

Police Service of Northern Ireland

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PD 03/05

POLICY DIRECTIVE

VOLUME CRIME

1. POLICY IDENTIFICATION

POLICY TITLE: Volume Crime

POLICY OWNERSHIP:

DEPARTMENT	Criminal Justice
BRANCH	Community Safety

POLICY APPROVED BY:

CCF REF/OTHER	ACC Criminal Justice
DATE OF APPROVAL	July 2004

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2. POLICY STATEMENT

This Policy document outlines how volume crime should be addressed in accordance with the National Intelligence Model (NIM).

- (1) Volume crime is defined as:

Those crime categories of a statistically high importance and for which:

- (a) targets for reduction have been set within the organisational policing plan; or
- (b) through assessment, are determined to be of local community safety importance.

Examples of volume crime include offences against the person, burglaries, thefts and criminal damage.

- (2) Crime statistics for 2003/2004 show that volume crime accounted for 88% of all recorded crime. This is broken down by category as follows:

Category	Percentage of Total Crime
Theft	27.9%
Criminal Damage	25.3%
Offences Against the Person	22.7%
Burglary	12.8%

Statistically high importance includes not just numerical volume, but also percentage ratio of a District's crime. What is numerically significant in one district may not be in another. Local assessment is therefore the key and this should be carried out through the NIM Strategic and Tactical Assessment and should address issues such as:

- (a) Statistical importance including numerical representation and percentage of a District's crime (consideration to under reporting must be made).
- (b) Economic cost to society including financial costs to victims and victim services, the Criminal Justice System, the Health Service and insurance and security provisions.
- (c) Community impact assessment in relation to quality of life/fear of crime perceptions, linkage with other crime classifications.

3. INTRODUCTION

- (1) (a) The aim of this Policy is to ensure that the importance of dealing with Volume Crime is recognised with the DCU and dealt with in an appropriate manner. This should be done by identifying the scale and location of the problem, the perpetrators, then applying resources effectively to prevent/reduce the problems and detect those involved.
- (b) We want to improve the investigation/reduction of volume crime. We will achieve this by:
- (i) Applying an effective and efficient level of response to crime scene visits.
 - (ii) Improving our detection techniques.
 - (iii) Improving our call handling.
 - (iv) Targeting prolific offenders.
 - (v) Developing a range of innovative solutions to problems.

- (vi) Reassurance of the community.
- (c) Public confidence in, and collaboration with the police in prioritising problems and finding solutions is essential for a greater sense of security. The community must help define its own concerns and potential remedies.

(2) **SUMMARY**

- (a) This Policy outlines how the Police Service of Northern Ireland can identify and proactively deal with the problems identified.
- (b) The Policy is aimed at all District Commanders, Sector Commanders and Crime Managers.
- (c) The Policing Plan 2004-2007 Objective 3.0 is: **To reduce crime and the fear of crime.**
- (d) Volume Crime is also highlighted in the core findings of the Northern Ireland Policing Board District Policing Partnership (DPP) Public Consultation Survey as being of high importance to the community. The key issues included domestic burglary and criminal damage. The survey also identifies 'attacks on older persons' as a particular concern, which although is not a crime category in its own right, is closely linked to domestic burglary and assaults.
- (e) There is a need to identify and deal with crime such as domestic burglary, criminal damage, assaults and vehicle crime in a proactive and robust manner.

(3) **LEGAL BASIS**

Police officers have a duty according to Section 32 of the Police (NI) Act 2000:

- (a) To protect life and property.
- (b) To preserve order.
- (c) To prevent the commission of offences.
- (d) Where an offence has been committed to take measures to bring the offender to justice.

4. IMPLCATIONS OF THE POLICY

(1) **PARTNERSHIPS**

- (a) Community Safety Partnerships, District Policing Partnerships, Community Police Liaison Committees, Community Forums and other local community groups may provide an ideal conduit through which to progress partnership working.
- (b) It is within the National Intelligence Model framework that partnership working becomes a reality, drawing on information and experience of other partner agencies and the community in the identification of local policing priorities.
- (c) Partner agencies and the community themselves not only can, but have a responsibility to work with the police service in addressing these priorities.

(2) **TRAINING**

- (a) Ongoing training of police officers will be required to increase Crime Prevention awareness when dealing with Volume Crime and considering initiatives to assist in preventing further crimes. This can be organised at DCU level by the Crime Prevention Officer.
- (b) In addition there will be further training required in the National Intelligence Model.

(3) **CONSULTATION**

Consultation has taken place with:

- (a) Legal Services;
- (b) Federation/Superintendents' Association;
- (c) ACC Rural;
- (d) ACC Urban;
- (e) ACC Crime Ops;
- (f) ACC Corporate Development;
- (g) District Commanders;
- (h) Head of Human Resources;
- (i) Training Education and Development (CID Training);
- (j) Scientific Support.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS/EQUALITY/INTEGRITY/FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

- (1) This Policy on volume crime potentially engages Article 8 (Right to Respect for Private and Family Life) of the European Convention on Human Rights but is legitimate and necessary for the prevention of crime and in the interests of public safety and for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.
- (2) This Policy is deemed to be Human Rights compliant; it has been screened for Section 75 considerations and is compliant with the Code of Ethics. This policy is suitable for disclosure in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

6. REVIEW

- (1) ACC Criminal Justice first approved this Policy in July 2004.
- (2) The Head of Community Safety Branch is responsible for reviewing the contents of this Policy on an annual basis.