



**Police Service**  
of Northern Ireland

# Chief Constable's Accountability Report

to Northern Ireland  
Policing Board

Report Date:

Covering Period of 27 April 2023 to 29  
May 2023

Presented at Policing Board Meeting:

1 June 2023



**we care  
we listen  
we act**

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Unless otherwise stated the statistics in this report are unvalidated management information sources from administrative systems and are subject to change.

# Foreword



I have previously informed the Board of the significant budget shortfall within the draft budget settlement for 2023/24. I have now received notification from the Department of the finalised allocation. The gap between our resource requirement and the budget provided remains stark and will present a tension between my duties under the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 and my responsibilities as an Accounting Officer.

We have been working intensively since receiving this notification and assess the shortfall to sit in the region of £107m. It has been emphasised to me in my role as Accounting Officer that I must exhaust all means to live within the finances I have been allocated.

In response to this, the Service Executive Team and I have held a series of budget planning workshops in order to understand

the extent of the gap and develop an approach to identifying cost cutting and efficiency proposals under the auspices of a 90 day review. This work has allowed us to identify some short, medium and long term actions. In the immediate short term we have made a series of decisions on cost reductions that we will seek to ratify and realise quickly. These proposals include pausing recruitment, tight control of future internal promotion and selections, a slowing down of estate and fleet repairs, reduction on overtime and the potential grounding of one helicopter and reduction on managed service provision including police station opening hours.

The 90 day review process will consider a number of themes to reshape our operating model to reflect a shrinking budget. These themes include contact management, response policing, neighbourhood policing and demand from third parties such as the Health Service which leads to costs for policing. This will begin with using our new Service Management Statement to baseline demand and allow new models for operation to be developed and agreed over the coming months. Central to this work will be seeking to maximise the productivity benefits we can extract from IT and leveraging opportunities from estate asset management.

Through this process as a Service Executive Team we have reaffirmed our commitment to Neighbourhood Policing. We believe to stop this work would, ironically, be a withdrawal from communities that need us the most and that is not a position we feel we can accept. To do this, in face of the budget we have received, will be an immense challenge, but we are resolved to exhaust every means to try and preserve the function. This will likely mean a smaller footprint but we will do all in our power to maintain the gains in legitimacy and public trust that Neighbourhood Policing has secured, and still offer universal service across the country.

Clearly, a process of this scale and significance requires appropriate governance and resource to deliver on our decisions and to realise the cost reductions identified. The Board are, I know, deeply concerned about the impact of the budget shortfall upon policing and the communities we serve, and I will ensure you are closely sighted on developments in the coming weeks and months.

Whilst this work has been taking shape the demands of operational policing have continued at pace. During May we saw significant policing operations conducted to support the Coronation of King Charles III, the North West 200 motorbike races, the Balmoral Show and the local Council elections. Each of these were major events placing Northern Ireland in the public eye well beyond our shores, and I am delighted that policing was able to play such an important part in ensuring that they passed successfully and peacefully.

The brutal attempt on the life of DCI John Caldwell remains at the forefront of our thoughts. John has been discharged from hospital and continues his recovery. The investigation to bring his attackers and those who aided and abetted it continues to make progress.

On Friday 26 May 2023, Detectives arrested 11 people in relation to John's attempted murder. Seven have been charged with this offence, two were also charged with membership of a proscribed organisation, namely the IRA, and three charged with Preparation of Terrorist Acts. They have all been remanded in custody. The remaining four persons were released pending report to Public Prosecution Service.

To date 28 arrests have been made and over 340 witnesses spoken to. Detectives have seized approximately 400,000 hours of CCTV which is being processed within a bespoke CCTV viewing hub set up in Garnerville, staffed by 30 detectives. We will continue to ensure that the Senior Investigating Officer and their team are provided with the tools and resources they require to pursue those responsible.

The threat from Dissident Republican terrorists continues to disrupt community life in a reckless and unacceptable way. On 6 May 23 a vehicle was hijacked near Fireagh Road, Omagh and the driver forced to drive to Omagh Police Station. The vehicle contained a hoax device. This incident caused significant trauma to the victim and

disruption to the community in Omagh. Our investigation has led to a 29 year old man being charged in relation to Possession of Articles for Use in Terrorism and further lines of enquiry are ongoing.

Finally, whilst we collectively wrestle with the pressing challenge of our reduced budget and its impact on our service, it is worth taking a moment to consider the published crime and anti-social behaviour statistics for Northern Ireland to remind ourselves what policing can deliver.

Northern Ireland remains the safest place to live in the UK, in 2022 there were 57.8 recorded crimes per 1000 people compared to an average of 93.8 per 1000 in England and Wales. This reaffirms to me the incredibly powerful and positive influence policing has upon the safety and security of the citizens of Northern Ireland.



**Simon Byrne**  
Chief Constable  
Police Service of Northern Ireland

# Finance and Resource Update

The budgetary outlook this year is bleak. We have just received our formal budget allocation for 2023-24 from the Department of Justice on 18 May 2023 and despite securing some improvement on the indicative budget, the budget for 2023-24 has been reduced by 1.7%. This cut to the Police budget, combined with rising costs and pay requirements, creates a substantial funding gap against our requirement of some £107m. In anticipation of a tough budgetary settlement, we have already paused recruitment from June, curtailed spending and reduced other costs. However, even with these actions, we still face a remaining gap of £43m and we have been asked to take steps to live within our budget and assume no further funding.

Quite how we realistically address this gap at the moment is unclear given the wider cost savings we have already agreed or introduced.

The reality is that this funding will lead to cuts in resources and directly impact the frontline services to communities. As a Service Executive Team we are working through how best to deliver cost savings and reshape our service models for delivering on behalf of communities. We will reflect these plans in a revised Resource Plan 2023-24, which will be shared with the Board.

At this point, it is extremely difficult to see how costs can be maintained within this budget at the same time as Keeping People Safe. Difficult choices will now be required and I welcome the opportunity to discuss further with the Board in the coming weeks.

# Our Performance

The information in this section is extracted from our Official Statistics published reports. The full reports can all be accessed from the following link:

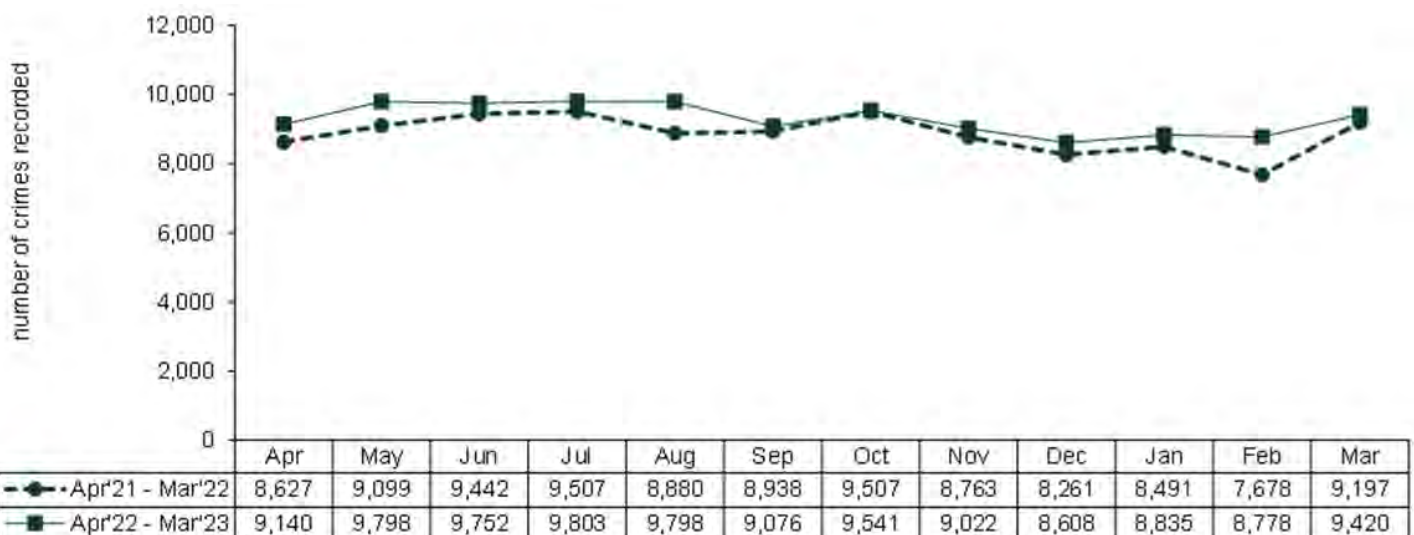
<https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics>

## Recorded Crime

In the 12 months from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023:

- There were 111,571 crimes recorded in Northern Ireland, an increase of 5,181 (4.9%) on the previous 12 months.
- There were 59 police recorded crimes per 1,000 population compared with 56 crimes in the previous 12 month period.
- Higher crime levels were seen in violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, theft offences, drug offences, possession of weapons and miscellaneous crimes against society (the latter reflecting police enforcement activity).
- Lower crime levels were seen in burglary and public order offences.

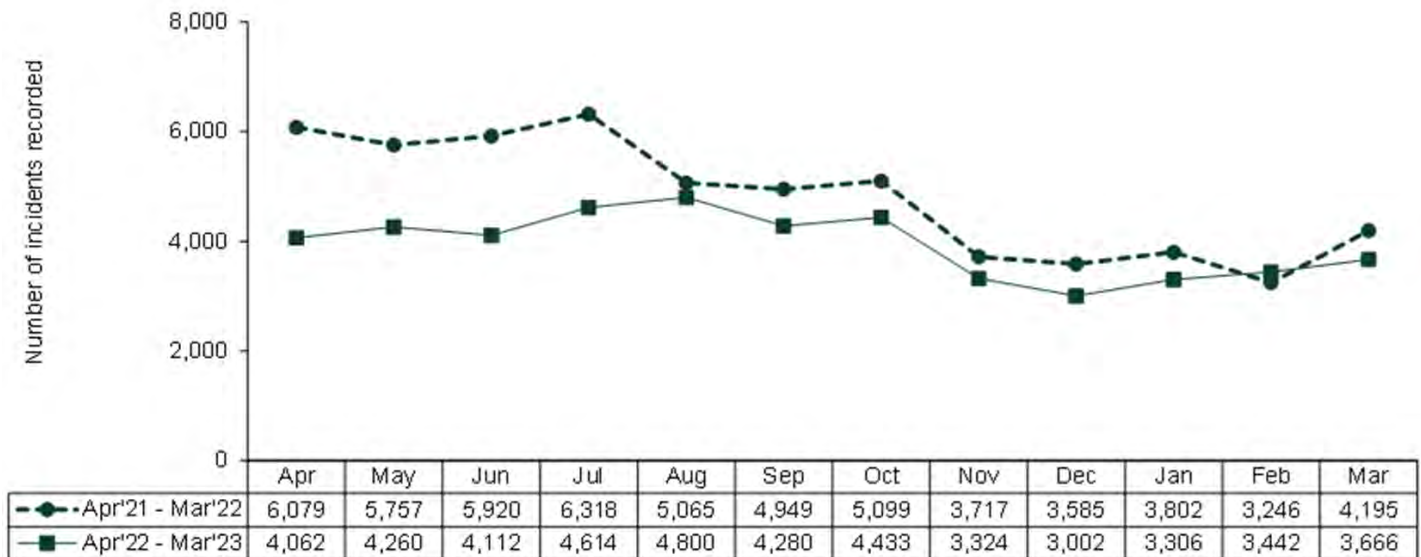
### Police Recorded Crime April 2021 to March 2023



## Anti-Social Behaviour

In the 12 months from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 there were 47,301 anti-social behaviour incidents in Northern Ireland, a decrease of 10,431 (-18.1%) on the previous 12 months. This is the lowest 12 month figure since the data series began in 2006/07.

Anti-social behaviour incidents recorded by the police April 2021 to March 2023



## Domestic Abuse

In the 12 months from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023:

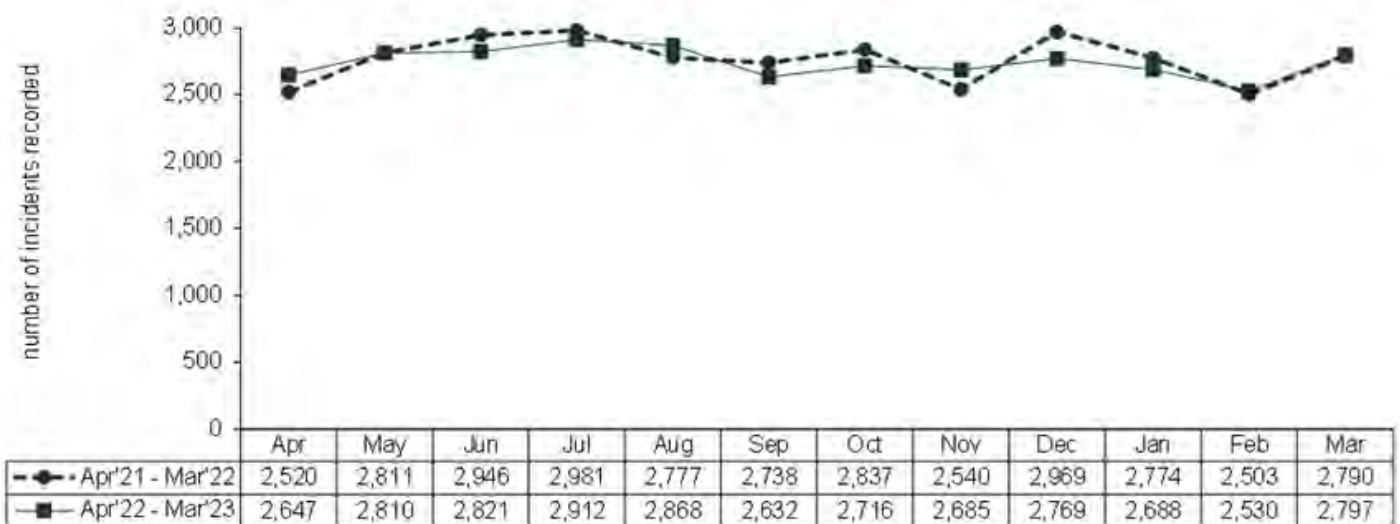
- Not all domestic abuse incidents will result in the recording of a crime, as what has occurred in the incident may not be of the level of severity that would result in a domestic abuse crime being recorded. Domestic abuse crimes are included in the incident count and the two should not be added together.
- There were 32,875 domestic abuse incidents recorded, a decrease of 311 (-0.9%) on the previous 12 months. Despite the decrease, this was the second highest financial year figure recorded since the start of the data series in 2004/05.
- The number of domestic abuse crimes recorded reached 22,343, an increase of 679 (3.1%) on the previous 12 months. This was the highest figure recorded since the start of the data series in 2004/05.
- The largest volume increase in domestic abuse crimes was seen within violence against the person which rose by 640 (3.7 %) This increase should be seen in the context of the new domestic abuse and stalking offences which were introduced in 2022.



## Domestic abuse homicide

In the 12 months from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 there were eight homicides with a domestic abuse motivation recorded, compared with nine homicides recorded in the previous 12 months. Five of the victims were female and three were male, compared with four female and five male victims during the previous 12 months.

### Domestic abuse incidents recorded by the Police April 2021 to March 2023



### Domestic abuse crimes recorded by the Police April 2021 to March 2023



## Hate Motivation

In 12 months from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023:

- The number of incidents recorded rose across three of the six hate motivations (sectarian, disability, and transphobic) when compared with the previous 12 months.
- The number of crimes recorded increased across two of the six motivations (sectarian and disability) when compared with the previous 12 months.

The number of crimes with a disability motivation reached the highest financial year level since the recording of these motivations began in 2005/06.

- Incidents and crimes with a racist motivation showed the largest decrease, with 114 fewer incidents and 53 fewer crimes.
- Incidents and crimes with a sectarian motivation showed the largest overall increase (171 more incidents and 141 more crimes).

### Overall summary of hate motivated incidents and crimes

	Incidents	Incidents	Incidents	Crimes	Crimes	Crimes
	Apr'21-Mar' 22	Apr'22-Mar' 23	Change	Apr'21-Mar' 22	Apr'22-Mar' 23	Change
Racist	1,335	1,221	-114	933	880	-53
Homophobic	463	435	-28	337	290	-47
Sectarian	1,067	1,238	171	780	921	141
Disability	123	139	16	93	102	9
Faith/	68	46	-22	54	33	-21
Transphobic	65	72	7	42	39	-3

## Comparison with England and Wales

Northern Ireland continues to have the lowest overall recorded crime rate when compared to England and Wales. The most recent comparable data shows that in the calendar year 2022, the crime rate in Northern Ireland was 57.8 crimes per 1,000 population compared with 93.8 crimes per 1,000 population in England and Wales.

# Outcome 1

## We have a Safe Community

### Crime Department

A policing operation involving Mid & East Antrim District response officers, Operational Support Department and detectives from Organised Crime Branch resulted in the seizure of a suspected military-style assault weapon and over £50,000 worth of suspected drugs.



Searches were conducted in Carrickfergus and Belfast, during which several items were seized, including a quantity of suspected Class B and Class C Controlled Drugs.

A 33-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of multiple offences including possessing a firearm and ammunition in suspicious circumstances, possessing prohibited weapons and possession of Class A and Class B Controlled Drugs with intent to supply. A

second man, aged 44, was arrested on suspicion of multiple offences including possessing a firearm and ammunition in suspicious circumstances, possessing prohibited weapons and possession of Class A Controlled Drugs with intent to supply.

Both were charged.

On 12 May 2023 officers from Organised Crime Branch arrested six people from four separate locations across Belfast. One woman aged 40, and five men aged 36, 37, 48, 49 and 68 were arrested on suspicion of a number of drugs related offences including possession of Class B Controlled Drugs with intent to supply. Three properties were searched during the operation and a quantity of cannabis was recovered, with a potential street value of £60,000.

Two men were charged with a range of drugs related offences including, possession of Class B Controlled Drugs with intent to supply and conspiracy to supply Class B Controlled Drugs. Three men and one woman were released on police bail pending further enquires.

## Paramilitary Crime Task Force (PCTF)

As part of an ongoing investigation into suspected criminality linked to the East Belfast UVF, two searches were carried out at properties in Dundonald and a 38-year-old man was arrested. Items including, cash, suspected Controlled Drugs and documentation were seized. The suspect was charged with drug offences and possessing criminal property. He will appear in Court in June.

On Friday 5 May 2023 searches were conducted at three properties as part of an ongoing investigation into suspected criminality linked to the West Belfast UDA. A 37-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of possession of Class B Controlled Drug, possession of a Class B Controlled Drugs with intent to supply and possessing criminal property. He was released on police bail pending further enquiries.

## Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Detectives from our Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit and Ports Team, along with UK Border Force, have been engaging with passengers from flights arriving into Belfast International Airport.

The partners are supporting the National Crime Agency's (NCA) efforts to raise awareness of and combat sexual exploitation, forced criminality, forced begging and child trafficking.

It is part of Operation Aidant which, coordinated by the NCA, is a UK-wide operation involving the collective efforts of police and partner organisations.

Officers have been providing information and advice, highlighting the signs to look out for as victims are often afraid or unable to speak out.

## ScamwiseNI

In the last two months we have received reports of investment scams and attempted scams which have resulted in a total loss in excess of £1.2m. Behind each loss, no matter the amount, is someone or a business owner, who has been taken advantage of.

Signs to watch out for include:

- Investment opportunities that seem too good to miss.
- Most have involved cryptocurrency in some form.
- Most have started with a small investment initially, before snowballing into thousands.
- Like most scams now, they have been committed at distance, with criminals exploiting communication networks through phones, social media, emails or text messages.

Due to the advances in technology, criminals can now access people's banking and personal data. Anyone can be targeted by a scam and criminals will constantly change how they present their scam to lure people in. What all scammers aim to do, is access personal and financial details. The end goal is to get your personal details, such as your

name, address, date of birth and who you bank with. In the coming weeks ScamwiseNI are participating in roundtables with industry regulators, the Chief Executive of the Financial Conduct Authority and with OFCOM's first Board Member for Northern Ireland, to discuss their roles in stopping scams through regulation.

The best way to stop a scam is to apply these **five important rules**:

- 1) Never click on links in text messages from someone you do not know
- 2) Never call or text suspicious numbers back
- 3) Never ever transfer money to someone you do not know or have not met
- 4) Always delete texts requesting personal or financial information or bank account details
- 5) Always forward scam texts to **7726** – the free scam text reporting service



Chief Superintendent Gerard Pollock - Chair of the ScamwiseNI Partnership

## Operation Copiable

Detectives from the Economic Crime Unit are investigating an impersonation scam operating predominantly in Belfast, in which £20,000 has been lost in the last five months, mainly targeting people in their 70s and 80s. There have been 29 reports since November 2022, all describing a male with a Northern Irish accent, claiming to be a police officer or working for 'The Department of Work and Pensions', or a bank official.

## Scientific Support Branch

As part of a series of events to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the Fingerprint Bureau, Chief Constable Simon Byrne visited the Police Service's Scientific Support Branch.

Technology has certainly changed over the years since the first fingerprint evidence was given at Belfast Custody Court in 1923. In this case, R vs Crane, the suspects were accused of stealing among other things, 10 furs, 25 ties and a yard of plush.



Now our Fingerprint Bureau processes over 11,000 exhibits and makes hundreds of thousands of comparisons per annum, both

manually and assisted by the National Fingerprint System.



While the crime types may have changed, the identification of individuals by fingerprints left behind at crime scenes remains a key investigative tool. Using fingerprints which are recovered by Crime Scene Investigators (CSIs) from a burglary, right up to murder scenes, have helped to identify tens of thousands of individuals over the years.

Mapping Section, within Scientific Support Branch, uses the technology of High Definition Scanning (HDS) at serious crime scenes and fatal road traffic collisions. The scanner has the ability to record 360 degrees using laser technology measuring up to 2 million points a second.



After a series of scans are completed, all images are joined and viewed which appears as a full coloured 3D model of a crime scene. It is possible to view from any

position or angle, to zoom in or out and to take measurements. The high resolution enables the image, to not only be rotated, but to zoom into an object the size of coin.

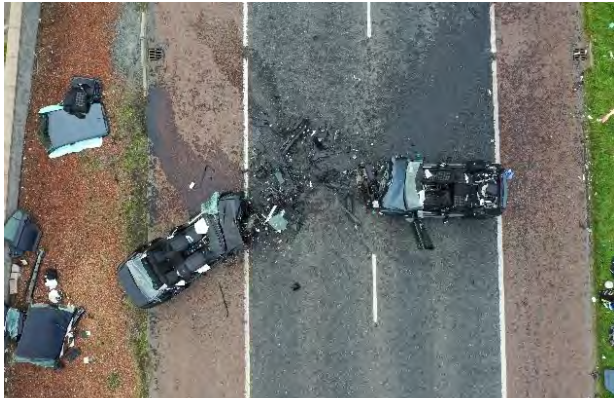


The advantage this technology has over other current survey techniques is that the scanner will capture everything around the device, whether or not it is thought to be relevant at the time. If new information becomes available after a scene has been cleared then a virtual revisit of the scene can be useful. The Branch are now developing the technology which will allow investigators to utilise virtual reality headsets to immerse a viewer directly into a crime scene.

We are currently trialling a drone which carries a high definition laser scanner, capable of taking millions of millimetre accurate measurements at a scene. It is acknowledged that aerial views of major crime scenes and the scenes of serious and fatal road traffic collisions are preferred by investigators.



*Traditional ground level photography*



*Same scene using drone photography*

As you can see from these two photographs of a road traffic collision (in which fortunately there were no fatalities), the different angles taken by a drone camera can add valuable insight compared to a traditional photograph.

## Assaults on Glider Buses

There has been a concerning increase in attacks on Translink's Glider staff across the entire route and the Police Service's Safe Transport Team (STT) met with Translink management to determine an appropriate response. The number of patrols were immediately increased by STT and Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) with a four week focus on Glider patrols agreed with Translink management. STT has maintained daily contact with Translink to ensure a rapid response to any staff concerns.

We are working with Translink to seek increased sentences for offenders on the

transport network and an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Translink and the Police Service is also being finalised, as is a formal Information Sharing Agreement, which will improve and maximise collaboration between the two organisations.

## Elections

Local Government elections took place on Thursday 18 May 2023. In conjunction with the Chief Electoral Officer and her staff, we worked to ensure that the election process was conducted in a free and fair manner and a way which allowed people to participate in the democratic process. On the run up to the election we engaged with candidates and the Directors of Elections for political parties to offer assurance that they would be able to canvass and participate in debate without interference. We recorded 193 incidents directly related to the poll, mainly relating to alleged theft of, and criminal damage to, election posters and banners. These involved almost all political parties and some independent candidates.

On the day of the election, dedicated officers patrolled polling station sites and were available to respond to any reports or requests for assistance from Presiding Officers. A small number of election related reports were received, in the main, of a very minor nature. In one instance, a party canvasser in the vicinity of a polling station was the victim of an alleged assault. The suspect was identified and arrested.

No reports relating to potential offences under the Representation of the People Act were received. We will formalise our report to the Electoral Commission in due course, as is usual practice.

## Fixed Penalty Notice – Careless and inconsiderate Driving

From Monday 15 May 2023, it will now be possible for police officers to issue an electronic fixed penalty notice for the offences of driving without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other persons. The introduction of this new legislation by the Department of Infrastructure (DFI) underlines our road safety messaging, as driving without care and attention is one of the most significant causes of collisions in which people are killed and seriously injured on our roads. Where appropriate, the new penalty will give drivers the opportunity to benefit from remedial training. The training will not only highlight the catastrophic impact that can result from driving carelessly, but critically, it will give drivers the opportunity to educate themselves and make our roads safer for everyone

The penalty for the offence is **£100 and 3 penalty points**. Examples of careless and inconsiderate driving may include;

- driving too close to another vehicle
- turning into the path of another vehicle or failing to give way at a junction and causing another driver to take evasive action
- unnecessarily staying in an overtaking lane
- unnecessarily slow driving or braking

- dazzling other drivers with un-dipped headlights
- driving too close to a pedal cyclist or pedestrian causing them to take evasive action or lose balance

The new fixed penalty will improve the administrative process for the existing offence by providing proportionate justice for low level driving offences without the need for Court proceedings, saving public money and time.

Drivers who commit more serious offences will continue to be dealt with before the Courts.



# Outcome 2

## We Have Confidence in Policing

### Problem Solving

Our first Police Service of Northern Ireland Problem Solving Conference took place on Thursday 27 April 2023 at Dunsilly Hotel in Antrim. A number of key note speakers were in attendance, each talking about a different aspect of problem solving and their experience in that area. They included academics and professionals from across policing.

120 officers and staff from a range of Districts and Departments including, Local Policing, Crime Prevention, Serious and Organised Crime Branch, Public Protection Branch and 50 of our Problem Solving Champions and Advocates also attended.

The aim of the conference was to inspire attendees to champion the problem solving approach and build upon the work already undertaken to help embed this within our policing culture.

Our success to date has provided us with the confidence to push further as we continue to seek to work in smarter more intelligent ways. There is a strong alignment between problem solving and the use of Evidence Based Policing (EBP). A dedicated working group has been exploring how we can maximise the benefits of operational learning, both internally and externally. A draft EBP strategy and operating process is currently being finalised.



*Chief Constable Simon Byrne addressing the conference*



*Sylvia Chenery (Criminologist and problem-solving expert) and Professor Gloria Laycock OBE (expert in crime prevention and crime science) with Chief Constable Simon Byrne*

### National problem solving awards

The Tilley Awards 2023 focus on the use of the problem solving model SARA (Scanning-Analysis-Response-Assessment), to emphasise the skills that have proven to have real results in terms of crime and disorder reduction and prevention. The closing date for entries was the 9 May 2023. We have entered ten applications to the Awards which is a great achievement. Overall there are 115 entries in total that

will now progress to shortlisting. We will know by mid-July whether any of our submissions have made it to the final ten.

## Operation Subrision

There are clear links between serious/organised crime and rural/wildlife crime. Northern Ireland has seen specific targeting of cash ATMs in rural locations and organised crime gangs continue to target vulnerable people in rural locations by way of distraction burglaries and cold calling.

Plant theft and wildlife crime including dog fighting, badger baiting and livestock theft continue to be linked to Organised Crime Gangs (OCGs).

May-time traditionally sees an increase in related reporting as farming/rural activity gathers pace, people spend more time in the country environment and criminals seek to exploit the increased opportunities for related criminality. The Balmoral show provides an opportunity to focus on engagement, crime prevention messaging and partnership working to thwart rural and wildlife crime.

Consequently, Operation Subrision has been launched across all policing Districts to focus on rural and wildlife crime, the operation will run 10 May - 18 June 2023.

Social media will also be used to educate the public on the various forms of crime. There will be an emphasis to communicate specific District information on particular crimes associated with an area, along with any events or partner initiatives that will be running during the campaign period.

## Fleet Update

Over the last number of months 50 new motorcycles have been secured to replenish key parts of our fleet and reduce running costs.



In addition, three electric mopeds and 16 additional e-Bikes have been brought into the fleet which will ensure we deliver a visible presence with reduced environmental impact.

An additional 150 vehicles were added to the fleet to support the visit of the President of the United States. 50 of these were on hire and 100 will now be commissioned as new vehicles across the Service. In 2022-23 there have been 40 electric vehicle chargers commissioned which will allow for the roll out of 100 electric and hybrid electric vehicles in the coming months. All our mechanics have been trained to industry standards for working on electric vehicles.

Replacement vehicles are also being commissioned for Roads Policing and Armed Response to enhance the safe storage of specialist equipment carried.



# Outcome 3

## We have Engaged and Supportive Communities

### Key Campaigns and initiatives

#### Operation Encompass

On Wednesday 17 May, Operation Encompass became fully operational across all 1,162 schools and EOTAS (Education Other Than at School) centres across Northern Ireland. This was following the initial successful pilot launch in 2021 within Downpatrick and the further staged expansions to other Districts across Northern Ireland.

We respond to around 90 domestic abuse calls for service each and every day, and unfortunately children are often present. Operation Encompass recognises children as unseen victims of domestic abuse. We know the impact of the trauma that children experience from seeing, overhearing or coming back into a house where there has been a domestic abuse incident. School is often seen as a 'safe place' for a child and the support and understanding that teachers can provide should never be underestimated.

The scheme is a partnership between the Police Service, Education Authority and education providers. If officers attend a domestic incident with children present, Operation Encompass allows them to pass on relevant information to the safeguarding team at the child's school before 9am the following morning, to ensure the right support is put in place.

As part of this final rollout, a former child witness and survivor of domestic abuse spoke out in support of the scheme. Other partners such as Women's Aid have promoted the great work to date.

Across the previous areas within the Northern, Western, Southern and South Eastern Trust areas, Police have attended 2,121 domestic incidents with 3,774 children exposed to domestic abuse from the start of the 2021 school year, until 30 April 2023. This has resulted in 3,160 referrals being made by officers to designated teachers.

The final rollout across Northern Ireland includes schools of all types – Nursery, Primary, Post Primary, Special, EOTAS, Irish Medium and Independent Christian.



*Pictured L-R: Michael Kelly, Head of Service for the Child Protection Support Service, at Education Authority; James Curran, Principal at Harberton Special School; Detective Superintendent Lindsay Fisher; Julie Plackitt, Head of Pupil Support, Department of Education; Karen Devlin, Women's Aid; James Draper, Designated Officer for Child Protection Support Service, at Education Authority*

## Institute of Advanced Studies of the Ministry of the Interior

We were delighted to welcome 85 French delegates from the Institute of Advanced Studies of the Ministry of the Interior (IHEMI). The delegation involved senior members of French Police, Judiciary, business intelligence, Ministers and representatives from the French Embassy.

The training provided by IHEMI covers:

- Knowledge of the security and justice sectors
- Business protections and economic intelligence
- Crisis management, risk anticipation and crisis communications

The delegates were welcomed by Chief Constable Simon Byrne. They received presentations on the Gold, Silver and Bronze Command Structure and the role of a Public Order Public Safety Advisor within command. The visit also focused on the role of the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Program (JESIP) within the management of major incidents as well as Neighbourhood Policing and the importance of working in co-operation with the public.



*Chief Constable Simon Byrne welcoming delegates*

## Stop Attacks – Clonard Monastery - Belfast

On Friday 12 May 2023 the Chief Constable Simon Byrne and Detective Chief Superintendent Andy Hill met members of the community group 'Stop Attacks' at Clonard Monastery, Belfast. The meeting started with a tour of Clonard Monastery, its history and role in the community. Following this was a discussion on a range of policing issues, including community policing, efforts to tackle paramilitarism, criminal child exploitation and the challenges that are being generated as a result of funding pressures.

It was a really positive meeting with opportunities for closer working identified and taken away for development.



*Chief Constable Simon Byrne and Detective Chief Superintendent Andy Hill with members of the group.*

## Balmoral Show

We were delighted to again attend the Balmoral Show from 10 -13 May 2023 as part of the Supporting Safer Communities exhibition. Visitors were able to interact with a range of officers and staff across the four days of the event. Alongside partners from



the Organised Crime Task Force, Policing Community Safety Partnership and Policing Board, visitors were able to learn more about the work Crime Prevention Officers do to prevent and detect crimes that affect rural communities across Northern Ireland



## North-West 200

On Saturday 13 May 2023 Chief Constable Simon Byrne visited colleagues staffing our Bike Safe stand delivering road safety advice and engaging with spectators at the North West 200 races in Portrush. He was also able to join officers on a beat patrol of the town spending valuable time meeting members of the public enjoying the occasion and the great weather.



## Police Station Boundaries

One of our ambitions is to improve the appearance of station frontages. Following work with stakeholders and other public partner agencies, concept designs for station frontage approval across several sites are now complete. These locations are being assessed for eligibility for capital grant, where available, from external funding bodies. The current sites being reviewed include Newtownhamilton Station, as part of the wider South Armagh Review; Strabane Station, to improve a key town centre Council Regeneration Plan; Musgrave Station, for its City Centre location and frequency of public access; and Newtownards, to improve the aesthetics of the poor condition perimeter.

It is envisaged that an external funding application for the sites identified, will be submitted in June 2023. Currently, funding offers for successful applications are anticipated to be made in the first quarter of 2024.

# Our People, Your Service

## Police Leadership Programme (Executive Leaders)

Following a rigorous assessment process, two of our senior officers have successfully progressed onto the National Police Leadership Programme. Cohort one will commence in June.

The course includes elements of personal, organisational and operational leadership at the executive level. It focuses on developing:

- ethical and inclusive leadership
- business skills
- political acumen
- leadership of major policing issues, such as counter terrorism, child protection and nationally significant events

The course is delivered in phases over 12 months. This includes a blended mix of face-to-face, online and experiential learning in role, and work with an executive coach.

The course enables individuals to identify, understand and improve their personal development areas to support their progression into a Chief Officer role.

## Chief Superintendents Promotion Process

The Chief Superintendent Promotion process was launched on 19 May 2023 inviting applications from substantive Superintendents, with applications particularly welcome from under-represented groups.

The closing date was 31 May 2023, with the process comprising of an initial shortlisting followed by two assessment stages. Communication of results is anticipated the week commencing 31 July 2023.

# Forward look

## Children and Young People Strategy

On 13 June the Police Service will launch their Children's and Young People's Strategy. Our strategy is aligned with the National Police Chiefs' Council guidance and based on a number of key themes:

- Engagement
- Safety and protection
- Suspected offending
- Victims and witnesses
- Stop and search

The strategy takes into account our responsibilities outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as recognition through the Program for Government. It is our aim that this strategy will build on the trust and confidence which children and young people have in their police service and give them a voice through the roll out of Youth Reference Engagement and Listening (REaL) events.

## Parades

Planning for the major parades over the summer months is now underway. Assistant Chief Constable Singleton is the Gold Commander with overall responsibility. So far this year we have seen no disorder associated with notified parades and we are confident that continuing engagement with organisers and other parties connected with parades

will contribute to what we hope will be a successful parading season for all involved, with events passing off peacefully.

## National Police Response Week

We are joining national police colleagues to celebrate the hard work, dedication and bravery of those who respond to calls from the public day and night.

Commencing on Monday 26 June, Response policing week is an opportunity to highlight the difficult, demanding and unpredictable work that response officers and staff do to Keep People Safe.

Opportunities during the week will consist of learning and development, networking, shared ideas and wellbeing.

Resources will be shared on social media using [#ResponsePolicingWeek](#).

## Campaign Activity

The Strategic Communications Department will be promoting a range of campaigns across June:

- Op Subrision
- Summer Safety
- Ticket Scams
- Response Policing Week
- Non-Fatal Strangulation

Engagement Days:

- Eid al-Adha

[psni.police.uk](https://psni.police.uk)

