Drugs Liaison Units, staffed by officers devoted to addressing drugs issues within their local community, are a valuable asset in the investigation and prosecution of drugs offenders.

The Financial Investigation Unit, formed in 1994, investigates the financial transactions of suspected drugs traffickers. The work of this unit allows courts the opportunity to confiscate the assets of drugs suppliers. To date, 40 Confiscation Orders have been placed before the courts, resulting in the appropriation of over £28,000.

Seven Certificates of Realisation have been issued, to the value of almost £86,000, which it is hoped will be realised at a later date. Three Restraint Orders with a value in excess of £207,000 have been granted to date. These cases remain pending.

The free confidential telephone Drugs Line service (0800 337755) is available throughout Northern Ireland. Any information received via this medium is assessed and evaluated, and appropriate action taken where possible.

Joint initiatives in the area of prevention and education remain crucial in the campaign against the growing drugs menace. These involve government departments, voluntary and statutory agencies, the media, schools and parents, in addition to the police. A significant number of presentations were carried out during the year to groups such as parent-teacher associations, medical students, teachers, youth leaders, and community groups

with the objective of raising awareness of drugs issues. The further development with these other agencies of a co-ordinated approach to drug misuse through health promotion, education and greater general awareness remains a high priority.

A scheme for the referral of people cautioned for drug offences to their local Health and Social Services Community Addiction Team began this year, enabling those in need to have access to the appropriate facilities.

On 19 September 1995, the force hosted a Drugs Symposium at the Training Centre, Garnerville. The invited audience of 211 people represented youth organisations and community and voluntary bodies with a particular interest in the drugs problem, together with members of the Northern Ireland Office, Government agencies, the medical profession, educationalists, academics and District and Borough Councillors.

The primary purpose of the Symposium was to inform the audience of the role of the RUC regarding prevention and enforcement issues. Additionally it provided an opportunity for representatives of the many bodies involved in anti-drugs work to meet, exchange mutual concerns and ideas, and to examine the effectiveness or inadequacies of current policies.

Presentations were made by Sir John Wheeler, Minister of State in his capacity as Chairperson of the Central Co-ordinating Group for Action Against Drugs. Detective Superintendent Kevin Sheehy outlined current RUC drugs strategy and Mr Henry Snodden explained the role of HM Customs and Excise. Dr Diana Patterson, on behalf of the Northern Ireland Committee on Drug Misuse, spoke of the work carried out by the statutory sector and Mr Frank McGoldrick discussed the voluntary sector groups.

A broader picture of illegal drug trafficking and counter-measures taken by policing agencies was provided by Detective Superintendent John McGroarty of the Garda Síochána, Mr John Hamilton, a Director of Great Britain's National Criminal Intelligence Service and Mr John Featherly of the Drugs Enforcement Administration, USA.

The audience made enthusiastic use of the question sessions and the open forum at the end of the Symposium provided the opportunity to clarify the present position regarding the drugs problem and to help formulate a unified approach to future strategy.

CARE UNITS

There are currently 10 Child Abuse and Rape Enquiry Units providing Province-wide cover. A review carried out during 1995 recommended the establishment of a further two offices at Ardmore and Cookstown, and plans are under way to respond to these recommendations.

The ever-increasing workload within CARE units was also identified during this review. A key objective of the Units is to ensure that victims of child abuse and sexual offences are treated sympathetically and sensitively by the police. The CARE officers must display a professional and caring approach when dealing with child abuse victims, and in association with the Social Services, the NSPCC and other agencies, must ensure that the needs of the victims are addressed. The Units are fully investigative, dealing with the offenders as well as the victims, submitting files to the Director of Public Prosecutions as appropriate.

I was therefore delighted that a Charter Mark was awarded to the Grosvenor Road CARE Unit during 1995. This Unit had to satisfy the Charter Mark Assessors, and the Prime Ministers panel of advisors on the Citizens Charter, that it was providing a quality service to its users and was worthy of this prestigious award.

To comply with the proposed Criminal Evidence (NI) Order, 3 video recording systems have been installed at the CARE suites at Garnerville and Maydown, and other locations will be similarly equipped. Training courses on the video recording of children's evidence began jointly with Social Services. This has been pitched at a high professional level to meet the requirements of both the victim and the courts.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The RUC continues to co-operate with outside agencies in addressing the problem of domestic violence and protecting its victims.

During 1995, there were several significant developments in the expansion of the police response:

operational officers received divisional training supported by Women's Aid. This training is invaluable and the assistance given is much appreciated.

the system for the recording and reporting of incidents was changed, providing more detailed information. Further refinements are planned for 1996.

a thematic inspection of CARE and domestic violence work took place, to advise on future development.

we are participating in the Northern Ireland Regional Forum on Domestic Violence. The work of this interagency forum is important in furthering a co-ordinated response to this issue.

This year, the RUC attended a total of 5,903 domestic incidents, of which 3,326 involved the use of physical violence. Women are recorded as 87% of the victims.

Offences of physical violence included 3 murders, 5 rapes, 27 cases of grievous bodily harm, 390 cases of actual bodily harm and 1,620 common assaults.

The Force recognises the fears of victims about using the criminal justice process, but would also assure victims that many of these fears can be allayed. Victims are encouraged to contact the police as part of a help-seeking process.

VICTIM SUPPORT

There has been a steady expansion in the number of victim support schemes in Northern Ireland. Only three areas remain where coverage is not provided locally, and in these areas support comes either from the regional office at Annsgate House in Belfast, or from neighbouring schemes.

During 1995, in consultation with local police commanders, the range of offences referred to Victim Support by the police has been expanded.

SERIOUS CRIME

The most significant development of 1995 was the amalgamation of the Anti Racketeering Squad with the Serious Crime Squad, to form a new Headquarters Serious Crime Squad. This development ensures a more cohesive investigation unit backed up by a HOLMES computer system (Home Office Enquiry System) for the exclusive use of the squad in conducting major investigations.

Despite the republican and loyalist cease-fires the extortion of money from building contractors and business people has shown a slight increase. Abuse of tax exemption procedures and counterfeiting of brand name products continues unabated.

There has been a 50% increase in the number of voluntary disclosures made by the various financial institutions to a total approaching 350 for the year. These disclosures can involve highlighting unusually large financial transactions, or accounts showing transactions inconsistent with normal income.

Several persons from both sides of the political and religious divide have been made amenable for serious offences involving racketeering.

During the year the Serious Crime Squad undertook a total of 40 major operations. In addition to this assistance was given to several cross channel police forces with investigations they were conducting. In October, murder squad officers from Mexico City were assisted and witnesses were interviewed at their request.

Members of the squad, together with officers from Musgrave

Street, carried out an operation with the Anti-Piracy Unit of the British Phonographic Industry at a record and CD fair held in Belfast. The Unit wrote to acknowledge the success of the operation and to thank the officers involved for the hard work, professionalism and superb organisation ... throughout the day. It also commended the squad for having been successfully active in combating all types of counterfeiting activity in recent years.

STOLEN VEHICLE SQUAD

The squad is responsible for the detection and recovery of stolen vehicles (ringers) throughout the Province. It is involved in the investigation of all aspects of auto theft, including vehicles stolen in Great Britain and brought into Northern Ireland, as well as the theft of plant machinery, caravans and trailers. The strength of the unit has now been increased with the appointment of a Detective Inspector to lead the squad.

During 1995 the squad carried out 39 planned searches for stolen vehicles and 850 vehicle examinations. They seized 200 vehicles and recovered a further 120, valued at £825,000.

FRAUD SQUAD

The most common areas investigated by the squad include investment frauds, mortgage/leasing frauds, multiple share applications and fraud by professional people. Its investigations are by their very nature usually complicated and lengthy. During 1995, 9 cases were disposed of and 15 new ones were taken on. These cases have a monetary value of almost £60 million.

This year, Northern Ireland has been increasingly targeted for advance fee frauds, in which fantastic offers are allegedly available provided a payment is sent by the customer. Every effort has been made to alert the public to this type of fraud.

The Central Cheque Squad, under the operational control of the Fraud Squad, investigates and collates details of all fraudulent misuse of cheques and credit/charge cards throughout NI.

This year incidents reported to the Cheque Squad have increased, with over 1,100 cases of fraudulent spending on stolen cheque books and credit cards, with a value of £1.15 million. One hundred and twenty-three persons have been charged with this type of offence.

CRIME PREVENTION

While every police officer is an advocate of crime prevention, the main responsibility for its promotion among the business, industrial and private communities rests with sub-divisional Crime Prevention Officers (CPOs) and the headquarters support unit, part of the Community Affairs Branch.

Crime prevention advice is delivered in 2 ways: publicity, involving the media, posters, leaflets, exhibitions and group talks; and security surveys and strategies provided to individuals, industry and commerce and tailored to their specific needs.

During 1995, CPOs carried out a total of 8,076 security surveys in commercial and private premises and visited 5,765 scenes of commercial and domestic burglary. They also gave advice on personal protection in 782 cases and robbery prevention in 880.

Domestic burglary, representing 14% of reported crime, is the target of regular campaigns. The security of housing is increasingly becoming a feature in design and construction, but there is still scope for this area to improve. During 1995, the Crime Prevention Branch joined forces with the Community Safety Branch of the Northern Ireland Office in the promotion of the NIO funded campaign Six Ways to Beat the Burglar. In conjunction with this initiative, the Force commenced pilot schemes to identify the incidence of repeat victimisation to enable targeting of burglary prevention measures.

Thefts of, and from, vehicles also represent a high percentage of total crime. The Sold Secure vehicle security scheme is supported UK-wide by police, the Retail Motor Industry Federation, the Master Locksmiths Association and the AA. Its objectives are to formulate and promote national vehicle security standards with manufacturers and vehicle owners. The RUC was one of the first UK police forces to adopt the scheme and since it was introduced in January 1994 the Force has had a reduction in thefts of vehicles in 2 successive years - 13% in 1995.

To combat the risk of hijack, hauliers transporting high-risk loads eg tobacco or alcohol are encouraged to use a global positioning system (GPS) for vehicle tracking and alarms. Three commercial monitoring stations were established in Northern Ireland during 1995 and this should assist CPOs in establishing GPS as a cost-effective fleet management security tool.

The continued high level of false activation's from intruder alarms necessitated a revision of force policy, in liaison with the Association of Chief Police Officers. Technology in this area continues to advance and the policy changes, effective from 1 January 1996, are intended to filter out false activation's and increase the probability of calls being genuine.

The main changes will be that remote signalling alarms will be required to have an electronic means of re-arming, as well as filtering and substantiating alarm information. If such alarms issue in excess of 7 false calls in 12 months, police response

will be withdrawn. Persons in charge of premises with audible-only alarms will be required to establish additional means to indicate that an offence is in progress eg electronic means, keyholders etc, prior to requesting police to attend.

The Northern Ireland Crime Prevention Panel, with representatives from a wide range of commercial, private and public organisations and agencies, continues to meet on a regular basis to air and discuss items of respective concern.

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION

In December, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) was introduced in Belfast city centre. The £500,000 pilot scheme includes 16 cameras which monitor the city centre and relay pictures to a central control room at Musgrave Street police station.

An opinion survey carried out for the Police Authority showed that the project was supported by 89% of the Belfast public. The RUC has drawn up a Code of Practice to ensure proper safeguards; the tapes will be rigidly controlled and destroyed as soon as there is no longer a police need for their retention.

While having officers on the beat will remain a priority, the CCTV scheme is seen as valuable support in the battle against crime in the city centre area.

SPECIALIST SERVICES

The work of the specialist services is of invaluable assistance in the investigation of crime.

Photography Branch take pictures and videos of individual pieces of evidence and full crime scenes. This year, the assistance provided to the Drugs Squad was increased, allowing the recording of raids on premises where illegal substances are suspected of being used and sold.

Scenes of Crime Officers (SOCOs) attended approximately 25,000 crime scenes in response to requests from investigating officers to identify and retrieve physical and other trace forensic evidence.

Mapping Section also attend scenes of crime, to produce comprehensive maps and plans for use in investigations and at court. During the year, a new Computer Aided Design (CAD) system was introduced, aiding efficiency and allowing much more flexibility in both production and presentation.

The Automatic Fingerprint Recognition (AFR) system continues to improve the capabilities of the Fingerprint Bureau through its ability to compare all 'tenprint' forms, and finger marks recovered from crime scenes, with all fingerprints on record.

An administration computer system has been installed in the Bureau to assist in recording workloads, quality assurance and performance monitoring of staff in line with national requirements.

The work of the Bureau increased as officers were able to examine many more lesser crime scenes during the year. The number of 'tenprint' forms and crime scene marks received increased by 12.7% and 9.3% respectively, while the special examinations units work increased by 34%.

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TRAFFIC

Throughout 1995 the RUC continued its efforts to reduce the overall number of road traffic accident casualties on the roads of Northern Ireland.

Increased police activity in the area of road safety was achieved through more flexibility in deploying resources to this important aspect of policing.

CASUALTIES

In 1995 there were 11,725 casualties of road traffic accidents, 3% fewer than in 1994. Of these casualties 144 people were killed, a decrease of 13 (8.3%), in 126 fatal accidents - 14 accidents resulted in more than one death. The number of people seriously injured in accidents in 1995 decreased by 7.0% from 1,648 in 1994 to 1,532 in 1995. There was also a corresponding decrease of 2.3% in the number of people who received minor injuries.

In 1995 48 drivers were killed, 5 (9.4%) fewer than in 1994 and the number of passengers killed also decreased by 16% from 43 in 1994 to 37 in 1995. Fewer motor cyclists were killed in 1995, 8 compared to 10 in 1994. The number of pedestrians killed increased by 2 to 47 continuing an increasing trend evident in recent years.

Of the total accidents, 1,385 (20.4%) involved children. Nineteen children were killed in these accidents, 5 less than in 1994. Of these 19 deaths 9 were pedestrians, 9 were passengers and 1 was a pedal cyclist. The respective figures for 1994 were 16 pedestrians, 5 passengers and 3 pedal cyclists. In addition to the 19 deaths there were 1,700 children injured, 244 seriously (18.4% less than in 1994) and 1,456 slightly hurt (2.1% more than in 1994).

INDEX OF CHANGE

Over the last 10 years, that is from 1986, the number of people killed on our roads has decreased by 39% and there were 16% fewer people seriously injured, whilst the number with minor

injuries increased by 36%. Overall, there were 10% more accidents in 1995 than in 1986.

ACCIDENTS

As with previous years the two single most significant causes of road traffic accidents were inattention and excessive speed having regard to the conditions. These alone were responsible for one third (2,268) of all accidents. General carelessness by drivers and pedestrians accounts for approximately 70% of all accidents.

Additional road traffic accident statistics can be found in Appendix 5.

YEAR 2000 TARGET

In 1989 the Government set a target to reduce the total number of people killed and seriously injured on Northern Ireland roads by one-third by the end of the year 2000. The target was based on the average number of fatal and serious casualties reported in the years 1981-1985. The average was 2,362; the target for the year 2000 was therefore 1,575. This target has been adopted by the RUC working in conjunction with the DOE and other organisations throughout Northern Ireland involved in road safety. During 1995 there were 1,676 deaths and serious injuries due to road traffic accidents. If this downward trend continues the Year 2000 target will be achieved.

ROAD SAFETY PLAN FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

The Plan, which includes the Year 2000 target, was launched in July of this year, providing a strategic focus for all the road safety agencies. The document reflects the RUCs commitment to casualty reduction together with a number of identified and achievable targets which the force is actively pursuing.

OPERATION ROADS SAFE

In March 1995 the RUC launched an extended major road safety initiative, Operation Roadsafe, aimed at reducing road casualties in Northern Ireland by addressing a number of priority road safety areas, namely:

- speeding;
- reckless/careless driving;
- drink-driving;
- young drivers;
- pedestrians;

child safety.

Individual high-profile campaigns to address each respective priority area were held at relevant times of the year and involved a corporate approach between Traffic Branch, Community Affairs and Sub-Divisional officers throughout the Force. Traffic officers accepted an invitation to appear on UTV's Kelly show, where they were able to discuss the Roadsafe initiative and show examples of common driving errors that had been captured on in-car video.

Campaigns were supported by some 365,000 road safety leaflets which addressed priority areas and there were also two specific poster campaigns relating to speeding and drink-driving. The poster Speed Kills - Slow Down was displayed on buses throughout the Province for part of the year, while the poster Drink-Driving can lead to a Dead End was made available at a variety of public and private locations.

The greater involvement and activity of local police and Mobile Support Unit personnel in the area of road safety has been possible due to their increased availability as 'normal' policing continued. Road safety is one of the Force's primary priorities and the cease-fires freed officers to address the main areas of public concern.

ANTI DRINK-DRIVE CAMPAIGNS

While continuing to give attention to drink-driving all year round, the Force held two specific campaigns during the summer and Christmas periods. Prior to both campaigns the public were given details of these police initiatives through radio, press and television announcements.

The summer campaign ran from 7 July to 16 August, during which a total of 470 drivers were detected for drink-driving offences.

The Christmas campaign commenced on 6 December and was launched jointly with the Department of Environment and several other interested public bodies and companies. This was an effort to heighten public awareness and demonstrate interagency co-operation and concern over drinking and driving. By the end of the campaign, a total of 324 drivers had been detected driving over the limit, a reduction of 191 compared with 1994.

Overall during 1995 the Force preliminary breath-tested 7,643 drivers, of whom 1,501 proved positive. An additional 833 drivers were arrested for offences of 'unfit to drive'.

SPEED

Excessive speed having regard to the conditions is one of the main causes of road traffic accidents each year, so police activity continues to concentrate on this problem.

During 1995 a total of 77,956 motorists were detected for excess speed. Of these, 48,668 were dealt with by advice and warning, 27,009 were issued with a fixed penalty notice and 2,279 were proceeded against.

YOUNG PEOPLE

The Fanta 'Safe Cycling Challenge' was again sponsored by Coca-Cola. It aims to test the cycling skills and proficiency of children and was organised throughout the Province on a regional basis. The project, which is also supported by local councils and leisure centres, was attended by thousands of children between the ages of 7 and 13.

Traffic Branch, aided by officers from Community Affairs, the Dog Section and the RUC Band, ran a 'School's Out' programme prior to the start of the school summer holidays, to raise awareness among children of the road dangers which they might encounter during the holidays.

In association with the Institute of Advanced Motorists, the RUC launched a major initiative sponsored by BP/Rover - 'Young Driver of the Year'. The objective was to enhance the road safety of young motorists in the 17-20 age group.

The event took place across Northern Ireland with 26 area competitions sponsored by local councils, culminating in 3 regional finals with the winners going forward to the grand final. The winner received a Rover 100 car and there were additional prizes for runners-up.

MARKED POLICE VEHICLES

During 1995 an extension of the marked vehicle fleet provided 55 police stations with high-profile marked police vehicles for patrolling. The enhanced livery on these vehicles not only provided officers with conspicuous and illuminated protection on the roads, but also increased driver awareness of police attention.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Traffic management continues to play an important role in ensuring the free flow of traffic and the overall convenience of road users.

Traffic Management officers liaise regularly with the Department of Environment, statutory bodies and other interested parties on a variety of traffic issues and initiatives which contribute considerably to casualty reduction.

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HONOURS AND AWARDS

I am pleased to record that the following honours and awards were received by members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary during the year:

COMMANDER OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE (CBE)

D B Wallace Deputy Chief Constable

MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE (MBE)

J A Ringland Chief Superintendent

W C Craig Superintendent

F M Frayne Superintendent

K McFarland Superintendent

M L Meadow Inspector

R J McConnell (Retired) Sergeant

B G Magill (Retired) Sergeant

R J Hart Constable

D W McFaul Reserve Constable

QUEEN'S GALLANTRY MEDAL

W Allen Inspector

H E A Carson Constable

L A Graham Constable

B D B Marsh Constable

C Creighton Reserve Constable

QUEEN'S POLICE MEDAL

E W Anderson Chief Superintendent

W J Davidson Chief Superintendent

J D Martindale Chief Superintendent

W M Farr Inspector

QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVERY

J S N Moore	Sergeant
W J Connor	Constable
P McMurtry	Constable
W H Mawhinney	Constable
I J Stewart	Constable
D A Bell	Reserve Constable
M J McKinney	Reserve Constable
C N Wilkinson	Reserve Constable

ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY AWARD

R D T Hanna	Inspector
S J Boddy	Sergeant
R McEwan	Sergeant
D J McFetridge	Sergeant
J L Neill	Sergeant
R M Campbell	Constable
K A Davidson	Constable
R N Edmondson	Constable
S K Maxwell	Constable
R Montgomery	Constable
J P Rainey	Constable
A A McKay	Reserve Constable

AWARDS

A total of 227 Regulars were presented with the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal after the completion of 22 years service. The Reserve Long Service Medal was presented to 227 members of the Full-Time and Part-Time Reserve following the completion of 15 years service.

Performance of good police duty resulted in 134 Regulars and 14 members of the Reserve being 'Highly Commended' by the Chief Constable. In addition 243 Regulars and 35 Reserve Constables were 'Commended' for good police duty.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

The following appointments and promotions were made during the year:

Superintendent	20
Chief Inspector	27
Inspector	46
Sergeant	81

RECRUITMENT

As the future professional standards of the Force are dependent on the quality of its recruits, recruitment continues to be of the utmost importance to the organisation.

It remains vital that we recruit high quality candidates as Constables. They will not all become senior officers in the future, but they will all be people who can identify with the entire Northern Ireland community. Recruitment procedures remain objective, challenging and job related.

To ensure that the message in our recruitment brochures is valid for the youth of today we sought the help of sixth-form pupils from both Roman Catholic and Protestant schools. This innovative approach provided feedback on our new recruitment literature which will prove invaluable for the future. We are indebted to the young people of both communities for their help in this project.

From the first 'competition' in the new recruitment procedures (introduced in 1994) for Regular RUC officers, 63 recruits (including 10 graduates) entered training in April of this year. Through advertising in November 1994 and March 1995 the Force received and processed 4,439 applications, to cover four training intakes. To date 112 recruits (including 38 graduates) have commenced training (July and November 1995); a further 128 vacancies are anticipated for the remaining two intakes in February and June 1996. Following an advertisement in the local press in October 1995, 2,399 applications were received.

Through two training intakes in 1995 (April and August) 44 Full-Time Reserve members were recruited. Following a re-advertisement for the Full-Time Reserve in February 1995, a

further 1,454 applications were received, from which it is intended to fill one training intake in January 1996.

We continue to receive a large number of applications from people who wish to serve their local communities in a part-time role. During 1995 there were eight training intakes providing a total of 176 new recruits into the Part-Time Reserve.

Ninety-nine graduates applied to the Home Office Accelerated Promotion Scheme for Graduates for recruitment into the RUC in 1995. One Northern Ireland applicant was successful although the application was not pursued. While not accepted for this scheme, 15 officers were successful through normal recruitment procedures and entered training this year; other applications are still under consideration. A new job-related test for assessing physical competence has been introduced internally by the Physical Education Unit as part of the recruitment process. This test is the result of four years extensive scientific research to construct a valid, non-discriminatory test for assessing actual or inherent ability to perform the critical tasks involved in police work. The scientific process involved a world-wide literature search, questionnaire design, task analysis, data handling and test validation. A total of 20% of beat and patrol officers were randomly selected to take part in the project.

This Physical Competence Assessment (PCA) is receiving enormous interest from the Home Office and a number of overseas forces.

Recruiting Officers continued to make progress in respect of contact with all schools within the Province. There has been a significant increase in the levels of contact with Roman Catholic designated schools in comparison with last year and it is hoped that these contacts can be built on even further in the future. It is also hoped that those schools which do not invite us in at present will come to feel that it is possible to do so. During 1995 Recruiting Officers attended 39 careers conventions and one agricultural show.

Fifty-six students took part in our work experience scheme which lasts one week and is based in Belfast. In September 1995 a pilot scheme for work experience in the Londonderry area was launched. This has been well received and 19 students from the area have participated. In March we again participated in 'Job Scene' at the King's Hall, Belfast and the response at this event was encouraging. Once again it allowed us to converse with people of varying age groups who may not normally come into contact with the police, thereby developing new opportunities and encouraging potential applicants.

CAREER MANAGEMENT

In order that the public receives the best service from the Force great emphasis is placed on the training, development and care of all its members. Career Management is the focal point

for this policy and the aim of the branch is to develop every member so that their own needs, as well as those of the Force and the community, are met.

The staff appraisal system remains the main source of information regarding the needs of individual officers. These appraisals provide the opportunity for members and their supervisors to discuss progress and any career development deemed necessary. The staff appraisal system allows the individual to focus on his or her own career and ensures the best help is available in achieving the objectives set by the officer. The Staff Appraisal Unit processed 2,829 appraisals in 1995, and the training and development needs identified were collated and actioned.

Career Management staff continue to counsel members on issues ranging from their return to work after being off due to illness or injury, through to topics such as the preparation for and feedback from selection or promotion boards. Over 400 such interviews took place this year indicating the importance placed by members on the development of their careers.

There were 1,023 transfers within the Force during the year. The number of appeals against transfer was 41, of which 20 were allowed, 20 denied and 1 withdrawn. From these appeals there were a further 5 applications for an appeals tribunal; 1 of these was withdrawn, 2 were denied and 2 are still pending.

The number of selection boards held as a result of advertising all headquarters vacancies up to and including the rank of Inspector was 39 and involved 666 applicants.

Over the last twelve months the RUC has researched the concept of introducing assessment centres for promotions above the rank of Inspector. After consideration it was decided to adopt the Bramshill model devised by the Career Development Centre at the Police Staff College. It is anticipated that the first assessment process will commence in February 1996 to select applicants for the rank of Chief Inspector. Twenty-five Superintendents have been trained by the Police Staff College to take part as assessors in this process, and to assist in developing their skills the Force provided Superintendents to Central Scotland Police, to act as assessors in their assessment centre programme.

A total of 56 officers attended a variety of short courses presented by the Police Staff College at Bramshill. In addition 16 newly appointed Chief Inspectors attended the Police Management Programme which aims to prepare officers for their new roles and responsibilities. The course focuses to a large degree on management skills but also includes several modules relating to community awareness and the skills required to respond to developments within individuals areas of policing.

While the RUC continues to develop new policing strategies and initiatives to further improve the service provided to the community, we are conscious that other policing agencies are

also engaged in similar processes. To ensure that the RUC stays at the forefront of advances in policing we have encouraged a wide variety of interaction with other forces. Presently 5 officers are on secondment to Home Office posts on the mainland, and 2 officers have recently attended courses at the FBI National Academy and the Federal Executive Institute in the United States of America. Gaining experience in different policing environments will ensure that officers are better equipped to meet the demands placed on them in today's developing policing role.

Full-Time Reserve officers continue to perform an important role within the organisation. In 1995, 1,162 contracts were offered and accepted with 18 being refused. A number of Full-Time Reserve members were deployed on more routine policing duties during the year.

A wide range of courses are evaluated each year by the Training Evaluation Unit to ensure they are presented effectively and meet identified needs. Courses under scrutiny this year included the Junior Command Course, the National Firearms Instructors' Course and the Standard Driving Course. The Community Awareness Programme presented within Foundation Training was also the subject of evaluation. During this process the Unit carried out an extensive needs analysis which involved liaison with a wide range of individuals and groups within society. The opportunity to assess the public's view on the training needs of police officers proved extremely beneficial.

The information obtained will assist in the continued development of training programmes which are responsive to the needs of the diverse communities we serve. The Evaluation Unit will continue to ensure the views of every section of the community are assessed.

Further personnel information can be found in Appendix 6.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES UNIT

The RUC remains committed to a policy of equality of opportunity for all members and job applicants. The past year has seen many advances towards implementing policies and initiatives which will have a direct impact on improving the working environment for all staff.

During 1995 the Equal Opportunities Unit issued all Superintendents with a booklet on 'A Neutral Working Environment'. This contained references to sexual harassment and bullying, professional policing ethics and relevant Fair Employment case law.

Following a Sexual Harassment Survey within the Force, a Confidential Information Helpline has been installed in the Equal Opportunities Unit to give guidance/assistance to officers who feel they have been harassed, discriminated against

or bullied. The Unit is also in the process of establishing sub-divisional support groups which will provide information and guidance to persons alleging harassment.

In an effort to encourage more females to join branches and departments where they are under-represented, positive action has been initiated. One recent successful initiative was an 'Open Day' held by Traffic Branch, resulting in additional applications to this branch from female officers.

It is planned to build on this success by holding Open Days with Mobile Support Units to encourage more applications from females. In addition, Firearms Branch held a course to provide extra training for potential firearms instructors. One female was successful and is now attached to Firearms Branch.

Changes to European legislation prompted the Equal Opportunities Unit to draft a booklet 'Guide to Maternity Rights', which is made available to members on request.

Other initiatives that began this year include:

- the issue of batons to female officers;
- a new programme to ensure that all trainers will, by the end of 1996, be trained to teach equal opportunities issues. It is also intended to provide a similar course for Superintendents and above. This process will hopefully have a 'cascade effect' so that all members will become conversant with issues relating to harassment and the neutral working environment; and
- research on career breaks, part-time working and job-sharing. These will be of particular relevance to those with pressing family responsibilities.

Breakdown of Grievances made to the Equal Opportunities Unit in 1995

Grievances	
Sexual Discrimination/Harassment	20
Religious Discrimination/Harassment	14
Marital Discrimination	1
Victimisation	2
Complaint re Boards	8
Others including Policy Matters	15

Health of the Force

During the year 134,386 working days were lost through illness

and 25,499 working days through injury on duty, representing an average sickness per member of 13.42 days.

A regulation was introduced in 1994 which affects the pay of Regular officers who are absent through sickness. From 1 November 1995 Regular officers who exceed limits of sickness, and are currently sick, have their pay reduced.

A total of 1,566 cases where sickness absence was in excess of 28 days were referred for medical advice and 137 members were retired as being medically unfit for further service.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH UNIT

With changing circumstances the opportunity was taken during the year to review the method of delivery of the Unit's services.

Each of the 6 Nursing Advisers now has a territorial responsibility and direct liaison with a number of divisions and departments. This has allowed the Unit staff to liaise more closely with police officers at their place of duty and has proved to be a major step forward with greater understanding of each other's roles.

The workload of the Unit, in terms of patient contacts, has risen again this year and there has been some evidence of complicated and long-standing difficulties requiring intervention and support.

The decrease in terrorist activities has led to a fall in the number of officers requiring support following critical incidents. There has however been an ongoing requirement for this service in relation to more normal policing activities such as serious road accidents. 'Health Patrol', the mobile screening service, has continued to be well accepted with around 2,000 officers having used the service to date. Currently a number of steps are being taken to increase liaison and co-operation with other departments such as the Physical Education Unit, Health and Safety and First Aid Training. The intention is to provide an enhanced and integrated support service to both individual officers and their management.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIT

With the appointment of a Deputy Director for Physical Education, the Unit is now fully staffed. Its services have recently been regionalised, with every station in the Province allocated to one of seven Physical Education Instructors. This is intended to encourage a more personal and accountable service.

The Unit continues to respond to changes within the RUC, particularly selection procedures for applicants to the Force.

The Unit has designed and implemented a new job-related physical assessment for selection testing, which is attracting national recognition.

The provision of training and educational facilities continues with the development of a new gymnasium complex for Maydown, Londonderry and the updating of the existing 95 fitness rooms in the province.

Physical Education staff are working in conjunction with the Occupational Health, Personnel and Welfare Units to apply an 'all-round' approach to the rehabilitation of sick and injured police officers and civilian support staff.

WELFARE BRANCH RUC

Welfare Services provide a range of facilities to the police family. A comprehensive advice and counselling service available to all, the areas dealt with can vary from unravelling the complexities of state benefits, to in-depth contractual counselling.

In a relaxed and informal manner the branch's nine Welfare Officers seek to provide this help to all serving officers, their partners, widows and dependants and pensioners, usually in their home environment. In 1995, some 1,706 people received assistance in this way. To keep pace with the ever changing needs of its clients, the branch has refined existing services and particularly in the area of debt management has produced new and successful strategies.

One of Welfare Services' many roles is to act on behalf of the Police Dependants' Trust, a national police charity that provides substantial financial support to those officers incapacitated as a result of an injury on duty and the dependants of officers who died in similar circumstances. During 1995 the branch prepared and presented 70 cases and administered almost £95,000 in subsequent awards.

BENEVOLENT FUND

Throughout the year, the Benevolent Fund continued to provide assistance and support, where appropriate, to serving members of the RUC and RUC Reserve, pensioners, ex-members, medically retired personnel, widows and dependants.

As in previous years, the Management Committee has liaised closely with local Welfare Committees and Police Association representatives, to identify need and support cases where assistance is required. The Fund also continues to support, both financially and practically, the welfare activities of local Voluntary Welfare groups.

The Management Committee of the Benevolent Fund wish to record their gratitude for the many generous contributions made to the Fund throughout the year. The Fund's work is only able to continue through the support of both the Force and the public, here and in Great Britain.

Grants totalling over £86,000 were made to ex-members, widows and pensioners and a further £56,500 was made available to serving officers who were the subject of intimidation, injury on duty or other related difficulties.

Through the year, the Fund expended a total of £941,303.

The support of our mainland colleagues by the provision of holidays for our widows, injured and intimidated officers and children is, as always, greatly appreciated. The continued support of all who help the Fund, either by giving time or money, is deeply appreciated by the RUC.

DISABLED POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

The Association continues to give excellent support and assistance to all its members. Events throughout the year were well attended. Special emphasis is still placed on encouraging members to participate in sporting and leisure-based activities whenever this is possible.

Some events have taken place outside the Province and have been most enjoyable and beneficial. In particular, in March 1995 a very successful visit to Wales - as guests of the South Wales Constabulary - included attendance at the Wales v Ireland International Rugby Match.

STAFF ASSOCIATIONS

Throughout 1995 there has been a high level of consultation with the Staff Associations, both through the formal mechanism of the Joint Negotiation Consultative Committee and in discussions on a more informal basis.

At all times the advice from the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Superintendents' Association and the Police Federation was of a very high quality and I am very grateful for their professional and constructive contributions, which have been instrumental in developing and progressing force policy over a particularly sensitive and challenging period.

TRAINING

Training Branch continued to support the Force through determining training needs in the fast-changing policing

environment and by providing training to meet those needs. This was achieved through consultation with the various operational and administrative departments, with the ultimate aim of meeting the public expectations of police in an effective, efficient and professional manner.

During 1995, in response to those expectations and to meet the changing emphasis on community policing due to decreasing security considerations, some courses were suspended or reduced in number, while new courses were provided to assist in developing special skills. In addition, the increase in computerisation, combined with wide-ranging changes to the law, led to more demand for training in computerised management and command and control systems.

INITIAL TRAINING

A total of 173 new members completed the 25-week foundation course for Regular recruits, with 42 Full-Time Reserves also completing their initial training. Regulars' training continued to include community awareness input, which has been further developed this year in partnership with the Mediation Network and, for the first time, this was also available to Full-Time Reserve recruits.

Regular officers continue training throughout their 2-year probationary period. There are 4 formal training phases, each of 2 weeks duration, with a period of 12 weeks between each phase spent performing operational police duties; probationers are aiming to develop their knowledge, skills and abilities to a level where they are ready for independent patrol duties. Community awareness is further developed during this period.

There were 9 initial training courses involving a total of 187 recruits to the Part-Time Reserve.

FURTHER TRAINING

Further Training exists to train police officers (and civilian support staff in certain areas) to carry out the roles required of them in the areas of management, police skills and investigative work.

Inspectors' and Sergeants' management courses were both rationalised this year, reducing in length to become more role-focused.

As the Force becomes increasingly computerised, training in this area continues to expand. The phased introduction of a Manpower, Administration and Registry System (MARS) requires training for police and civilian personnel that will take some 30 months to complete.

In addition, the introduction of a CCTV system to Belfast city centre has necessitated the training of personnel on the monitoring of cameras and the gathering and preservation of relevant evidence.

DIVISIONAL TRAINING

Divisional Training continued to expand and by March the scheme was fully operational. The training sessions are led by local officers, qualified as trainers, who are appointed by Deputy Divisional Commanders. Training is attended by all uniform Constables who are deployed on beat, patrol, Mobile Support Unit, Operational Support Unit or traffic duties, and all Full-Time Reserve members who are employed on operational duties.

Both legislative and procedural topics were covered and there were also inputs on deaf awareness and domestic violence.

OPERATIONAL TRAINING

The Operational Training Unit, which carries out a variety of practical training, has concentrated this year on a conflict resolution skills' package, dealing with such issues as conflict management and resolution, officer and public safety, self-defence and the use of force.

An observational skills course has been introduced to develop officers' skills in combating crime, with the emphasis placed on drugs, theft, burglary and auto-crime.

Officers from the Operational Training Unit regularly attend training centres throughout Great Britain, in order to determine 'best practice' and ensure the RUC remains alert to all aspects of normal policing. There has also been a significant increase in the number of visitors to the Force wishing to examine and discuss law enforcement issues.

Firearms training is constantly monitored to reflect the changing demands of the policing role within the community and, where appropriate, changes are initiated. The number of officers trained in the use of firearms other than hand guns significantly reduced in 1995; this situation is kept under review.

Operational Training, in consultation with the Occupational Health Unit, is taking a very active role in the rehabilitation and counselling of officers involved in traumatic incidents. These support programmes are at the forefront of specialisation in this field and are widely regarded as essential for effective trauma management.

TRAFFIC AND DRIVER TRAINING

There has been a large demand for training in dealing with traffic-related offences such as alcohol and speeding, as more officers have been available to concentrate their efforts in this area.

There has also been an increase in the number of liveried cars on patrol and accordingly a programme of 2-day refresher courses for drivers has commenced, to ensure the high professional standard is maintained.

DOG TRAINING

The Dog Training Unit continues to provide training and development for the Force's 92 police dogs including german shepherds, used for general police duties, and labradors and springer spaniels, used in searches for drugs and explosives.

Regular and intensive training of all dogs is required to ensure that each animal meets the exacting standards required by Home Office regulations.

The force is very grateful to those members of the public who offer to donate dogs for training. Sadly, there is a high failure rate during both assessment and training; the dog section requires a minimum of 12 trained german shepherd dogs each year to replace those which become non-operational and we are therefore always seeking more dogs for assessment.

There were many successes for the dog section during the year, including the tracking and arrest of criminals, the recovery of stolen property and locating 'lost' persons. There were also many displays for community groups.

ACADEMIC COURSES

There are approximately 270 officers undertaking academic courses, an increase of over 15% on last year.

The Higher National Certificate in Police Studies was gained by 31 officers and 67 are currently engaged in the course.

Nineteen officers were awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy and Management, four of whom graduated with honours. At present, 63 officers are taking this course, with around 60 taking other primary degree courses.

Post-graduate qualifications were gained by 16 officers and a further 50 are currently studying at this level.

SPORT

Sport continues to play an important part in the life of the Force and, with 40 sections affiliated to the Athletic Association, almost every sporting taste is catered for.

In 1995 the Force participated fully in the Police Athletic Association Championships in many sports. Successes were recorded in athletics, bowls, clay pigeon shooting, football, men's hockey and tug-of-war.

On the local front both the men's and ladies' hockey clubs won promotion to the senior level, and there were representative honours in athletics, rugby and shooting. One of our members captained the Ireland Flat Green Bowling Team, which was a singular and historic honour.

The management team at the Sports Club at Newforge are continually striving to provide the best amenities for sport and recreation, and provide a comfortable atmosphere for relaxation when off-duty.

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COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE

The Complaints and Discipline (C&D) Department, located at Ormiston House since the early 1970s, moved this year to more suitable accommodation at Lisnasharragh.

This new accommodation enables the department to provide its officers with a much more pleasant working environment and is in keeping with the aim of providing the highest quality service to the public and the Force.

It is encouraging that in 1995 the complaints made against officers dropped by nearly 8%. Complaints must, however, be set in the context of operational activity during the past year, which included increased efforts in combating drugs and dealing with traffic and public order offences. Such increased activity inevitably creates situations where complaints can, and do, arise.

This year saw the introduction of a Complaint Prevention Programme. This initiative, which is fully supported by the staff associations, involves officers from Complaints and Discipline visiting each division and department of the force, to discuss the level and causes of complaint and possible preventive action.

In support of this initiative, an in-depth internal research project was carried out into the main cause of complaint - assault during arrest. Early results indicate that typical complaints arise from young males arrested between midnight and 6.00 am for public disorder, with alcohol a significant factor.

Departmental officers have visited 20 Community and Police Liaison Committees along with local Sub-Divisional Commanders.

The purpose of these visits was to increase public awareness of the regulations and legislation governing complaints against the police. Open and frank discussions took place with committee members, relating to complaints from their local areas. We intend to visit the remaining committees in the near future and to continue such visits on a regular basis.

It is pleasing to note that the number of 'Informal Resolutions' continues to rise. Informal resolution provides a flexible and simple procedure for dealing with complaints of a minor nature. Complaints are only suitable for informal resolution if the conduct complained of, even if proved, would not justify a criminal or disciplinary charge. The complainant must also be content for the case to be handled in this way. A new leaflet has recently been issued to the Force to encourage the use of informal resolution in appropriate cases.

Civil claims continue to increase. Lessons learned from the various claims are included in divisional presentations by C & D officers and material is included in divisional training, as well as the Inspectors' management and prosecuting courses.

New national procedures for unsatisfactory performance and misconduct are currently being considered by the Home Office but, as yet, no firm guidelines have been issued.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland announced in October 1995 that there would also be a review of the police complaints system within Northern Ireland. The object of the review is to consider the operation of the existing mechanisms for dealing with complaints against the police by members of the public and to recommend whatever changes would improve, broadly speaking, the overall system. Dr Maurice Hayes has been appointed to carry out the review.

COMPLAINTS RECORDED

In 1995 the number of cases of complaint initially recorded against police officers and traffic wardens fell to 3,252 from a total of 3,530 in 1994, a decrease of 8%. (A case can include one or more complaints made by one individual at the same time or, where they are related to the same incident, complaints made by more than one person.) These 3,252 cases related to 4,264 complaints made by 2,943 different complainants. During the year, almost half of all complaints recorded (2,007, 47%) involved a complaint of assault. Complaints of incivility (664, 16%); oppressive conduct/harassment (387, 9%); irregularity in procedure (313, 7%); unlawful arrest and detention (292, 7%) and neglect of duty (292, 7%) constitute almost all of the remainder.

REFERRAL OF COMPLAINTS TO THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION FOR POLICE COMPLAINTS

Except for complaints that are withdrawn before an investigating officer has been appointed or that are informally resolved, the RUC must refer all complaints by members of the public to the Independent Commission for Police Complaints (ICPC). During 1995, 2,328 complaint cases were referred to the Commission, 365 of which were supervised by the Commission.

In respect of 84 of these complaint cases, there was a mandatory requirement upon the Commission to supervise the investigation. These included one non-complaint matter referred to the Commission by the Secretary of State, relating to an incident on 12 August 1995 on the Lower Ormeau Road, Belfast, during which a number of baton rounds were discharged by police. At 31 December the supervision of this investigation was still continuing.

In addition, in 281 cases the Commission exercised its discretionary power to supervise complaints. These cases included one non-complaint matter in respect of which I exercised my discretion under Article 8 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 to refer a case to the Commission on the grounds of public interest. This involved a motoring incident and the discharge of firearms by police on 12 April 1995 at Rathlin Gardens, Londonderry. This matter is still outstanding.

COMPLAINTS DEALT WITH

This year, a total of 3,478 complaint cases - representing 5,029 complaints made by 3,251 complainants - were completed. In 1995, 2% more cases and 6% more complaints were completed as compared with 1994. Of the cases completed during 1995, 1,701 were recorded in 1995 and 1,777 were recorded in previous years.

A complaint may be completed in one of the following ways:

- (a) after a full investigation it is found to be substantiated or unsubstantiated;
- (b) the complainant may withdraw the complaint or decide not to proceed with it;
- (c) it may be informally resolved;
- (d) it may be deemed 'incapable of investigation' within the terms of regulation 17 of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (Complaints) Regulations 1988, in which case the Independent Commission for Police Complaints must issue a dispensation.

Where a complaint is deemed incapable of investigation this is most often due to the failure or refusal of the complainant to co-operate.

OUTCOME OF COMPLETED COMPLAINTS

Of the 5,029 complaints completed during 1995, almost half (2,352, 47%) were fully investigated. This represents an increase on the previous year when 42% of complaints were fully investigated. Of the total complaints completed in 1995, 73 (1.4%) were found to be substantiated. In 1994, 0.6% of complaints (30 out of a total of 4,728 complaints completed) were substantiated.

Complaints indicated in writing their intention to withdraw, or not proceed with, 1,075 complaints; the ICPC granted dispensations in respect of 871 complaints deemed incapable of investigation and a total of 731 complaints were resolved informally. The percentage of complaints informally resolved in 1995 rose as compared with the previous year (up from 12% to 15%) while the proportion of complaints deemed incapable of investigation or withdrawn fell from 25% to 17%, and from 22% to 21% respectively.

DISCIPLINE

Disciplinary proceedings against officers may be formal or informal and may arise either from complaints made by members of the public (whether substantiated or unsubstantiated) or through indiscipline reported by supervisory officers. Examples of informal disciplinary proceedings include constructive discussion; advice; and admonishment. During 1995, constructive discussion, advice or admonishment was given in respect of 115 cases of complaint from members of the public and in respect of 238 cases of indiscipline reported by supervisory officers.

OUTCOME OF FORMAL DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

In 1995, a total of 118 disciplinary charges against 67 officers were heard and completed at formal disciplinary hearings; hearings involving a further 28 charges against four officers were begun but not completed. Of the total 118 charges, 95 arose from cases reported by supervisory officers and 23 from complaints from members of the public. The results of the completed proceedings in cases reported by supervisory officers were as follows: 3 officers were dismissed from the force; 4 were required to resign; 2 were reduced in rank; 1 was reduced in pay; 8 were fined; 21 were reprimanded; 7 were cautioned; and 3 were found not guilty. As a result of the 23 charges arising from complaints made by members of the public, 2 officers were reprimanded, 3 were cautioned and 13 were found not guilty.

Outcome of Formal Disciplinary Proceedings Heard during 1995

Outcome*	Reported by	Complaints made
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	Supervising Officers	by the Public
Dismissal	3	-
Required to Resign	4	-
Reduction in Rank	2	-
Reduction in Pay	1	-
Fine	8	-
Reprimand	21	2
Caution	7	3
Found Not Guilty	3	13
Totals	49	18

*Most serious penalty shown

APPEALS

During 1995, 13 officers lodged appeals to me. Of these appeals, 3 were withdrawn, 2 were allowed and 1 was dismissed; the remainder are scheduled for hearing in 1996. One officer, after I dismissed his appeal, appealed to the Secretary of State. The outcome of this appeal is still outstanding.

Another officer made unsuccessful appeals to me and the Secretary of State in respect of a guilty finding by a disciplinary board. The officer subsequently sought, and was granted, a judicial review of the Secretary of State's decision. At 31 December 1995 the judgement of the Court had not been delivered.

Further information on complaints can be found in Appendix 7.

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EXPENDITURE

The total expenditure for the financial year ending 31 March 1995 was £601.1 million. RUC and civilian staff costs accounted for almost 84% of the total, with the remaining 16% being spent on support and development costs.

While the overall budget increased marginally (by £700,000), expenditure on RUC manpower decreased by £3.6 million from the previous financial year. The decrease was influenced mainly by a change in operational commitments brought about by the cease-fires, which reduced the need for overtime working, and a change in the RUC regulations to cease payment of overtime to the Inspector ranks from 1 September 1994. Proportionately,

expenditure on support services such as buildings, transport and information technology increased by 0.5%, with civilian staff costs up by 0.2%.

COMPUTER SERVICES/COMMUNICATIONS

The provision of a Force-wide data communications network under ATLAS is due for completion by August 1996. Messaging and despatch management facilities will be replaced and extended to cover the entire Province. ATLAS is the largest public sector IT project ever undertaken in Northern Ireland. The network allows integration of most computer systems and will facilitate computerisation into the next century.

The Manpower, Administration and Registry System (MARS) provides office automation and word-processing facilities to subdivisions and headquarters branches. The manpower facility greatly enhances the efficiency of resource management and deployment in a number of ways: it produces a clear and precise duty sheet; it provides an overview of all manpower in the sub-division; and an accurate, up-to-date breakdown of actual and projected expenditure is available.

The extension of the MARS system around the Force began in August 1995 and is being implemented at the rate of one subdivision every four weeks. Province-wide coverage will be completed early in 1998.

During 1995 the telephone network was expanded to include all sub-divisional headquarters, providing office-to-office direct dialling for over 90% of the Force and the Police Authority.

INSPECTORATE

Inspectorate Branch is responsible to the Deputy Chief Constable (Support Services) who determines and prioritises the issues for inspection.

The purpose of the branch is to assist the Force in achieving its aim, by providing a high quality independent inspection, analysis and appraisal of performance, and this is completed by conducting inspections, reviews and monitoring performance. There are three types of inspection - thematic, self and formal. Thematic inspection is simply a thorough analysis and appraisal of an issue which is of concern to the Force. During 1995 the Branch completed five such inspections into drug misuse, child abuse and domestic violence, Mobile Support Units, Criminal Intelligence Officers, and the Motor Transport Depot. As a consequence a total of 72 recommendations were made which are at various stages of implementation or are under consideration.

Under the self-inspection programme management carry out their own inspection of matters chosen by the Chief Constable. Force

Inspectorate Branch conduct random unannounced visits to ensure common standards are applied and quality maintained. The programme runs from 1 October to 31 March and the current topics include: the neutral working environment, special property, fleet vehicles, document security, firearms and monitoring of traffic strategy; a final report will be produced in April 1996.

The formal inspection process seeks to appraise the performance of a 'unit of management' by inspecting three main areas. These include a performance review of the local policing plan, an examination of specific issues of concern to the Force and a compliance audit to ensure force procedures are being adhered to. The aim of this process is to identify good practice and improve quality of service and value for money. The format is presently under review with the intention of piloting the new process by the summer of 1996.

The branch also conducts reviews of procedures and branch functions as directed, acts as liaison with Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, and disseminates 'good practice' throughout the Force. Data protection inspections are conducted by random visits to installations throughout the Province to ensure that the Force is complying with current legislation.

FORCE RESEARCH

Force Research Branch undertakes research on behalf of the Force into operational issues and the acquisition of technical equipment.

One of the main roles of the branch is to liaise with the Home Office Police Research Group, the Police Scientific Development Branch, other UK police forces and commercial agencies, to ensure that the Force is aware of developments in the wider policing environment. The branch is also responsible for conducting surveys on behalf of the RUC. During the last year numerous surveys were conducted among RUC officers, civilian staff and the general public.

All members of the Force, and civilian staff, are encouraged to participate in the annual police research award scheme for innovations in policing. This year, Constable Brian Grimshaw received an award jointly with Reverend Richard Armitage, Police Chaplain of West Mercia Constabulary, to conduct research into the establishment of a good practice guide to police chaplaincy. The purpose of the research is to examine the British Police Chaplaincy Service with particular regard to the multifaith/cross-cultural aspect of the work. The aim is to identify and establish a code of practice which will maximise the role of the police chaplain and will have application throughout the police service because of the broad perspective on which it is based.

Force Research Branch administers the Force Suggestion Scheme, which is regarded as an important means of encouraging employee

participation. The scheme has been revitalised through a revised system of awards, including a delegated budget for financial awards in appropriate cases and a higher level of publicity for the scheme. This has resulted in some 764 suggestions being submitted to the scheme in 1995. Suggestions may range from proposals for administrative changes which streamline the system to the acquisition of items of equipment and ideas which save money on the capital or running costs of buildings.

SERVICE QUALITY DEVELOPMENT

This new branch, set up in October of this year, is dedicated to the development of service quality.

While recognising that service quality is the responsibility of everyone working in the Force, or in support of it, the creation of a branch specifically to champion the introduction and implementation of a quality improvement strategy was seen as the only sure way of taking a structured approach to providing a better service. Improving our service means finding ways of doing the job more efficiently and effectively, ensuring the best value for money from the use of public funds.

It will be the role of Service Quality Development Branch to provide the internal consultancy, facilitation and training support to help the Force conduct quality improvement projects, thereby spreading a philosophy of continuous improvement throughout every aspect of its work.

FORCE INFORMATION

The Force Information Centre exists to meet a dual need for information: externally it provides a fast, accurate and comprehensive service to the media on the role, functions and activities of the Force, while also maintaining an effective internal communications system for Chief Officers.

The cease-fires that continued through 1995 created an excellent climate for the Force Information Centre to exercise a greater pro-active role than was possible during 25 years of overt terrorism, and every opportunity was taken to promote the full range of RUC activities.

Two important events in 1995 had a major impact on the department - the anniversary of the cease-fires resulted in 60 requests for assistance from newspapers, magazines, the electronic media and film companies world-wide, and the visit of President Clinton required the RUC stand at the International Press Centre to be manned throughout his visit. The department also provided personnel at each point visited by President and Mrs Clinton, while continuing to provide its 24-hour news service at Headquarters.

The department was responsible for publicising the biggest road safety campaign to be mounted by the Force, aimed at reducing the number of deaths and injuries on the roads. Launched in March under the banner 'Operation Roadsafe', the media played a significant role in highlighting the initiative. PR efforts focused on raising public awareness of the campaign's different elements including excess speed, careless driving and drink/driving.

Much of the department's time and resources went into one of its biggest media projects - the making of the documentary series 'Inside the RUC' for broadcasting on Ulster Television in 1996.

The importance of internal communication is also recognised and a small team was set up to implement plans for a Force newsletter for both police and civilian support members. It is hoped to publish the first edition in 1996.

The media have continued to be of immense help in enlisting public support in both solving and preventing crime, through television, radio and newspaper appeals columns and programmes. The department has committed more resources than ever to Ulster Television's appeals programme. Relaunched under the title 'Crimecall' the programme now features police officers as presenters in addition to UTV's Keith Burnside. The programme has built up a large audience and, as a result of public response, recorded some welcome successes in solving crime. The Sunday Life's 'Crimestoppers' column has now been joined by the News Letter's weekly 'Crimebeat' slot. Meanwhile the daily Downtown Radio police appeal has been transformed into a weekly half-hour chat show. I would like to record my appreciation of these organisations' commitment to providing such a valuable public service.

Two disaster exercises were mounted in conjunction with other agencies, emergency services and police forces during the year, both requiring extensive preparation and organisation. One, a simulated ferry disaster, proved useful in learning about the mechanics of setting up casualty bureaux on both sides of the Irish Sea. The other, a full-blown PR exercise around the scenario of a plane crash, provided an opportunity to analyse the most effective means of informing the media in the aftermath of such a disaster.

The department has again worked closely with the Northern Ireland Office on its television advertising campaigns, particularly those targeted at motorists who speed or drink and drive. In an innovative move, both road safety and the drugs free helpline were promoted through posters on public transport.

CENTRAL STATISTICS UNIT

The Central Statistics Unit acts in support of the Force through the provision of accurate and timely statistical data, analysis

and advice. The Unit also provides government departments and agencies, voluntary organisations, academics, students, private industry, and many individuals within the community with a wide range of statistical information.

Statistical information is collated and disseminated in respect of four main areas - crime and court proceedings, road traffic accidents, security situation incidents, and complaints against the police. Throughout 1995 there was increased interest in information on all of these areas.

The Unit produces the Road Traffic Accident Statistics Annual Report and quarterly bulletins on road traffic accidents. Both publications are widely distributed, including to schools, and help contribute to the effort of promoting road safety education.

AIR SUPPORT UNIT

The Unit responded to 84% of the 490 taskings received up to the end of the year. The nature of the taskings continues to change in response to the changing political situation in Northern Ireland, with more routine police work being augmented by use of the aircraft.

A total of 800 hours were flown over a period of 268 days. The aircraft was not available for approximately 26% of the time, due to maintenance schedules and down-time for the installation of specialist airborne equipment. With this equipment fully operational, the aircraft's capability will be greatly enhanced and its use by departments such as CID and Drugs Squad is expected to increase significantly. A thermal imaging system was installed in December which will increase the night-time capability of the aircraft and provide a more versatile observation platform.

The efficiency of air support was recently demonstrated when the aircraft was deployed to assist in a search for an escaped wolf which had been sought by ground-based personnel over a period of 72 hours - the aircraft had been on target for only 10 minutes when the animal was sighted.

Aerial coverage of the Presidential visit to the Province also proved the value of air support in the supervision and security of such events.

Use of the resource by Traffic Management has continued and increased use by Regional Commanders is anticipated in response to a vigorous new marketing strategy.

Plans are in hand and training under way to make the aircraft available for use in search and rescue missions initiated by HM Coastguard.

A new accommodation block, with an improved communication

system, was completed at the end of the year and has greatly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the Unit.

BUILDINGS

A total of 31 major building projects have been completed in 1995, while work has continued or commenced on a further 14 major projects.

In addition to the normal maintenance and building programme, work was completed on the following new stations: Lisburn Sub-Divisional Headquarters, Lisburn Road, Castlederg, Beragh and Fintona. Work continues on new stations at Middletown, Clogher and New Barnsley.

Considerable work has been carried out on the refurbishment of perimeters and entrance foyers at a number of stations and a programme has been drawn up, in consultation with the Police Authority, to ultimately include the entire estate.

TRANSPORT

In 1995, police vehicles covered 31.5 million miles, compared with 32.48 million in 1994.

Provision was made this year to increase the Force's fleet by 76 vehicles, to provide additional liveried ('marked') cars, Landrovers and motorcycles - 44 were introduced in 1995, with the remainder due to be in service in 1996. These vehicles allow a higher police presence profile, particularly in relation to road traffic behaviour.

The number of accidents involving police vehicles was 800; the 1994 total was 792. Analysis of the 1995 accidents reveal 249 were attributable to the police drivers. The mileage per accident figure for all accidents was 39,523 and for blameworthy accidents 126,506.

A total of 9,576 officers are authorised to drive police vehicles.

There was a large (112%) increase in the number of police vehicles damaged as a result of criminal activity - 646 - while 101 were damaged in incidents involving stolen vehicles.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM

In its support role to local mountain rescue services the team responded to 13 emergency calls for assistance during 1995.

Members were also involved in numerous displays throughout the

year, enabling the public to see the skills involved at first hand.

Regular training is provided and team members attended a number of specialised courses at mountaineering centres throughout the United Kingdom.

UNDERWATER SEARCH UNIT

A total of 109 operational dives were carried out by the Underwater Search Unit during 1995. These included searches for evidence in respect of serious crime, the recovery of bodies and clearance operations in relation to VIP visits and other major events.

One of the biggest operations this year involved a joint exercise with the Mountain Rescue Team. Prior to President Clinton's visit to Northern Ireland, it was necessary to search and seal over 1,000 drains/sewers in Belfast and Londonderry.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE/INJURIES

There were 1,924 applications for Chief Constable's Certificates dealt with during the year, a fall of 42% from the 1994 total. A total of 650 Certificates were issued, 1,009 requests for Certificates were refused and 265 applications were still under consideration at the end of the year.

The reduction in the number of applications for Certificates can be attributed mainly to the cessation of the bombing campaign. Applications increased, however, following an upsurge in public disorder mid-year, coupled with the continued attacks on properties such as church premises, Orange Halls and GAA Clubs.

FIREARMS LICENSING

At 31 December 1995, 88,170 certificates were on issue authorising a total of 134,027 firearms. This represents an overall increase of 1.2% of firearms in circulation during the year.

There were 2,915 grants for new certificates, 7,612 variations and 19,682 renewals. A total of 510 applications were refused and 108 firearm certificates were revoked. Appeals to the Secretary of State against refusal and revocation totalled 242, with 28 appeals being allowed.

Forty-one firearms clubs held authorisation from the Secretary of State under Article 56 of the Firearms (NI) Order 1981. Certificates of safety have been issued in respect of 42 firing ranges.

There are 152 persons registered as firearms dealers in Northern Ireland.

FORCE PUBLICATIONS

The return to more 'normal' policing was marked by a substantial increase in the demand for printed material. Presentation packages, posters and leaflets were supplied in greater numbers for use in community affairs and traffic publicity projects. The 'Roadsafe' campaign was a particular success.

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INTRODUCTION

Before describing the strategy for the Royal Ulster Constabulary, I wish to state that the very considerable achievements of previous years have only been possible as a result of the dedication and sacrifice of all members of the Force, our civilian staff, military colleagues and by many members of the public. The continuing support and assistance of the community is both highly valued and greatly appreciated. The Force also acknowledges the valuable support of the Police Authority for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Office.

It is now some years since the Royal Ulster Constabulary began publishing an annual Strategy Statement. These statements have explained the style of the organisation and the nature of the anticipated activity for that year. Given that twelve months is too short a period to give effect to a wide-ranging strategy, this triennial Statement was produced for the period 1992-95.

KEY PRINCIPLES

The established aims of the Force which characterise and underpin ALL our activity remain unchanged. They are:

- to serve and protect the community in which we live and to offer every reasonable assistance to individuals, irrespective of political, religious or social position;
- to play our full part in the overall strategy to eradicate terrorism;
- to maintain and generate respect for law and order;
- to engender support and respect from all sections of the community;
- to maintain standards of integrity and professionalism at the highest levels and to adhere firmly and consistently to our Code of Professional Policing Ethics.

FORCE PLANNING SYSTEM

In the formulation of my strategy for 1992-95, I had the benefit of submissions from both inside and outside the Force, culminating in a Chief Constable's Conference which was attended by senior police and civilian staff. Its function was to ensure a shared appreciation and discussion of the major issues facing the organisation, and to consider and produce a statement formalising the aim, purpose and values of the RUC.

This statement of Common Purpose and Values was published in 1992 and in essence it formalises what the RUC represents, what the Force is endeavouring to provide and what the public have a right to expect.

Additionally the RUC gave its views to the Secretary of State to assist in the preparation of the 'Citizen's Charter for Northern Ireland' as it affects policing. We are committed to playing our full part in this initiative.

With the wide range of direct daily contact between the police and the public, we believe that we have a good knowledge and understanding of what the public require of the police. However, it is most important that every avenue is tested to ensure that 'the needs of the customer' are catered for. We will avail of any mechanism which enables us to gain a better insight into the needs of our community.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

It is of vital importance that we emphasise the serious threat posed by terrorism and the need for full community support for the police, given that they are inextricably linked.

TERRORISM

The counter-terrorism offensive led by the RUC succeeded in preventing many intended outrages by republican and loyalist terror groups. Working from hard-won intelligence, obtained in difficult and dangerous circumstances, we managed to frustrate many planned terrorist attacks.

Nevertheless, the supplies of weapons and explosives available to the terrorist remain substantial and the threat to the community remains. Suppressing, and eventually eradicating, the scourge of terrorism rests largely on our ability to gain intelligence, cut-off paramilitary finance and disrupt and curtail the movement of terrorists and munitions. While the detection of those who have committed crimes and the accumulation of evidence required to bring them to the Courts will of course be pursued with vigour, the principal task must

be to prevent terrorist activity. In order to achieve this, foreknowledge of the terrorists' intention is vital.

Penetrating their structures and successfully pre-empting their activities instils fear in the terrorist and strikes at the very roots of their organisations. Public co-operation and understanding in this difficult task is crucial if we are to succeed.

It is essential that we sustain and indeed intensify our efforts to cut off that which is the lifeblood of all terrorist organisations - finance. We are committed to attacking every enterprise designed to fund paramilitary activity and we continue to examine how the law may be strengthened yet further to help us achieve that purpose.

In an effort to further thwart the terrorist we have, within the resources available to us, increased our officers on the streets, not only to protect and reassure the public, but also to inhibit the movement of terrorists and their arms and explosives. The terrorist threat demands effective counter-measures and we are grateful to the public for their patience and understanding when inconvenienced.

Because of intimidation by, and understandable fear of, paramilitary organisations, it is often difficult to obtain the evidence by which guilty persons may be convicted. While I appreciate that people are hesitant about coming forward, the public can be completely assured that the RUC has considerable experience in dealing with such matters in a discreet and confidential manner. Furthermore, members of the public also have the option of helping the RUC by using the confidential telephone. Public assistance, by whatever means, is vital in bringing criminals to justice.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

There can be little doubt that support for the police is the wedge that will increasingly isolate the terrorist from our society. We will therefore reinforce this and seek to increase our existing high level of community support.

There are now 26 Community and Police Liaison Committees in Northern Ireland, which have been and continue to be developed in conjunction with the Police Authority. They are a valuable additional mechanism by which the views of local people on local policing issues can be highlighted directly to the police and openly discussed.

I am well aware of public concern when serious incidents occur involving the police, particularly where firearms are used. As in recent years it will remain the policy of the Force to involve the Independent Commission for Police Complaints in its supervisory role when appropriate, and in certain cases, to appoint an outside investigator. All investigations will be

conducted thoroughly, with integrity and impartiality. I am also aware of the public desire for fuller information at an early stage. We have considerable sympathy with this point of view, but it is not possible to make detailed disclosures pending full investigation and a decision from the Director of Public Prosecutions on whether criminal proceedings are to be instigated.

I am sensitive to the real difficulties experienced by some people in considering a career in the RUC. I can assure those in such a position of our ability and preparedness to help them to overcome these difficulties. I am committed to making the organisation as representative of the population as possible and the only way to achieve this end is through a pool of quality applicants - from all parts of the community - applying to the RUC. My officers responsible for recruitment continue to maintain contacts throughout the community and provide career information through school visits, career conventions and personal interviews. We have also implemented and will continue an advertising campaign designed to attract a wider cross section of applicants.

A more representative police service, however, should also be the aim and responsibility of the whole community. There remains a strong obligation on all those in positions of influence to encourage applicants to come forward. I invite everyone, including those who criticise the religious balance within the RUC, to note what we are doing to bring about change, and also to reflect on how they may assist us in making further progress.

NON-TERRORIST CRIME

Whilst terrorism and its effects pervade life in Northern Ireland, it is important to emphasise that even when one counts terrorism into the statistics, the crime rate here is lower than any police force area in England and Wales. Moreover, our detection rate compares very favourably with the mainland. However, we are not complacent and will continue to seek new ways of reducing the level of non-terrorist crime.

The total number of crimes reported to police in Northern Ireland increased by 2.5% during 1994. Burglary and theft account for approximately three quarters of all crime committed in Northern Ireland and reducing these crimes, which affect the most people, remains a firm priority. Additionally, our published initiatives in the investigation of sexual offences and domestic violence will continue.

With drug abuse becoming a problem, we will maintain our increased thrust against this insidious threat to society and particularly our young people. In co-operation with other agencies, we will sustain our programme of advice, prevention and detection.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary recognises and understands the fear and distress suffered by the victims of crime and will continue to carry out its investigations in a sympathetic and compassionate manner.

Crime Prevention and associated community crime initiatives, coupled with the involvement of other agencies, will underpin our strategy. Projects such as the 'Safer Towns', 'Theft of Cars' and 'Stopping Crime Starts With You' schemes are all examples. Force and local crime prevention campaigns will continue, as will the regular use of exhibitions and the media, to inform and enlist the aid of the public. The RUC will, whenever possible, support local crime prevention initiatives undertaken by responsible members of the community.

TRAFFIC

In 1994 there were 157 deaths resulting from road traffic accidents. There was one accident every 77 minutes, one casualty every 43 minutes, one person killed every 2 days, and one child killed every 15 days. This is an intolerable situation and all the more so when one considers that most casualties on the roads are caused by human error and are preventable.

We are determined to do our utmost to reduce accidents and casualties. But the solution does not rest with the police alone. We cannot have a presence on every road, at every minute of every day. The onus rests upon all road users to exercise their obvious responsibilities.

The efforts of the RUC will continue to concentrate on prevention, detection and education. We will increase the use of video technology and unmarked traffic vehicles which have been particularly effective in certain identified problem areas. Road users who demonstrate a criminal disregard for themselves and other road users must expect to be brought before the courts.

PUBLIC ORDER

Public disorder in Northern Ireland has been less prevalent in recent years. However, if further progress is to be made, organisers of parades and other events must continue to exercise responsible self regulation. Ultimately the police must consider the general public interest above that of any other group, but it has to be understood that our authority to intervene lies within the limits of Public Order legislation.

In a climate of different cultures and firmly held views, it is essential that different traditions be respected. This is clearly the way forward and I would urge that it continue. Each year, thousands of police officers have to be deployed at around 3,000 parades, principally to ensure that the peace is

maintained. While it is an unavoidable duty, it does mean that resources for other aspects of policing are reduced and the financial cost is enormous.

The RUC welcomes the gradual extension throughout Northern Ireland of council by-laws prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in public places. This co-operative measure assists the police in tackling problems such as vandalism and loutish and drunken behaviour.

It is clear that the public welcomes the reassurance of a visible police presence on the streets and this will continue to be our primary method of maintaining peace and tranquility.

SUPPORT PRIORITIES

BUILDINGS

An extensive buildings programme has been formulated by the RUC and the Police Authority to enhance the safety of our police officers and civil staff, thus better enabling them to provide a comprehensive policing service.

PERSONNEL

The men and women of the Royal Ulster Constabulary are our greatest asset and I am fully committed to the welfare, training, and career development needs of all our personnel. To this end our systems and procedures are regularly reviewed.

In recent years a number of senior Royal Ulster Constabulary officers have participated in an exchange programme with mainland forces and this process continues. It provides a valuable insight into other management structures, and an opportunity to assess and respond to some of the problems faced by other Forces.

It is my firm policy to encourage officers at various levels of command to put themselves forward for places at the National Police Staff College at Bramshill. In 1994, one senior officer successfully completed the Strategic Leadership Development Programme and 8 Superintendents completed the Advanced Leadership Development Programme. In addition, a Superintendent from the RUC was selected as a representative for all UK Forces at the European Senior Officers' Management Course. These achievements illustrate the talents within the RUC, our commitment to participating in the Police Service of the United Kingdom and the potential for our officers to qualify for the top posts within the service.

In order to make the most effective use of police officers I

remain committed to the process of civilianisation to the maximum extent possible. This has already resulted in additional uniform officers patrolling our streets.

RESOURCES

The RUC does not control the level or frequency of the many demands placed upon the organisation, and the resources made available to us are, moreover, limited. Yet circumstances arise which demand an immediate response to life-threatening situations and on occasions this response has to be made in order to fulfil our primary responsibility of protecting the community. That being so, it is essential that the necessary resources are made available.

Improvements continue to be made in the management of resources within the Force as modern computer systems become increasingly available at both sub-divisional and sub-branch level.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The Royal Ulster Constabulary is behind other large organisations and police forces in its information technology. It is vitally important that the Force is placed in a position to take full advantage of the opportunities available - particularly the recent advances in the fields of Intelligence Collation/Analysis, Automatic Fingerprint Recognition and Command and Control. Welcome progress has been made, but we must continue to press ahead as the requirement to enhance our operational effectiveness remains paramount.

CONCLUSION

The Royal Ulster Constabulary remains determined to provide a quality service to the people of Northern Ireland. Whilst we will continue to deal with a very wide range of policing tasks, this Strategy Statement must first and foremost emphasise that the key aim of the RUC is to defeat terrorism and achieve peace.

MY STRATEGY FOR 1992-1995 IS THEREFORE

- GOAL To reduce the incidence of terrorism.
- GOAL To enhance the relationship between the police and all sections of the community by increasing public confidence and support.
- GOAL To reduce the incidence, and enhance the detection, of non-terrorist crime.

GOAL To reduce the incidence of road traffic accidents.

GOAL To maintain public order.

GOAL To progress the support priorities of the Force in order
to enhance our organisational effectiveness.

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OUR AIM

To provide a high quality, effective police service to all the people of Northern Ireland. We will work to achieve this in partnership with the community and in co-operation with other agencies.

OUR PURPOSE

To uphold the rule of law.

To bring to justice those who break the law.

To play our full part in the eradication of terrorism and the prevention of crime.

To help preserve the peace.

To protect, reassure and assist those whom we serve.

OUR VALUES

Honesty

Impartiality

Courtesy

Compassion

Courage

OUR STANDARDS AND BEHAVIOUR

We will perform our duty with integrity, common sense and sound judgement and be sensitive to the views of the community in our actions.

We will offer assistance to members of the public irrespective of their age, sex, their political or religious beliefs or

their ethnic or social background.

We will manage our organisation in the most professional manner, seeking the opinions of our staff, promoting equal opportunity for all and showing a willingness to change where such change is necessary.

We will adhere to our code of professional policing ethics.

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APPENDICES

The appendices of this years report are of a graphical nature.

As such they cannot easily be transcribed in ASCII text.