



**Tackling Crime**

**North Belfast Area  
A District**

## **District Policing Partnership**

### **3 Month Report**

Figures extracted 07/07/2010



## Area Commander's Commentary

This Quarter 1 Report for the period April to June 2010/2011 is our first report on our progress against the local policing plan targets that were identified for this year in consultation with the DPP. These targets reflect the views of the local community and indicate our policing priorities until the end of March 2011. Targets relating to burglary, drugs, anti social behaviour, violent crime, and domestic violence are contained within the 2010/2011 Local Policing Plan for North Belfast as well as a focus on neighbourhood policing, community confidence and engagement, and alcohol related crime.

To date this year there have been 3022 crimes recorded in North Belfast, a decrease of 537 crimes, or 15.1% on last year. Clearances are also showing a positive increase. Currently 25.6% of all crimes in North Belfast are being cleared, an increase of 1.6% against 2009/10. In addition to the specific crime figures detailed within this report, criminal damage reports are currently down by 22.5%, theft offences are down 16.7% and offences against the person are down by 7.7% when compared against this time last year. Robbery, however, is up by 12.3%.

All of the Districts across the PSNI have been set strict targets for improvement, and it is against these percentage targets that we measure ourselves in our strive to continually improve. In addition to those targets marked as achieved, North Belfast has shown improvement with regard to detection rates for burglary, violence with injury, and domestic violence with injury crimes, alongside incidents of anti social behaviour. However, in each of these four examples the percentage improvement target has not been met. However, it should still be noted that progress is none the less being made.

At the close of this reporting period, at the end of June, burglaries in North Belfast were up by 0.4%. However, that same figure is now showing as a of 12.7% reduction. The level of non domestic burglaries has continued to fall, alongside improvements in the domestic burglary sector. Tremendous effort has been directed towards burglary related crimes over the last twelve months to include anti-burglary operations, hotspot patrolling, the launch of the Bluetooth campaign, open door/window leaflet drops, Crime Prevention campaigns, and focused investigative work by the Offender Management Unit, alongside revised Volume Crime processes. Our attention will remain in this area as burglary, along with drugs and anti social behaviour, continues to be a Strategic Priority for A District.

*Andrew Freeburn*  
*Area Commander, Tennent Street*

*Ian Campbell*  
*Area Commander, York Road*

## Section 1) Policing with the Community

### Review of Policing with the Community activities within the North Belfast Area

#### **Bonfire Sites**

Bonfire sites have raised fewer issues than in previous years enabling police to adopt a more low-key method, largely due to forward planning, consultation, negotiation and partnership working. Any potential problems were resolved by a consultative approach which complemented, and gave direction to, actions taken. All actions were based on the views of the respective agencies and the local community.

Actions taken included :-

- Continuing with a low key presence, making full use of community contacts to deal with any problems (with the exception of the hotspot locations).
- Patrolling in the York Road area during the peak times of Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) / Youths Causing Annoyance (YCA) at bonfire sites.
- Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) working closely with Community Representatives to resolve issues and avert problems.
- Contact made with bonfire organisers at an early stage to ensure a 'community family oriented festival'.
- Key safety and behaviour message sent out via local media, leaflet drops and delivery at related meetings.
- Swift removal of bonfires which raised operational concerns.
- Close liaison with partner agencies.

#### **Interface Strategy**

Interface Strategy has been instrumental in engaging the Tigers Bay and New Lodge area in working towards a 'shared space' at the interface area of Duncairn Gardens through a series of events named 'Events For All'. This outcome of better social cohesion and inclusion demonstrates that real change takes place when local people have a sense of ownership in what goes on in their neighbourhoods and lives. The Interface Strategy has achieved this by enabling people to share responsibility for the problem of tensions between neighbouring communities and devising how best to respond to it. Importantly, community advocates have

taken risks by being seen to engage in partnership with local police.

### **Interface Steering Committee**

Development of an Interface Steering Committee linked to the Hazelwood Community Safety Partnership for the Whitewell area continues. There have been a series of presentations and meetings held to date. This steering group will be made up of statutory and community groups. The proposals are that the steering group meets quarterly with the key focus being on year round interface issues, to include community safety. This strategic approach does not detract from the day to day ongoing contact between police, partners and the community.

### **Community Based Information**

Police continue to receive information from the community, taking appropriate and timely action, which has resulted in a number of positive drug searches. The receipt of community information demonstrates that local people are taking increasing responsibility for making their communities a safer place and provides more evidence of community engagement.

### **Information evening for traders**

The Shankill Neighbourhood Policing Team organised an information evening for traders on the Shankill Road where they received information on their rights when dealing with shoplifters and how to deal with other types of incidents.

### **Dover Street Church**

Local residents in the Dover Street area have raised issues regarding the use of a derelict church by youths who are congregating here to drink. Neighbourhood officers are currently working with Community Groups and the Church in an effort to resolve this issue. Progress will be documented in subsequent reports.

### **Alexandra Park Initiative**

Comprehensive details on this initiative commence on page seven.

### **Continued Work with FASA – Forum for Action on Substance Abuse - Update**

As discussed in previous reports, Police continue to work with FASA. There have been two amounts of drugs handed in via the protocols during this reporting period to include small amounts of cocaine and mephedrone. These drugs have been analysed for information purposes and then disposed of, ensuring that they are no longer on the streets.

### **Become Involved with Local Policing**

For more information on the initiatives referred to in this report, or if you would like to become involved in any of the initiatives, would like assistance with running new activities in your area, or for general enquiries, please contact your local Neighbourhood Police Officers.

Telephone 0845 600 8000 - and ask for your local Neighbourhood Office:

#### Tennent Street Command Area

Oldpark Neighbourhood Team Ext. 28979

Shankill Neighbourhood Team Ext. 28907

Upper Crumlin Neighbourhood Team Ext. 28915

#### York Road Command Area

Antrim Road Neighbourhood Team Ext. 18468 / 18502

Castle Neighbourhood Team Ext. 28730

Fortwilliam / Skegoneill Neighbourhood Team Ext. 28729

Greater New Lodge / Tigers Bay Neighbourhood Team Ext. 28731

Whitewell Neighbourhood Team Ext. 28735

In the event of an emergency always phone - 999

To report a crime or an incident, please phone A District Call Handling at Tennent Street - 0845 600 8000

If you wish to provide information about any crime you can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 - This is an independent charity and is not run by the Police.

## Section 2) Progress towards achieving targets in the Local Policing Plan for 2010/11

<b>Service Excellence</b>					
<b>Local Policing Plan Target</b>	<b>Apr - Jun 2009</b>	<b>Apr - Jun 2010</b>	<b>Variation from last year</b>	<b>Target on course to be met</b>	<b>Area Commander's comment on reasons for change in performance</b>
1.1 To work in partnership with the DPP to develop a method of ascertaining the level of community confidence in North Belfast.	-	-	-	✓	This target will be progressed in partnership with the DPP over the coming months. A recent DPP survey prepared by Central Statistics Unit found that 76% of the respondents had, 'total,' or, 'some,' confidence in local policing.
1.2 To produce and implement a Victim Strategy with the objective of improving communication and follow up between police and victims of crime.	-	-	-	✓	The production and implementation of a comprehensive Service wide Victim Strategy is currently being progressed by Headquarters. E District were selected to pilot a proposed strategy, which will be reviewed in September to establish suitability for introduction across the PSNI.
1.3 To report quarterly on Neighbourhood Police abstractions. <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	✓	Neighbourhood Police have been deployed on neighbourhood policing duties for 97.9% of their time during this reporting period.
1.4 To provide quarterly, qualitative information on strategies and trends to include progress and constraints across all crime types.	-	-	-	✓	Please refer to Additional Comments for details on individual crime types throughout this report.
2.1 To engage with residents, neighbourhoods, the community and other partners for the purpose of	-	-	-	✓	Please refer to Additional Comments commencing on page 7.

<sup>1</sup> Neighbourhood police abstractions identify what percentage of duty hours neighbourhood police spend focused on neighbourhood policing duties.

tackling identified problems together.					
2.2 To deliver Neighbourhood Policing and report on progress.	-	-	-	✓	Please refer to Additional Comments commencing on page 12.

**Additional comments, including any 'control strategies' and their impact on Local Policing Plan targets**

**2.1 To engage with residents, neighbourhoods, the community and other partners for the purpose of tackling identified problems together**

**Alexandra Park Initiative**

The Alexandra Park Initiative is an example of a multi-agency approach to reduce incidents in the park and surrounding areas. The initiative involves key partners working together and incorporates long term sustainable solutions. The initiative is not limited to what the police can do alone but instead involves the sharing responsibility for the problem with partners and community. By acting together, we all recognise that an improved and more effective outcome is secured.

History

- Over recent months, from April to May 2010, there has been a steady increase of incidents in the park and also in the nearby interface of Dunmore/Alexandra Park Avenue.
- Incidents were of a sectarian nature and mainly involved young people from the Tigers Bay and Cave Hill areas of North Belfast.
- Concerns arose that incidents were being arranged on social net working sites and via text messages.
- Additional concerns that there was a real possibility that someone would be seriously injured if incidents continued.
- Concerns raised by police and local community from both Tigers Bay and Newington areas.
- Park is divided by interface fence and the fence has become a focal point for trouble.
- Number of attacks on fire service attending fires lit in the area of the glen beside the park.
- Number of dwelling houses attacked in the area of Dunmore by youths from Tigers Bay.
- Park is viewed as an area to 'riot 'by youths who are not from the immediate area.
- Fear of crime from persons using the park such as residents and young children.
- Fear of crime by businesses in the area to include the Recycling Centre and the Orange Hall.

Initial Police Actions

- Increased police patrols in incident hotspot areas, to include Alexandra Park and the nearby streets of Limestone Road and Alexandra Park Avenue.

- Identification of offenders by police and reports for prosecution.
- Request for neighbourhood meeting.
- Close liaison with Interface Monitoring Group, which meets on a fortnightly basis.

#### Attendance at Neighbourhood meeting

- Neighbourhood Police from New Lodge / Tigers Bay team
- Community representatives from Newington, incorporating New Lodge and Tigers Bay areas
- Interface Monitoring Group
- Civil representative
- ASB officer from Belfast City Council
- Parks manager, Alexandra Park
- ASB coordinator for Parks, Belfast City Council
- PSNI, A District, ASB Coordinator
- District manager, Housing Executive
- Representative from North Belfast Orange Hall, Alexandra Park Avenue
- Youth worker, Newington area
- Manager, Recycling Centre, Alexandra Park Avenue
- PSNI, A District, Belfast City Council Liaison Sergeant
- Hate Crime Officer, Belfast City Council

#### Belfast City Council – Actions arising from meeting

- Requests for increased fencing in area of the glen beside the park to replace existing damaged fencing which permits access to park.  
Result - A £10,000, 3 metre fence, to be built along the pond area to support a new fence put in area of the glen by Newington Housing Association. This will secure access to the park from youths who were causing annoyance and attacking emergency vehicles. This is scheduled to be built by the start of September.
- Request for improved fencing at the rear of North Belfast Orange Hall. Youths are entering these grounds during disturbances.  
Result - Site meeting held on 14/06/10. Direct contact continues between Orange Hall staff and the parks manager.
- Consider legal action against priority offenders in park.  
Result - BCC are working with the ASB Forum to issue warning letters to offenders regarding their behaviour and BCC legal department

has been consulted.

- Improved working between Park Rangers and PSNI. Park Rangers to alert police to crowds in the area and to approach offenders in an effort to educate them about the appropriate use of the park and its facilities. Park Rangers will task police if they are not able to resolve the situation.  
Result - Increase in Rangers activity and presence in park. Park gates will close earlier during hot-spot times.
- Request to secure damaged fence leading to vulnerable area of Dunmore / Alexandra Park Avenue. This is used as an access point by offenders to enter and exit the park.  
Result – fence secured.
- Work closely with local Neighbourhood watch.  
Result – Neighbourhood Watch have reported being disappointed at BCC response. Work continues here.

#### PSNI – Actions arising from meeting

- Joint patrols with Belfast City Council ASB officers at weekends to deal with offenders and seize alcohol from the park. Over 20 alcohol seizure incidents to date in this area, mostly beer, vodka, and spirits.
- Dedicated cover to area from May 2010 to date. NPT are taking the lead supported by response officers and CCTV operators.
- Review of all incidents reported to ensure that all offences have been progressed and that all persons involved have been correctly collated with the appropriate departments informed.
- Coordinated arrest of priority offender regarding an incident in the park with imposition of bail conditions that include exclusion from the area and a restriction on associates with immediate progression towards an Anti Social Behaviour Order.
- Exchange of information on named offenders with Housing Executive as per ASB Forum protocols. Over 20 names have been exchanged and a joint visit carried out by the housing manager and the PSNI ASB coordinator in May on a priority offender.
- Visits and follow-up calls to residents affected by behaviour in area.
- 24 hour NPT contact made available with interface monitoring group and community representatives to ensure an effective response to

calls for police.

- Joint work between Neighbourhood and Response officers at York Road to ensure coordinated response, information sharing, effective communication between the teams and provision of extended cover in the area when Neighbourhood police are not available.
- Review of all available CCTV to identify individuals and those congregating in groups, and to enable investigation into potential offences.
- Intervention work with local youth clubs in area. A meeting was held with Holy Family youth club and Mountcollyer youth club. As a result an intervention programme was agreed with priority interface offenders. This programme has been supported by Youth Justice in Duncairn Gardens.
- Increased contact and use of Limestone United football team. A tournament was held at Seaview on 20/06/10 and key offenders participated in the event which was identified not only as a possible diversionary activity but it was also hoped that barriers would be broken through integration.
- A meeting was held with the Building Bridges Forum on 15/06/10 to promote ongoing engagement in the area with young people.
- Off-licences were visited by NPT, BCC, and Community Representatives regarding concerns that adults are supplying young people in the park with alcohol.
- PSNI have chaired three meetings to date on the subject of community and statutory engagement. The last meeting was held on 14/06/10.

#### Statutory partners – Actions arising from meeting

- Civil Representative reviewed interface fence and anti-climb paint was added.
- Supported request for manure to be placed either side of fence.
- Attending all meetings to offer support from a crime prevention perspective.
- Area of defensive planting agreed at fence.

## Progress / Results

- One person charged with offence of possession of offensive weapon.
- One person reported for assault.
- One person reported for disorderly behaviour in the park.
- Twenty incidents of alcohol seizures.
- Over twenty names reported to A District ASB coordinator.
- Return of area to normality. Trouble makers from outside the Newington area have been moved on.
- Agreed crime prevention strategy.
- Positive engagement commenced with target groups to include youth justice support.
- Maintenance of positive relationships between police, young people, and residents in the area.
- Substantial decline in incidents in park and nearby streets.
- Increased community engagement through meetings.
- Intervention work with six young people with parental support. Three Acceptable Behaviour Contracts signed regarding interface activity.
- Schools visited by interface monitoring group to highlight concerns about interface activity.
- Use of media-article in North Belfast News to highlight community concerns.

## **2.2 To deliver Neighbourhood Policing and report on progress.**

Neighbourhood Policing continues to be challenging in North Belfast but progress is being made.

### **The York Road area consists of three Neighbourhood Policing Teams:**

Antrim Road NPT – Sergeant Bradley and 3 Constables

York Road NPT 1 (Castle, and Greater New Lodge / Tigers Bay) – Sergeant Caskey and 6 Constables

York Road NPT 2 ( Fortwilliam / Skegoneill, and Whitewell) - Sergeant Russell and 5 Constables

### **The Tennent Street area consists of three Neighbourhood Policing Teams:**

Shankill NPT - Sergeant Elliott and 5 Constables

Upper Crumlin NPT - Sergeant Williams and 3 Constables

Oldpark NPT - Sergeant McDowell and 4 Constables

On a daily basis Neighbourhood Officers are required to progress the service of summonses, requests for information and reports from outside agencies such as N.I.H.E., and D.V.L.N.I., interview requests and follow up enquiries for other police stations outside the District, completion of community impact assessments and attempts to action warrants issued by the courts and the Enforcement of Judgements Office.

Neighbourhood Officers are also required to work closely with other internal departments such as CID, and Public Protection Teams to assist with conducting searches, house to house enquiries, and follow up calls to victims of crime to include domestic abuse and burglary. Neighbourhood Officers also assist their colleagues in Response with information in respect of ongoing investigations, and carry out leaflets drops on a variety of issues, to include Hate Crime, and provide educational advice pertaining to the prevention of domestic burglaries.

In recent times Neighbourhood Policing Teams have had heavy demands placed on them in respect of the Parading season, Bonfire period, Internment Anniversary and ongoing work to reduce Interface tensions and sectarian related incidents.

Neighbourhood Officers have been involved in performing a wide and diverse range of duties over the summer period, including Interface Patrols, parade and public order duties and security patrols due to the increased threat from Dissidents.

**Summary of meetings attended by the York Road Neighbourhood Policing Teams:**

Cityside Initiative (monthly);  
North Belfast Community Safety Initiative (every 2 weeks);  
Tigers Bay Community Voice (every 6 weeks);  
Tigers Bay Multi Agency Meeting (every 6 weeks);  
Hazelwood Community Partnership (monthly);  
Skegoneill Community Safety Meeting (monthly);  
Cavehill and Antrim Road Concerned Residents (monthly);  
Loughview Community Action Group (weekly);  
Interface Monitoring Group (every 2 weeks);  
Lower and Upper North Belfast CPLC's (monthly).

**Summary of meetings attended by the Tennent Street Neighbourhood Policing Teams:**

Greater Shankill Community Safety Network (monthly);  
Ardoyne / Bone / Ligoniel Multi Agency Meeting (every 2 weeks);  
Brown Square Residents Association Meeting (monthly / when called);  
Ligoniel Community Cohesion Meeting (monthly);  
Shankill Alternatives Management Committee (monthly);  
Ballysillan Inter Agency Meeting (bi-monthly);  
Ballysillan Community / Police Information Meeting (bi-monthly / when called);  
Lower Shankill PACT (monthly);  
Mid-Shankill Interface Projects meeting (monthly);  
Mid-Shankill Tenants Association (monthly);  
Greater Shankill Senior Citizen's Forum (monthly);  
Ardoyne / Marrowbone Community Forum (bi-monthly);  
Interface Monitoring Group (bi-monthly).

The Neighbourhood Policing Teams continue to actively participate in Community Safety Partnerships. The meetings detailed are all community led meetings with multi-agency attendance, whose aim is to deal with community issues. The meetings result in agreed action points and follow up tasks for all groups who attend.

Continuous community engagement is being delivered through Policing with the Community Fund Applications. There have been three successful bids amounting to £11,000 for assistance for projects in the Mount Vernon, Whitewell and Tigers Bay areas.

<b>Tackling Serious Harm</b>					
<b>Local Policing Plan Target</b>	<b>Apr - Jun 2009</b>	<b>Apr - Jun 2010</b>	<b>Variation from last year</b>	<b>Target on course to be met</b>	<b>Area Commander's comment on reasons for change in performance</b>
3.1 To reduce the number of non-domestic violence with injury crimes by 5%. <sup>2 3 4</sup>	235	237	+0.9%	✗	<p>Non domestic violence with injury crimes have increased by 2 crimes, or 0.9%, when compared to Quarter 1 2009/2010.</p> <p>Whilst not achieving the 2010/2011 reduction target during this first quarter, the level of violence with injury offences has continued the 12 month rolling trend of reduction since 2007.</p> <p>When the number of non domestic violence with injury crimes are examined on into the second quarter, a 10.4% reduction is showing for North Belfast (as of 25/08/10). It is hoped that this will continue and will be reflected on subsequent reports.</p>

<sup>2</sup> Targets will be measured against performance achieved during 2009/2010.

<sup>3</sup> Domestic Abuse is an under-reported crime. Measures will be taken by the Service to increase and encourage reporting of domestic violence with injury by providing victims with the confidence to make a report to police. Police in North Belfast will continue to seek to improve clearance rates for Domestic related Violent Crime as stated.

<sup>4</sup> Violence with injury crimes are defined as offences of murder, manslaughter, infanticide, child destruction, attempted murder, causing death/GBH by dangerous driving / aggravated vehicle taking, wounding / GBH with Intent, firearms / explosives offences endangering life, administering poison, wounding / GBH and AOABH.

				<p>It is notable that there has been a significant reduction in serious woundings with a total of 22 fewer crimes than in the first quarter of 2009/10.</p> <p>Street robberies targeting students from BRA and St. Malachy's College were identified as a problem in May/June. Preventative operations are planned for the recommencement of the school term.</p> <p>Within North Belfast, the Oldpark sector continues to be the hot spot for assaults comprising the areas of Ardoyne, Mid Shankhill and Ballysillan.</p>
<p>3.2 To increase the detection rate for violence with injury crimes by 10% points. <sup>24</sup></p>	<p>24.1%</p>	<p>27.1%</p>	<p>+3.0% pts</p>	<p>Whilst the detection rate has improved by 3.0%, the target of 10% has not been met.</p> <p>The overall clearance rate is continuing its upward rolling 12 month trend that commenced in February 2010.</p> <p><b>X</b> This remains a challenging target which has been made more difficult to achieve with the additional pressures of investigating public order offences, (details on public order abstractions are on page 28).</p> <p>Standards of investigation are monitored by a Detective Sergeant who screens</p>

					every incident to ensure that all lines of enquiry are pursued.
3.3 To increase the detection rate for domestic violence with injury crimes by 10% points.	34.7%	38.2%	+3.5% pts	✗	<p>Although the detection rate for domestic violence with injury crimes did not meet the target of 10%, the detection rate did increase by 3.5% when compared against Previous Fixed Year to Date (PFYTD).</p> <p>Only 3 Districts across the PSNI have met this target, namely B, G, and H District.</p> <p>Additional Comments also refer.</p>

## Additional comments, including any 'control strategies' and their impact on Local Policing Plan targets

### **VIOLENT CRIME**

Inspector Swann has been appointed as lead Officer for Violent Crime within A District. This role includes oversight and coordination of all licensing issues to ensure alcohol and licensing matters are effectively enforced using a partnership approach. We continually witness that a high percentage of crime, particularly violent crime, across the District is alcohol fuelled, both with adults and young people.

Police attend the Licensed Premises Group (LPG) which covers both A and B Districts. The LPG is also attended by members of Belfast City Council departments including Community Safety, Environmental Health, Building Control and their Legal Department. At this forum, premises which have been brought to the attention of BCC and Police are discussed and possible action plans formulated.

Several premises, identified through forum discussions, were scheduled for licensed premises inspections across A District. Six licensed premises were inspected by police during May, and a further three in June.

Nineteen premises in total in A District were identified as being problematic and the local Area Commanders and Neighbourhood Policing Teams were briefed to pay attention to these premises and enforce the licensing laws.

Police in A District performed seventeen joint enforcement operations with members of BCC across this reporting period.

Peak times for violent crime were identified as Saturday 2100 hours to Sunday 0400 hours and Sunday 2300 hours to Monday 0300 hours, during May, and Saturday 0000 hours to 0700 hours and Sunday 0000 hours to 0600 hours during June. All Area Commands and Operation Planning departments were aware of these identified hotspots which were taken into consideration during resource allocation.

588 Violent Crime offences were reviewed by police investigators to ensure a thorough investigation, maximise evidential opportunities and secure detections.

A Districts Community Safety Team circulated two hundred, 'You, Your Child and Alcohol' leaflets to each operational station Enquiry Office for the information of members of the public. The leaflets are also distributed to parents by Youth Diversion Officers. This will be a continual programme. A Northern Ireland wide media campaign is also underway.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Area Crime Screeners, who are Detective Sergeants, continue to review all domestically motivated incidents to ensure that thorough investigative plans are devised where necessary and that evidential opportunities are maximised.

Police officer's attending a domestic incident will complete a report that is submitted to the Domestic Abuse Office. Domestic Abuse Officers (DAO's) review each one of these reports for consideration re the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process.

All complainants are sent a letter advising them of contact details for all the DAO's and other agencies who offer advice and assistance such as Women's Aid and Victim Support.

Police continue to take a proactive approach to domestic abuse and have a robust arrest / charge policy.

### **Detection/Clearance Rates**

Due to the nature of domestically motivated crimes, the identity of the offender will be known to the victim. Yet, our detection rate sits at 38.2%. There are reasons as to why the detection rate is not 100%, as may initially be expected in these circumstances. Those reasons are outlined below:

**Complainant Declines to Prosecute** - In many cases when police attend the scene the complainant refuses to provide a witness statement which would help in ensuring a suspect is brought before the court. The suspect will still be interviewed after caution (upon a verbal complaint) and police will continue to make every effort to gather evidence but unless there is other corroboration and the offence is of a more serious type it is very likely that the Public Prosecution Service (PPS), on receipt of a report file, will direct 'No Prosecution' thus the crime will not be cleared.

**Complainant Withdraws Complaint** - A similar scenario occurs when a complainant makes a written statement of complaint before making a second statement withdrawing their original complaint. This may be due to reconciliation within their domestic circumstances. Even though police may have interviewed the suspect after caution and submitted a report to the PPS, 'No Prosecution' may be directed in light of the complainant withdrawing their support for prosecution. The crime remains recorded and will not be cleared.

**Evidence** - When police attend the scene of domestic abuse and a minor assault or minor criminal damage is alleged and there are no independent witnesses, in effect it is 'one word against the other'. Without corroboration of either version of events, it is less likely that the PPS would direct a prosecution. Again, this crime would not be cleared.

**Third Party Reports** – On occasions the domestic dispute may be reported by a third party, such as a neighbour. When police arrive the suspect may have already left the scene and the injured party does not wish to either speak to police or identify an offender. In cases such as this it is impossible to identify the suspect and have them arrested or interviewed. Where there is evidence that a crime has been committed, that crime will be recorded, but in these circumstances it would not be possible to achieve a clearance.

The complainant declining to prosecute is the most frequent reason as to why a detection or clearance has not been achieved. Where a crime has been committed, and the complainant declines to prosecute, police will complete as thorough an investigation as possible and submit a report to the PPS. That report will include a full history of previous domestic incidents between those involved, and MARAC details. However, PPS are unlikely to progress with a prosecution regarding less serious offences when it is likely that the witness will be unwilling to attend court and give evidence.

### Witness Service

Victim Support operates a free and confidential Witness Service that aims to provide help and support to people attending court. The Witness Service is independent of the police, court service and legal profession. Witness Service volunteers and staff organise visits to court in advance of any trial or hearing to make witnesses familiar with the court layout and procedures.

During trials or hearings they:

- Provide a separate waiting area for witnesses and their families and friends
- Liaise with court officers and legal representatives
- Make arrangements for those witnesses with additional needs
- Accompany witnesses into court if requested

After trials they will offer witnesses the chance to talk over the case and get more help or information.

For further information about the Witness Service, or to request help, the Belfast office can be contacted on 028 9023 2523, or via [wsbelfast@victimsupportni.org.uk](mailto:wsbelfast@victimsupportni.org.uk)

### World Cup Initiative

Analysis would suggest that domestically motivated crimes and incidents increase during high profile sporting events. As a result, additional efforts were put in place during the World Cup 2010, and include the following:

- Leaflet drop to local Accident and Emergency Departments at both the Royal Victoria and Mater Hospitals.
- Domestic Abuse Officer's (DAO's) delivered briefings to their Response colleagues to highlight the A District pro arrest and charge police in respect of domestic incidents.
- The duty Detective Inspector acted as Senior Investigating Officer for all domestic incidents involving serious violence.
- Court Liaison Officers were briefed to target prolific offenders and enforce a robust bail strategy.
- Operation Seeker briefings to ensure effective monitoring and enforcement of bail conditions on domestic offenders.
- The MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) process continued with DAO's visiting high risk MARAC subjects in advance of the

tournament to offer advice, support and reassurance. MARAC was launched at the start of 2010 and has resulted in improved information sharing between police and other agencies alongside the formulation of more effective action plans to address high risk cases.

#### Support to Vulnerable Victims


DAO's continue to staff the One-Stop-Shop meeting. This provides an opportunity for female victims of domestic abuse to speak with police, social services, welfare benefit officers, housing executive officers, solicitors, and Women's Aid under one roof, in a safe, secure, private and informal environment. The meetings take place every Friday, between ten o'clock and twelve midday, and are held at the Women's Aid premises in Adelaide Park, off Lisburn Road. Anyone who feels that they would like to attend the One Stop Shop would be most welcome to do so. Appointments do not have to be made in advance.

Police in A District continue to part fund the full time Women's Aid worker, who is based at Tennent Street police station. This provides an opportunity to offer additional support to victims on a daily basis.

#### Student Lecture

Students at the Metropolitan College received a lecture from Public Protection Officers to advise and inform them on issues surrounding Domestic Abuse and the MARAC process.

**Personal Policing – Dealing with Local Concerns**

Local Policing Plan Target	Apr - Jun 2009	Apr - Jun 2010	Variation from last year	Target on course to be met	Area Commander's comment on reasons for change in performance
4.1 To reduce the number of burglaries by 5%.	Domestic 162 Non-Domestic 113 Total: 275	Domestic 194 Non-Domestic 82 Total: 276	Domestic +19.8% Non-Domestic -27.4% <u>Total: +0.4%</u>		<p>The first quarter of the year is seasonally a time when burglary increases. A significant proportion of dwelling burglaries occurred in premises where the doors and windows have been left unlocked. This problem is particularly prevalent in the Ardoyne area. Crime prevention messages have been placed in local newspapers and Bluetooth technology has been deployed in an effort to raise community awareness of this problem. Theft of metal from vacant premises in the Oldpark and Ardoyne areas continues to be a problem. Efforts are ongoing in working with scrap metal dealers to identify suspects.</p> <p>Significant success has been achieved in the reduction of non-dwelling burglary with 31 fewer crimes year on year to the end of June.</p> <p>A total of 46 persons have been arrested in the first three months of</p>

				<p>this year for burglary offences in North Belfast, 10 arrests in April, 11 in May, and 25 In June.</p> <p>Of note is the significant disruption of an identified burglary team in the New Lodge with several members presently remanded in custody.</p> <p>In 35.5% of burglaries in North Belfast, entry to the premises was gained through an open door or window. This equates to 98 of the total 276 burglaries.</p> <p>Crime Scene Investigators (CSI's) are tasked to attend all Burglary scenes to maximise evidential opportunities. A District has a thorough CSI Tasking system in place to ensure that this is achieved.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Officers complete follow up calls with every burglary victim within their Beat Area offering additional support, advice, and a personal contact point.</p> <p>Targeted, intelligence led patrols continue to be carried out. Consultations with local Representatives in regard to this, take place on a regular basis.</p>
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					<p>Burglary continues to be one of A Districts Strategic Priorities and is one of 3 key areas that police are focusing on.</p> <p>Please also refer to Additional Comments.</p>
4.2 To increase the detection rate for burglary by 5% points.	10.4	10.5	+0.1% pts	✗	The detection rate has improved marginally by 0.1%, though the 5% target increase has not been achieved.
5.1 To increase the number of drugs searches. <sup>2 5</sup>	<p>House 26</p> <p>Person / Vehicle 221</p> <p>Total: 247</p>	<p>House 22</p> <p>Person / Vehicle 189</p> <p>Total: 211</p>	-14.6%	✗	<p>House searches are down 15%, and person vehicle searches have fallen by 14%. A lack of intelligence and information continues to be a key factor linked to the fall in performance in this area, alongside competing demands for police resources.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that 37.4% of the total 211 searches returned a positive result, in comparison to 27.9% in 2009/2010. The value of drugs seized has also increased on last year, from £30,431 to £89,359.</p>
5.2 To increase the number of persons reported, charged, or formally cautioned for drug offences.	<p>Reported 44</p> <p>Charged 13</p>	<p>Reported 35</p> <p>Charged 11</p>	<p>Reported -20.5%</p> <p>Charged -15.4%</p>	✓	<p>The increase in persons cautioned for drug offences, from 2 to 16, has been the key factor that resulted in the overall 8.5% rise. Offenders can only receive a</p>

<sup>5</sup> The value of drugs seized will be reported quarterly via the DPP reports.

	Cautioned 2  Total: 59	Cautioned 18  Total: 64	Cautioned +800%  <u>Total: +8.5%</u>		caution for more minor drug offences, and are unlikely to receive more than one caution for the same or similar offence. Further offences will then be dealt with by way of charge or report to the PPS.  There has been an increase in the amount of herbal cannabis, cannabis resin, and cannabis plants seized this quarter when compared to last year. Some of these offenders will have been dealt with by way of a caution where appropriate.
6.1 To reduce the number of incidents of antisocial behaviour to ensure a 15% reduction by 31 March 2011. <sup>6 7</sup>	2008	1819	-9.4%	✗	In addition to last year's reduction of 8%, anti social behaviour incidents have reduced by an additional 9.4% this first quarter.  Please refer to Additional Comments commencing on page 30.
6.2 To report quarterly on alcohol interventions with the objective of reducing underage drinking, proactively targeting those selling alcohol to minors, and reporting persistent offenders. <sup>8</sup>	-	-	-	✓	Please refer to Additional Comments commencing on page 30.

<sup>6</sup> Section 3(1)(a) of the Antisocial Behaviour (NI) Order 2004 defines antisocial behaviour as: a person who has acted in an antisocial manner, that is to say, in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household.

<sup>7</sup> Target measured against 2007/08 data. This is consistent with Key Performance Indicator 3 of the Northern Ireland Office's Public Service Agreement, "Make Communities Safer".

<sup>8</sup> Alcohol seizure figures will be reported quarterly via the DPP reports.

## Additional comments, including any 'control strategies' and their impact on Local Policing Plan targets

### **BURGLARY**

#### Domestic Burglary - Recent Trends

The most popular items stolen in domestic burglaries throughout North Belfast have been high value electrical goods such as laptops and televisions.

The theft of copper and boilers has continued during this period. Most of these types of burglaries occurred in vacant properties in the Shankill & Oldpark areas.

Distraction burglary has not been particularly problematic in North Belfast in previous months however there have been a small number of incidents towards the end of this quarter that suggests these crimes may be re-emerging. Analysis suggests there is a seasonal risk for this type of burglary over the summer months.

#### Non Domestic Burglary – Recent Trends

With regard to the non residential sector, schools and sports or youth clubs were targeted most frequently. The majority of these occurred in York Road and Oldpark areas.

In the commercial burglaries, offices and shops were broken into. The majority of these occurred again, in the York Road area, with a slight concentration in Tigers Bay. Computers and laptops were the primary items taken from offices.

These types of burglaries are less opportunistic than the pure domestic burglary, with offenders choosing to force doors, break locks or smash windows to gain entry when there is no one around.

Peak times for non domestic burglary were overnight with no specific days identified.

#### Emerging Trends

Opportunistic Burglary, through unlocked windows and doors continues to be a problem. It is likely as the weather improves this type of crime will increase.

The price of copper has recently increased and so it is probable that there will continue to be a rise in copper theft in the next few months.

Analysis suggests that the seasonal risk for Distraction Burglaries will re-emerge during Mid Summer (June to August). Hotspot locations within the North Belfast area are the Antrim Road, Shore Road and Cliftonville / Oldpark Road.

Increase in burglaries of sheds and garages are also anticipated. Thieves are aware that householders buy and store new gardening and sports equipment for use over the summer months, and are therefore more likely to target them.

#### Anti Burglary Message Using Bluetooth

As previously reported, this is an alternative method of distributing the message of crime prevention. Bluetooth technology is used to send out an anti-burglary message direct to the mobile phone of residents and persons in the local community. The message can be distributed whilst officers are out on foot in their Beat Areas, with a focus on hotspot locations. It has been used approximately ten times in North Belfast during this period.

#### Proceeds of Crime

The most common items stolen as a result of a burglary are high value electrical goods, such as televisions, laptops, and games consoles, copper and jewellery.

One stolen, the items are most likely being sold on in exchange for cash. Police are attempting to identify and disrupt those who handle the proceeds of burglary and would encourage anyone within the community who is aware of the sale of items in suspicious circumstances, or who has been approached and offered goods themselves, to make a report to police or Crimestoppers. Neighbourhood Teams are also being tasked to identify potential sources.

Together, we can make the crime of burglary less profitable, and therefore less appealing, by minimising the market for stolen goods.

#### Public Order Enquiry Team Abstractions

As a result of the recent public disorder and rioting within A District, police officers have had to be abstracted from their normal roles and re-deployed to a Public Order Enquiry Team tasked with investigating the disorder. This has negatively affected investigative capability in relation to Volume Crime, and the Offender Management Team, and has also reduced the support given to response police in the processing of arrested persons. This in turn has the effect of a reduced police presence in the community as response officers spend greater amounts of time in custody suites after arrests are made.

The number of Officers abstracted to Public Order Enquiry Teams within A District are:

Detective Inspector x1

Detective Sergeant x2

Detective Constable x4

Constable x16

Of these 23 officers involved with the Enquiry Team, 11 have come from Volume Crime, 5 from CID, 1 from the Offender Management Unit, and 1 from Operation Seeker.

## **DRUGS**

Types / Quantity Seizures 1st April – 30th June:

	<b><u>2010</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>
Cannabis Herbal (gms)	3470.75	1440.11
Cannabis Resin (gms)	1311.75	231.53
Ecstasy tablets	282	255
LSD microdots	150	0
Cannabis plants	89	35
Cocaine powder	27	31.7
Amphetamine tablets	8	0
MDMA Tablets	2287.00	259.00

The above drugs were seized during 105 separate drug seizure incidents, and have a street value of £89,359.

Overall there has been an increase in the amount of Herbal Cannabis, Cannabis Resin, Cannabis plants, Ecstasy tablets, LSD Microdots, Amphetamine tablets and MDMA tablets seized this quarter, compared to quarter one 2009/2010.

### Incidents of Note

In April, £3,200 in cash was seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act alongside one block of cannabis following a search operation.

A detained patient at the Mater Hospital had five bags of what was believed to have been cocaine confiscated from him. On the following day a further six bags were found on the same person.

During the Planet Love Festival at Giant's Park on 8th May there were 18 drugs incidents. The drugs seized were cannabis, amphetamine, and cocaine alongside suspected Mephedrone. 15 persons were arrested, to include one arrest for Possession of Class A Drugs with Intent to Supply.

Five small cannabis plants were seized during a house search in Ligoniel.

One male was arrested in May for Possession of Class B Drugs with Intent to Supply following a search of his home. A king python snake was also

recovered.

York Road police, working alongside A District CID, seized cannabis plants from the Skegoneill area in May. 66 plants in total were seized. Valued at £500 per plant, this brings the total value of the seizure to £33,000.

£2,500 worth of drugs were seized in June, the majority being cocaine, and one person was arrested for possession of Class A drugs with intent to supply.

The UK Border Agency intercepted a parcel posted from South Africa with £16,000 of herbal cannabis hidden in a book. This was in relation to a parcel addressed to a resident in the Lower Oldpark Area.

### Drug Trends

On 16<sup>th</sup> April 2010 Mephedrone and other cathione derivatives were added as Class B Drugs to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. This would appear to have had two effects, namely, it appears to have driven the price up and replacements for the drug have begun to emerge. Information would indicate that the price has risen from £15 to £30 per gram in the greater Belfast area, and that a drug known as 'Energy', or 'NRG-1,' is being purchased over the internet as an alternative. 'Energy' has been described as being worse than Mephedrone as, costing 25 pence per hit, it is alleged to give the user a twelve hour buzz followed by a three day come down causing depression and suicidal thoughts.

There is a new genetic hybrid cannabis plant being grown, known locally 'as Low Rider'. The plant takes lesser time to grow, is small in size, and has no leaves and virtually no smell. Unlike similar plants, it does not require intensive heat or light to grow.

There is a persistent problem of cannabis factories in North Belfast where electricity has been abstracted.

Analysis would suggest that there is an increase in other crimes, such as burglary, that are committed to fund heroin habits. The charity, Drugscope puts the average cost of heroin addictions between £10,000 and £15,000 per year with crime being the most likely method used to fund such a habit.

### Drug Strategies

- Maximise use of community information.
- Use of media to highlight the impact and dangers of drug use in relation to new legal highs.

- Maintain strong liaison with the Northern Ireland Electricity in relation to electricity abstraction and identification of potential cannabis factories.
- Continue good working relationships between police and our statutory partners, such as local hospitals and healthcare departments.
- Offender Management Unit (OMU) to consider referrals of addicts for treatment.
- Increased use of drugs dogs, especially around the Library area during the weekends where there is a higher concentration of licensed premises.

## **ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Anti social behaviour reports cover those ranging from youths causing annoyance, rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour, and rowdy or nuisance neighbours, alongside vehicle nuisances, street drinking, and nuisance phone calls. The most frequent types of anti social behaviour reports in North Belfast are those of youths causing annoyance, rowdy nuisance or inconsiderate behaviour, and vehicle nuisances.

There have been 1819 anti social behaviour incidents in North Belfast this year, in comparison to 2008 PFYTD. This is a reduction of 189 incidents, or 9.4%.

### **ASB Hotspots**

Hotspots for ASB during this period were identified to be:

Lower Oldpark - especially the Cliftonpark Avenue interface - for YCA and Disturbances, early evening 1900 to 2200 hours, continuing to 2300 hours at weekends.

Jellicoe – especially Alexandra Park Avenue and Queen Victoria Gardens – for YCA and street drinking, Saturdays 2000 to 2359 hours.

Ardoyne was noted to be an emerging hotspot – especially Alliance Avenue, Flax Street (Linen Lofts), Ardoyne Road and Havana Way – for YCA and rowdy nuisance, Friday and Saturday, 1800 to 2200 hours.

### **Anti Social Behaviour Orders and Anti Social Behaviour Contracts**

Response and Neighbourhood Police continue to liaise with the PSNI Anti-Social Behaviour Officer and the Belfast City Council Anti-Social Behaviour Officer to identify individuals involved in acts of anti social behaviour.

The number of Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's) and Anti Social Behaviour Contracts (ABC's) issued in North Belfast for this reporting period are as follows:

ASBO's - 3

ABC's - 3

ABC's offered and declined to sign – 17

In addition, the ASB Officer has been liaising with the Housing Executive and Housing Associations regarding ASB matters and 89 enquiries have been researched and responded to.

387 referrals have also been made to Youth Diversion in relation to young persons in North Belfast.

Together, police and our partner agencies continue to pursue diversion as a form of intervention, whether that is to a local community group or by way of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. It is hoped that this combined approach has a more effective impact on those individuals intent on reducing the quality of life of the wider community.

## **ASB Strategies**

### Community Safety Wardens

The Wardens have been patrolling the Ardoyne area since 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010. Police are working towards establishing a good working relationship with the Community Safety Wardens to ensure that this initiative is as effective as possible.

### Targeted Patrolling

Targeted patrolling and coordinated work with Belfast City Council continues to be an important part of our strategy.

### Vicam Technology

The Vicam is a video camera that connects to a small monitor and both are worn by the officer whilst on patrol and can be set to record as and when required. The Vicam will be a useful tool enabling officers to gather video evidence in instances, for example, of anti social behaviour.

In addition to the Vicam, Neighbourhood teams also have access to a hand held camcorder that can be used as required.

### Effective Call Management

Effective use of call-backs and priority grading by Call Handling at Tennent Street when response times are in excess of thirty minutes to update the caller on the reason for police delay and to ensure that police attendance is still required.

### Information and Identification

- Letters can be sent to parents, or home visits conducted, to make them aware that their son or daughter has been found in a hotspot area for hate / sectarian incidents or where criminal offences are occurring.
- Enables appropriate referrals to Youth Diversion, Youth Justice, and the ASB Forum.
- Allows police to robustly and appropriately deal with persons found to be committing an offence.
- Permits police to build an effective intelligence picture, which in turn assists with identification of hotspot locations and peak times for crime and the

provision of targeted patrolling patterns to officers.

#### ASBO's / Informed Warnings / Restorative Cautions / Prosecution

The continued use of ASBO's, informed warnings, restorative cautions and prosecution for persistent offenders.

#### Diversion

Community Safety are making enquiries regarding possible activities, alongside the identification of funding streams, for diversionary initiatives during the summer months.

#### Operational Police Strategies for Youths Causing Annoyance and Under-Age drinking

- Confiscation of alcohol.
- Underage drinking reports submitted to the Youth Diversion Officer for follow up with parents.
- Enforcement of Alcohol Free Zones, with adult offenders reported to Belfast City Council.
- Reports to Parks Department for breach of park rules.
- Maximising stop and search powers where grounds exist and circumstances permit.
- Visible and targeted police patrolling.

#### On Street Drinking Offences

There were 105 occasions when alcohol was seized from persons in North Belfast between April and June. During these 105 occasions, 495 individual items were seized, the most common types of alcohol seized being beer, alcopops and cider.

The top four areas in which alcohol was seized are as follows:

Antrim Road	29
Skegoneill	23
Greater New Lodge / Tigers Bay	21

In addition, police have reported 30 persons to Belfast City Council for On Street Drinking.

An increase in young people drinking is expected into the next quarter. Therefore police will continue to work in partnership with licensed premises and BCC, with a particular focus on Off Licenses to target the selling of drink to underage people.

### **Interface Incidents**

There were 265 interface incidents in North Belfast from 1/4/2010 - 30/06/2010 (compared to 171 during the same period last year). The most problematic interface sites were Cliftonpark Avenue, Limestone Road, Hillview / Rosapenna and the Waterworks Park. The majority of incidents involved Youths Causing Annoyance and Disturbances however there were also 12 assaults, 2 explosive offences, 2 petrol bombs and 20 incidents of criminal damage linked to interface activity.

There have also been a number of incidents at the Mount Vernon bonfire site where persons in balaclavas have been throwing bottles and stones at passing cars and persons around the site.

Other emerging interface hotspots are Ballygomartin / Springmartin and Tigers Bay / New Lodge areas.

It is predicted that the number of incidents at interface sites will continue to increase as the parading season reaches its most popular time over the twelfth of July fortnight. To ensure tensions do not escalate uncontrollably, good relations between Police and Community Representatives are essential.

The Tour of the North and Whiterock Parades took place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June respectively. These parades passed off without any problem. Crime and incident levels were no higher on these dates than on other Fridays or Saturdays in June.

### Section 3) Additional information [OPTIONAL]

#### Breakdown of Crime Classes, as recorded by the PSNI

<p><b>Offences against the person (class 1)</b>  Murder                      Manslaughter  Infanticide                Attempted murder  Causing/allowing death of vulnerable person  Threat or conspiracy to murder  Causing death/GBH by dangerous driving or aggravated vehicle taking  Wounding with intent/GBH with intent  Wounding/GBH  AOABH  Common assault/aggravated assault  Assault on police  Intimidation                Harassment  Explosives offences endangering life  Firearms offences endangering life  Other offences against the person</p>	<p><b>Sexual offences (class 2)</b>  Rape  Attempted rape  Sexual assault/sexual activity  Exposure  Other sexual offences</p>	<p><b>Burglary (class 3)</b>  Domestic burglary  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burglary in a dwelling</li> <li>• Aggravated burglary in a dwelling</li> </ul> Non domestic burglary  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burglary in a building other than in a dwelling</li> <li>• Aggravated burglary other than in a dwelling</li> </ul> Going equipped</p>
<p><b>Robbery (class 4)</b>  Robbery  Armed robbery  Hijacking</p>	<p><b>Theft (class 5)</b>  Theft, one person from another  Theft in a dwelling  Theft by an employee  Theft of pedal cycles  Shoplifting  Vehicle crime  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theft from motor vehicles</li> <li>• Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles</li> </ul> Vehicle tampering/interference  Handling of stolen goods  Other thefts</p>	<p><b>Fraud and forgery (class 6)</b>  Deception  Forgery and counterfeiting  Making off without payment  Other frauds</p>

<b>Criminal damage (class 7)</b>	<b>Offences against the state (class 8)</b>	<b>Other notifiable offences (class 9)</b>
Arson Petrol bombing offences Explosives offences Criminal damage/malicious damage offences Other criminal damage offences	Offences under anti-terrorism legislation Firearms offences Offences under Public Order (NI) Order Other offences against the public order	Blackmail Kidnapping and false imprisonment Drug offences – trafficking and non-trafficking offences Dangerous driving Breach of orders Other notifiable offences

## Definitions and Glossary of Terms

### Police Recording of Crime

**Recorded crime figures** (sometimes referred to as notifiable offences) detail those crimes and offences (including attempts) recorded by the police which are deemed to be indictable or triable-either-way. Certain closely associated summary offences are also counted in the recorded crime figures.

- **Indictable offences** are those more serious crimes which are tried on indictment in the Crown Court by a judge and jury.
- **Triable-either-way offences** are those offences which, under certain circumstances, are triable either summarily in a Magistrates Court or on indictment in the Crown Court.
- **Summary offences** are less serious and are tried in a Magistrates Court before a resident magistrate with no jury.

The number of crimes recorded by the police is dependent on two factors:

- whether the victim or a representative of the victim brings that crime to the attention of the police or on the crime coming to the attention of the police through some other means (such as the police officer being present at the time).
- whether that incident is determined as being a recordable offence within the categories laid down by the Home Office in the official counting rules.

### **Detections (or clearances)**

Detections (or clearances as they may alternatively be known) are, broadly speaking, those crimes that have been 'detected' or 'cleared up' by the police. Crimes are counted as 'detected or cleared' in accordance with strict counting rules issued by the Home Office. They are counted on the basis of crimes rather than offenders. For example, if six offenders are involved in a robbery and are all arrested and charged, then this counts as one detection/clearance (i.e. the robbery is deemed to be 'detected or cleared'). Alternatively if only one of the six is identified and charged while the other five remain unidentified and at large, this also means that the robbery can still be deemed as 'detected or cleared'. In this respect detection/clearance data differs from conviction data as conviction data counts offenders while detection/clearance data counts crimes.

The following methods of detection/clearance involve a formal sanction:

- charging or issuing a summons to an offender (this will not necessarily result in a subsequent conviction at court),
- issuing a caution to the offender,
- having the offence accepted for consideration in court, or
- the offender is a juvenile who is dealt with by means of an informed warning, restorative caution or prosecutorial diversion.

In addition, for the most serious offence types ('indictable only') a non sanction detection/clearance can be claimed if:

- the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) directs no prosecution, or
- the case cannot proceed because the offender has died.

## **Recent Changes in the Recording of Detections/Clearances**

Prior to April 2006 a variety of non sanction detections/clearances could be claimed where police took no further action, the main one being where the victim declined to prosecute. At that time these detection/clearance types accounted for around 50% of the PSNI's total detection/clearance rate. However, since then some major changes have been introduced which have substantially limited the detection/clearance options open to the PSNI.

In April 2006, a higher evidential standard was adopted within the PSNI following the establishment of the Public Prosecution Service in Northern Ireland. Then in April 2007, the Home Office significantly restricted the detection/clearance types available to the police, which meant that virtually all non sanction detection/clearances could no longer be claimed as a valid detection/clearance. Both of these changes had the impact of greatly reducing the number of non sanction detection/clearances to such an extent that the PSNI overall detection/clearance rate and its sanction detection/clearance rate are now virtually one and the same (only a very small proportion of non sanction detections/clearances are now claimed each year).

## **Detection/Clearance Rates**

The detection (or clearance) rate is the number of detections recorded in a given time period as a percentage of the total number of crimes recorded in the same period.

## **Violent Crime**

Violent crime comprises three main offence groupings – (i) offences against the person, (ii) sexual offences, and (iii) robbery. What violent crime offences have in common is that they involve actual violence or the threat of violence. The degree of violence varies considerably, even between incidents in the same classification. The large majority of incidents categorised as violent crime do not actually involve any significant injury to the victim, although some of the crimes not resulting in injury may still be traumatic for their victims, e.g. threats to kill.

## **Vehicle Crime**

Vehicle crime comprises the offences of theft from motor vehicles and theft / unauthorised taking of motor vehicles.

## **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

ASB incidents are operational figures (and are not quality assured by the PSNI's Central Statistics Unit) collated in accordance with the Home Office National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR), which was introduced in April 2006. ASB incidents are a group of non-crime incidents that are reported to the police (i.e. they do not result in a notifiable offence). ASB incidents consist of the following incident types:

- Abandoned vehicles - (not stolen or causing an obstruction)
- Animal problems
- Begging / vagrancy
- Hoax calls to emergency services
- Inappropriate use / sale / possession of fireworks
- Malicious / nuisance communications
- Noise
- Prostitution related activity
- Rowdy and/or nuisance behaviour – littering / drugs paraphernalia
- Rowdy and/or nuisance behaviour - neighbours
- Rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour
- Street drinking
- Trespass
- Vehicle nuisance / inappropriate vehicle use

### Glossary of Terms

ABC	Acceptable Behaviour Contract	NIACRO	Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders
AOABH	Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm	NICCY	Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People
ANPR	Automatic Number Plate Recognition	NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
ASB(O)	Anti-Social Behaviour (Order)	NIM	National Intelligence Model
CAIT	Child Abuse Investigation Team	NIPB	Northern Ireland Policing Board
CJI(NI)	Criminal Justice Inspectorate (NI)	NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
CPLC	Community Police Liaison Committee	NSIR	National Standard for Incident Recording
C(PT)	Constable Part-Time	OCTF	Organised Crime Task Force
CSP	Community Safety Partnership	OPONI	The Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland
CSU	Community Safety Unit (DoJ)	PACE	Police and Criminal Evidence (Act)
CSU	Central Statistics Unit, PSNI	PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
DCU	District Command Unit	PFYTD	Financial Year to Date
DoJ	Department of Justice	PQA	Performance Quality Assurance (Unit)
DPP	District Policing Partnership	PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
FTR	Full Time Reserve	PTR	Part Time Reserve
FYTD	Financial Year to Date	RTC	Road Traffic Collision
GBH	Grievous Bodily Harm	SOCA	Serious Organised Crime Agency
KSI	Killed or Seriously Injured	TSG	Tactical Support Group
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender	VFM	Value for Money
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Committee	YDO	Youth Diversion Officer

Note: This glossary should be kept under review to ensure that DPP members clearly understand PSNI abbreviations.