

FROM: JOHN MCKERVILL  
POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIVISION  
23 JUNE 1995

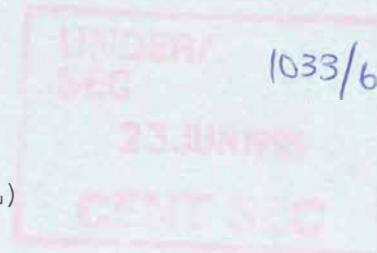


DB/686/95

RECEIVED 23 JUN 1995

cc PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B  
PS/Michael Ancram (DENI, B&L) - B  
PS/Baroness Denton (DED, DANI&L) - B  
PS/Malcolm Moss (DOE, DHSS&L) - B  
PS/PUS (B&L) - B  
PS/Sir David Fell - B  
Mr Legge - B  
Mr Thomas - B  
Mr Williams - B  
Mr Watkins - B  
Mr Steele - B  
Mr Bell - B  
Mr Daniell - B  
Mr Wood (B&L) - B  
Mr Brooker - B  
Mrs Collins - B  
Mr Maccabe  
Mr Jardine, PPRU  
Mr Marsh - B  
Mr Smyth - B  
Mr Kyle - B  
Ms Checksfield - B  
Dr McClelland, PPRU  
Mr Brearley - B

*1 - Mr. F. J. G. [unclear]  
2 - Mr. A. [unclear] - for sign  
[unclear]*



PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B

*has by [unclear] 23/6*

#### COMMUNITY ATTITUDES SURVEY 1993-94

Your minute of 23 May to Mr Williams reported the Secretary of State's agreement with suggestions for deploying the findings in the Community Attitudes Survey. Mr Williams' submissions of 2 and 18 May refer.

2. The timing of publication of the Survey report was discussed at Michael Ancram's information group meeting on 15 June when it was agreed that we should aim for publication, announced by means of an arranged PQ followed up by a press release, on Wednesday 28 June so that Ministers could use appropriate figures, where applicable, during oral questions the following day.

Based on the report (final print versions will be available on Monday). I attach: -

- (a) a draft parliamentary question and answer (Annex A); and
- (b) a draft press release (Annex B)

I should be grateful for clearance of the draft PQ, in particular, by close of play on Monday so that it may be tabled in time for answer by Sir John Wheeler on Wednesday 28 June. I will submit, on Monday, bull points for use by Ministers in commenting on community attitudes, not least for TOPS on 29 June and in the Direct Rule Renewal debates.

[Signed]

J McKERVILL  
SH EXT 27088

16875/LO

DRAFT

**Question:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects to publish the second Community Attitudes Survey report - "A Continuous Survey of Public Attitudes and Views on Crime, Law and Order, Policing and Security Issues" - for the period November 1993 to October 1994 and if he will make a statement.

**Sir John Wheeler:** I have today arranged for a copy of the full report to be placed in the Library. The report details results from fieldwork completed between November 1993 and October 1994 involving a representative sample of adults aged 16 and over living in Northern Ireland. As most of the survey was conducted before the declaration of the two paramilitary ceasefires in August and October 1994, many of the results reflect the security situation in Northern Ireland before the ceasefires. A third round of the Survey, which omits a number of questions on security matters which have ceased to be relevant following the ceasefires, is currently underway.

Among the key findings of the survey are:-

- the majority of people believe that crime, particularly crime against the person, is relatively uncommon in their area and that they are unlikely to be a victim. 90% in particular believed it was unlikely they would be a victim of terrorist violence
  
- the majority of people consider that the police are polite (81%), helpful (78%) and fair (72%). In each of these aspects Protestants gave higher ratings than Catholics. (Protestants: polite 83%; helpful 81%; fair 77%. Catholics: polite 78%; helpful 75%; fair 63%). Taking everything into account, most (77%) thought that the police in their area did a good job, while fewer than one in ten (9%) thought they did a poor job

almost one third (30%) of respondents had not heard of the Police Authority for Northern Ireland (PANI). Over half of those who had heard of PANI (56%) thought it to be part of the police. Protestants tended to be better informed than Catholics

- over one third of respondents (35%) did not know who was responsible for looking into complaints made against the police. The preferred means (63%) of making a complaint about a police officer was by contacting the local police station. This was by far the most favoured means for both Protestants (68%) and Catholics (54%)
- While most respondents (63%: Protestant, 68%; Catholic, 57%) believe the police try equally hard to recruit from both sections of the community, most (57%: Protestant, 48%; Catholic, 72%) thought there were too few Catholic members of the police. The most common reason given for Catholics not joining the force was fear of intimidation or attack on them or their relatives
- the great majority (93%) disagreed with the use of force on violence by paramilitary groups, either for political ends or in retaliation for attacks by other paramilitaries. Only 3-4% agreed that it was justifiable
- most people considered the police to be polite (80%) and fair (77%) in dealing with the security situation. As before, Protestants gave a higher rating than Catholics. The Army were also considered by most to be polite (70%) and fair (68%) with again higher ratings from Protestants
- 92% of respondents felt it was important to understand the way in which the courts work, although only 33% felt they did understand

74% expressed confidence in the criminal justice system, although nine out of ten agreed that miscarriages of justice could occur

almost 70% of respondents felt that penalties handed out by courts should be stiffer than at present although Protestants felt this more strongly (82%) than Catholics (48%). Almost four in ten thought that those sentenced to life imprisonment should spend the rest of their lives in prison (Protestants; 46%, Catholics; 28%).

DRAFT

SECURITY MINISTER ANNOUNCES PUBLICATION OF SECOND COMMUNITY  
ATTITUDES SURVEY REPORT OF ATTITUDES ON CRIME, LAW AND ORDER,  
POLICING AND SECURITY ISSUES

The Rt Hon Sir John Wheeler, JP DL MP, Minister of State responsible for security policy announced today the publication of the second Community Attitudes Survey report of views on crime, law and order, policing and security issues. Responding to a parliamentary question he said -

"I have today arranged for a copy of the full report to be placed in the Library. The report details results from fieldwork completed between November 1993 and October 1994 involving a representative sample of adults aged 16 and over living in Northern Ireland. As most of the survey was conducted before the declaration of the two paramilitary ceasefires in August and October 1994, many of the results reflect the security situation in Northern Ireland before the ceasefires. A third round of the Survey, which omits a number of questions on security matters which have ceased to be relevant following the ceasefires, is currently underway.

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- the majority of people consider that the police are polite (81%), helpful (78%) and fair (72%). In each of these aspects Protestants gave higher ratings than Catholics. (Protestants: polite 83%; helpful 81%; fair 77%. Catholics: polite 78%; helpful 75%; fair 63%). Taking everything into

- account, most (77%) thought that the police in their area did a good job, while fewer than one in ten (9%) thought they did a poor job
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**Note for Editors:** This survey aims to measure a broad range of attitudes towards crime, policing, security issues and the courts. It is designed to yield a representative sample of adults aged 16 and over living in Northern Ireland. The figures presented in this report are based on 2326 interviews for a total allocated sample of 3367 addresses, completed over the 12 months of fieldwork.

The survey, produced by the Policy Planning and Research Unit, was commissioned in 1992 for a three year period ending in October 1995. The first year's results were published in May 1994.