



REPORT *of the*  
CHIEF CONSTABLE  
1998/99



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1998/99



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*To the Chairman and Members of the Police Authority for  
Northern Ireland*

Brooklyn  
65 Knock Road  
Belfast  
BT5 6LE  
June 1999

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

In accordance with Section 48 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 I have pleasure in presenting my report on the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The report covers the financial year commencing on 1st April 1998 and ending on 31st March 1999.



R Flanagan  
Chief Constable

# Contents

<i>Statement of Purpose and Values</i>	10
<i>Roll of Honour</i>	11
<i>Foreword by the Chief Constable</i>	12
<i>Introduction</i>	
How the Royal Ulster Constabulary is Structured	16
RUC Charter	17
Policing Plans	17
Local Policing Information	18
What Policing Costs	19
Organisation Chart	20
Regional Boundaries	21
<i>The Fight against Crime</i>	
Crime Strategy	22
Crime Prevention	23
Crime Statistics	24
Recorded Crime in 1998/99	25
Offences cleared by the police	28
Drugs Seizures and Arrests	31
Security Situation Statistics	31
Parades and Demonstrations	32
Missing Persons	34
Specialist Teams	
Air Support Unit	34
Aliens Branch	34
Antiques and Fine Art	35
Child Abuse and Rape Enquiry (CARE)	35
Computer Crime Unit	37
Counterfeit Products Unit	37
Crime Operation Support	38
Criminal Records Office	38
Dog Section	39
Drugs Squad	39
Financial Crime Services Unit	40
Analysis Branch	41
Investigation Support Branch	42
Public Sector Fraud Branch	42
Accountancy Advice Branch	43

Financial Investigation Unit	43
Fingerprint Branch	44
Force Intelligence Bureau	44
Forensic Science Agency of Northern Ireland	44
Fraud Squad	44
Mapping Section	45
Mobile Support Units	45
Mountain Rescue Team	47
Photography Branch	48
Scenes of Crime Officers	48
Serious Crime Squad	48
Stolen Vehicle Squad	49
The 'Lady Grey'	49
Underwater Search Unit	50

## *Traffic Branch - Policing the Roads*

The Traffic Plan	52
Charter Mark	53
Ongoing Initiatives	
Operation Roadsafe	53
Others	53
Anti Drink-Driving Campaign	54
Fixed Penalty Point System	55
Road Traffic Accident Statistics	
Casualties	55
Road Traffic Injury Accidents	57
The Year 2000 Target	57
Detections	58
New Approaches	
Speed Cameras	58
Introduction of New Technology	58
Marked Police Cars	59
Other Duties	
Motorcycle Escort Team	59
Motorway Policing	59
Abnormal Loads	60
Traffic Management	60



REPORT *of the*  
CHIEF CONSTABLE

## *Working for and with the Community*

Community Policing	61
Establishing Best Practice	62
Community Affairs Branch	62
Human Rights and Policing	63
Working with Young People	
Young People	63
Juvenile Crime	64
Restorative Justice	64
Youthstart	65
Open Days	65
Police Educational Programme	65
Working with Vulnerable Groups	
Domestic Violence	66
Racial Incidents and Ethnic Minorities	67
Community Safety	68
Working with the Public	
Crimestoppers	68
Lay Visitor Scheme	68
A Wider Involvement	
History on display - the RUC Museum	69
RUC Band	70
RUC Pipe Band	70
RUC Male Voice Choir	71
RUC Ladies Choir	72
Christian Police Association	72
Sport	72

## *Policing on the Ground*

Urban Region	76
North Region	81
South Region	85

## *Training and Development*

Honours and Awards	90
Commendations	91
Extracts from some letters of appreciation	91
Recruiting	92
Training Branch	93
Training Resources Unit	93
Force Evaluation Unit	93
Initial Training	93
Further Training	94

Examinations Unit	94
Academic Courses	95
Specific Training	
Combined Operational Training	95
Firearms Training	95
Traffic and Driver Training Unit	96
Dog Training Unit	96
Personnel Management	
Career Management	96
Welfare Services	97
Civilianisation	98
Police Staff Allocation Model	98
Establishment and Strength	98
Equal Opportunities Unit	99
Force Suggestion Scheme	99
Policy Unit	99
Replacement Personnel Computer System	99

## *Police Support Services*

Force Inspectorate Branch	100
Administration	
Buildings	101
Central Stores	102
Chief Constable's Certificates	103
Firearms Licensing	103
Force Publications	103
Transport	104
Communicating with the Public	
Press and Media Department	105
Health Services	
First Aid Training Unit	106
Health and Safety Unit	107
Occupational Health Unit	108
Physical Education Unit	108
Management Support	
Central Statistics Unit	109
Computers and Communications	109
Force Research Branch	110
Management Information Development Branch	110
Policy and Planning Branch	110
Service Quality Development Branch	111



REPORT *of the*  
CHIEF CONSTABLE



## Complaints and Discipline

Introduction	112
Referrals to the Independent Commission for Police Complaints	113
Complaints Dealt With	114
Outcome of Complaints	114
Discipline	115
Appeals to the Chief Constable	115
Appeals to the Secretary of State	115

## Appendices

### 1. Crime Statistics

<b>Table 1</b>	Notifiable Offences Recorded and Cleared 1997/98 and 1998/99	117
<b>Table 2</b>	Notifiable Offences Recorded and Cleared by Division 1998/99	120
<b>Table 3</b>	Notifiable Offences Recorded and Cleared by Method of Clearance and Division 1998/99	122
<b>Table 4</b>	Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order: Persons and Vehicles Searched 1998/99	124
<b>Table 5</b>	PACE Detention Statistics 1998/99	125
<b>Table 6</b>	Drugs Seizures and Arrests 1997/98 and 1998/99	126

### 2. Security Situation Statistics

<b>Table 1</b>	Number of Deaths due to the Security Situation 1989/90 - 1998/99	127
<b>Table 2</b>	Security-Related Incidents 1990/91 - 1998/99	127
<b>Table 3</b>	Firearms and Explosives Finds 1989/90 - 1998/99	128
<b>Table 4</b>	Casualties as a Result of Paramilitary-Style Attacks 1989/90 - 1998/99	128
<b>Table 5</b>	Number of Persons Charged with Terrorist and Serious Public Order Offences 1990/91 - 1998/99	129



## 3. Road Traffic Injury Accident Statistics

<b>Table 1</b>	Road Traffic Injury Accidents and Casualties 1989/90 - 1998/99	130
<b>Table 2</b>	Road Traffic Accident Casualties by Severity of Injury and Type of Road User 1995/96 - 1998/99	131
<b>Table 3</b>	Road Traffic Injury Accidents Involving Child Casualties (under 16) 1989/90 - 1998/99	132
<b>Table 4</b>	Child Casualties (under 16) in Road Traffic Accidents by Severity of Injury and Age Group 1997/98 and 1998/99	133
<b>Table 5</b>	Most Common Principal Factors in Road Traffic Injury Accidents 1998/99	134
<b>Table 6</b>	Most Common Principal Factors in Road Traffic Injury Accidents Involving Child Casualties 1998/99	134

## 4. Complaint Statistics

<b>Table 1</b>	Complaints against the Police Initially Recorded 1997/98 and 1998/99	135
<b>Table 2</b>	Referral of Complaint Cases to the Independent Commission for Police Complaints 1997/98 and 1998/99	135
<b>Table 3</b>	Outcome of Complaints against the Police Completed During 1998/99	136





# *Statement of Purpose and Values*

## *Our Aim*

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

## *Our Purpose*

- To uphold the rule of law.
- To bring to justice those who break the law.
- To play our full part in the eradication of terrorism and the prevention of crime.
- To help preserve the peace.
- To protect, reassure and assist those whom we serve.

## *Our Values*

- Honesty.
- Impartiality.
- Courtesy.
- Compassion.
- Courage.

## *Our Standards And Behaviour*

- We will perform our duty with integrity, common sense and sound judgement and be sensitive to the views of the community in our actions.
- We will offer assistance to members of the public irrespective of their age, sex, their political or religious beliefs or their ethnic or social background.
- We will manage our organisation in the most professional manner, seeking the opinions of our staff, promoting equal opportunity for all and showing a willingness to change where such change is necessary.
- We will adhere to our code of professional policing ethics.



## ROLL *of* HONOUR

It is with deep regret that I record the following death as a result of terrorist activity:

*Constable Francis Adrian O'Reilly*

Died 6th October 1998



*Foreword by the*  
***Chief Constable***

*This report provides an opportunity not only for reflection on the past year, but also to look forward to our future.*

What do the people of Northern Ireland want from their policing service as we approach the new millennium? There are numerous mechanisms in place to enable people to have their say in determining our future direction, whether through the medium of Community and Police Liaison Committees (CPLCs), local political or community representatives, the Police Authority for Northern Ireland (PANI), national politicians or, currently of course, the Patten Commission created from the Good Friday Agreement last year. There is, as there has always been, much useful direct contact between local people and their police, and I encourage people to respond to any surveys on policing carried out by, or on behalf of, the Royal Ulster Constabulary, PANI and the Northern Ireland Office.

Why is it so critical what people think? Quite simply, policing in partnership with the community is central to all we seek to achieve. We have long recognised, and acted upon, the reality that policing is not a commodity simply to be delivered to the communities we exist to serve. For policing to be effective, it must involve collaborative working partnerships between us and

all communities. Our accountability to the people whom we serve has now been given additional statutory form through the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998. After widespread consultation, an Annual Policing Plan, setting our objectives and targets for the forthcoming year, has been agreed with the Police Authority and published. I will be reporting on our performance against that plan in due course. An Ombudsman will soon be appointed to further enhance the independent element currently provided by the Independent Commission for Police Complaints in dealing with complaints against the police.

The past year has seen continuing attempted political development against a background of sustained cessations of "military activities" by the major paramilitary organisations on each side of our divide. But paramilitary-style attacks and intimidation - activities which remain totally abhorrent and unacceptable in any civilised society - have continued. And the staggering obscenity of the Omagh bombing on August 15, together with continuing highly dangerous pipebomb and grenade attacks remind us that there are republicans and loyalists who

remain determined to carry on with the old, failed, ways of murder, maiming and mayhem. We will remain vigilant to the continuing threat and will pursue the lawbreakers with the utmost vigour. Our colleagues in An Garda Síochána have, as always, worked closely with us. This has been exemplified in the investigation into the Omagh atrocity. I welcome this opportunity to acknowledge publicly their immensely valuable contribution.

The dreadful murder of Rosemary Nelson has attracted immense public attention. Although the continuing investigation and the need not to compromise the possibility of persons being brought before the courts inhibit what I can say, it is right that I should emphasise again that no stone will be left unturned in the effort to bring to justice the perpetrators of this vile murder. Sadly, some have shown an eagerness to use this terrible crime to mount an attack upon the integrity of the RUC. They will not be allowed to undermine the rigour and professionalism with which the investigation will be conducted and in this context, I am indebted to Mr Colin Port, the Deputy Chief Constable of Norfolk Constabulary, who is in overall command of the investigation, and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for their investigative assistance.

Our community divisions continued to be reflected in public order problems, to the utter frustration of the communities themselves, as well as of my officers. Conflicting desires to parade and to protest have led to a continuing and substantial drain on police resources,

which are desperately needed elsewhere to combat crime, tackle the dangers on our roads and develop community safety. The violence which has been allowed to become associated with deeply held beliefs on the parading issue has led to tragic consequences, not least for the family and friends of a young policeman who gave his spare time to coaching youngsters in football. The tragic and needless death of Constable Frankie O'Reilly has made us all the poorer - his family, the RUC and the people of Portadown alike.

In common with the rest of the United Kingdom, we have experienced a significant increase in the level of reported crime over the past year. To some extent this is linked to changes in Home Office rules (to which we in Northern Ireland also adhere) for counting offences and crimes cleared up, but it seems likely that behind the statistics and, perhaps, changes in reporting practices by victims, lies also a real incidence of increasing crime which we have to tackle with resources which are declining in real terms. We must therefore ensure that we make the best possible use of our own available personnel, continue to improve our management techniques, and exploit all opportunities provided by developments in technology, such as Closed Circuit Television and Information Technology. Our performance in this area will be a matter of public knowledge and comment by the Police Authority, but this is something in which we all, public and police together, have significant roles to play. Everyone can contribute



**REPORT of the  
 CHIEF CONSTABLE**



to crime prevention and detection through taking common-sense precautions, watching out for their neighbours, maintaining contact with their local police and through channels such as the "Crimestoppers" initiative.

There is good news too. Once again a considerable amount of hard work with the community has been undertaken throughout the year. This tends not to be reflected in statistics and neither the effort put in nor the ultimate outcomes are easy to quantify. Indeed there are, sadly, often sound reasons for deliberately avoiding publicity for such ventures. It remains the case that in some parts of Northern Ireland those who, in schools, community groups or even sports clubs, wish to work with the police must be prepared sometimes to face hostility from our well-organised and voluble detractors.

The RUC continues to press ahead with community projects with the help of people from all parts of the community. We were all delighted when such efforts were recognised by the award of the title "Community Police Officer of the Year" to Sergeant Stephen Jones for his work with the people of the Markets area in Belfast. It is a great tribute to Sergeant Jones and his team that this national award should be won by an RUC officer.

We have continued to develop our own programme for change, adapting our patrolling methods, our equipment and our building plans in line with the level of threat. In our recruitment and training, and in the working environment which we endeavour to provide for all

our staff, police and civilian, we are totally committed to equality of opportunity. This has been demonstrated by a rigorous application of equal opportunity principles to all aspects of recruitment, selection and promotion procedures. We strive to be a truly representative police service, but we cannot achieve that by ourselves. While we have witnessed encouraging increases in applications from both Roman Catholic and female candidates we must strive to build on these useful beginnings.

The protection of human rights is fundamental to the role of the police officer. This does not mean merely seeking to protect the rights of ordinary people to life, to freedom from fear of attack and to freedom to leave their homes without being burgled. It extends to guaranteeing to persons suspected of crime their full rights under the law, and more, to being treated with dignity and courtesy. We are determined to work with the newly-created Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission to drive through a plan of action to ensure that human rights issues are at the heart of every sphere of activity in which we are involved.

In this, as in other matters, we look for support from the communities whom we exist to serve, the people of Northern Ireland. We are not deaf or blind to the sustained propaganda campaign which seeks to denigrate all our activities, question our integrity and undermine our morale. We know that the purpose of this frenzied vilification is to remove from the people of Northern Ireland their first line of

defence against terrorism, crime and disorder, but it would not be right for us to respond in similar hysterical terms. We welcome objective examination and constructive criticism. This has always been available through the freedom of speech which we, amongst others, have helped to preserve, against the best efforts of those who continue to intimidate their own communities. I am grateful to all those who, with no political axe to grind, have spoken so positively on our behalf or who have sent so many messages of support.

I welcome the opportunity provided by this report to pay tribute to my outstanding men and women who, whether as members of the RUC, or RUC Reserve, or as civilian colleagues, have given so much and worked so hard to ensure the conditions in which our society can move forward politically. The last thirty years provide an horrific record of sacrifice, of unspeakable loss of life and injury, of families shattered, of families intimidated from their homes because of nothing more than firm but impartial discharge of their duty under the law to provide a policing service to all the people of Northern Ireland. This sacrifice has continued over the last year. It should not have to continue over the next one.

I am particularly indebted to the staff associations for their immense contribution, and once again we are indebted for the unstinting and courageous assistance of our military colleagues. To them, and to the Police Authority for Northern Ireland and those in government, I offer my thanks. But I particularly wish to pay tribute to the

people of Northern Ireland who have supported our efforts.

It was not a Chief Constable, but a police officer active on the ground, Sergeant Stephen Jones, the United Kingdom's community policeman of the year, who said, "It's important to know the needs of local people so we can align policing priorities. It has to be a partnership."

How right he is! Together we can make Northern Ireland the place we want it to be.



R Flanagan  
Chief Constable



REPORT *of the*  
CHIEF CONSTABLE



## Introduction

### *How the Royal Ulster Constabulary is Structured*

RUC Headquarters is based at Knock in Belfast, while the Force is organised into three geographical areas, Urban Region, North Region and South Region.

Urban Region stretches over an area of over 560 square miles with a population of 655,000. North Region covers an area of 3,524 square miles and serves a population of over 470,000, while South Region encompasses 2,527 square miles with a population of over 448,000. These regional structures are shown on page 21.

Each of the regions is commanded by an assistant chief constable and is divided into four divisions and several sub-divisions. The assistant chief constable has responsibility for the Regional Criminal Investigation Department, Traffic Branch, Dog Section, Mobile Support Units, Community Affairs Branch and Regional Personnel.

An overview of some of the activity and operations that take place in these regions is provided in the chapter “Policing on the Ground”.

### *RUC Charter*

The Royal Ulster Constabulary aims to provide everyone in Northern Ireland with the best possible policing service. To ensure we continue to deliver a high quality public service the Force sets out certain standards which underpin policy and operations. These standards are laid out in the Royal Ulster Constabulary Charter, published in 1993.

Our overriding aim is:

*“to provide a high quality, effective police service to all the people of Northern Ireland.”*

However, in order to achieve this the Force recognises that we need to work as closely as possible with the communities that we serve. A second aim in the RUC Charter therefore states:

*“We will work to achieve this in partnership with the community and in co-operation with other agencies.”*



### *Policing Plans*

The Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 provides a legislative framework for police objectives, performance targets and plans.

The following sections of the Act (in brief) outline the requirements for a Strategic Policing Plan and an Annual Policing Plan.

#### **Section 14**

The Secretary of State may determine, and from time to time revise, objectives for the policing of Northern Ireland.

#### **Section 15**

The Police Authority shall, before the beginning of each financial year, determine objectives for the policing of Northern Ireland during that year.

#### **Section 16**

1) The Chief Constable shall, after consultation with the Secretary of State and the Police Authority, issue a plan (The “Strategic Policing Plan”) setting out the proposed arrangements for the policing of Northern Ireland during such period (not being less than 3 years nor more than 5 years) as is specified in the plan.

The actions outlined in the “Strategic Policing Plan” are also aimed at fostering and strengthening partnerships with communities.

#### **Section 17**

The Police Authority shall, before the beginning of each financial year, issue a plan, the “Annual Policing Plan”, setting out the proposed arrangements for the policing of Northern Ireland during that year.



**REPORT of the CHIEF CONSTABLE**

Guided by the principle of providing a first class policing service to everyone in our diverse society, the Royal Ulster Constabulary introduced the "Annual Policing Plan" one year ahead of the legislative requirement to do so.

The Annual Policing Plan for Northern Ireland 1999/2000 was published on the 25th March 1999. Copies are available from The Police Authority for Northern Ireland (01232 230111 Ext. 21362) or from RUC sub-divisional offices.



### Local Policing Information

Local police commanders consult with the community to identify specific priorities which should reflect the needs of the whole community.

Local policing information packs provide the public with policing information relevant to their local area.

Separate packs are produced for each sub-divisional area and contain statistics on crime, road traffic accidents and complaints, with a brief review by the sub-divisional commander of the work undertaken in the sub-division. There are also contact telephone numbers for specialist personnel, such as crime prevention and drugs liaison officers, and details of the opening hours of all police stations in that area.

### A typical day...

for the Royal Ulster Constabulary included dealing with:

- 264 999 calls received
- 210 crimes recorded
- 57 crimes cleared
- 41 domestic incidents attended
- £19,000 worth of drugs seized
- 20 road traffic injury accidents reported
- 327 fixed penalty notices issued for motoring offences
- 9 parades or demonstrations policed
- 5 attacks carried out against police officers as a result of terrorism or serious public disorder
- 90,000 miles travelled by police vehicles

Packs are distributed to members of the community, police liaison committees and other interested parties. They are available from sub-divisions.



### What Policing Costs

The total expenditure for the financial year ending 31st March 1999 was £656.4 million; £0.5 million (0.1%) below the previous year's expenditure. Approximately 84.9% gross expenditure was devoted to RUC and civilian staff costs, with the balance being spent on goods and services.

The additional costs of policing the protest at Drumcree and associated public disorder, estimated at around £11 million, were largely offset by an underspend on accommodation services.

### Police net expenditure 1998/99

	£m	%
RUC personnel	448.6	67.5
Civilian staff costs	54.1	8.2
Superannuation	61.2	9.2
Accommodation	22.7	3.4
Transport, communications	22.2	3.3
Other expenses	40.1	6.1
Capital expenditure	15.5	2.3
	664.4	
Receipts	8.0	
Total	656.4	

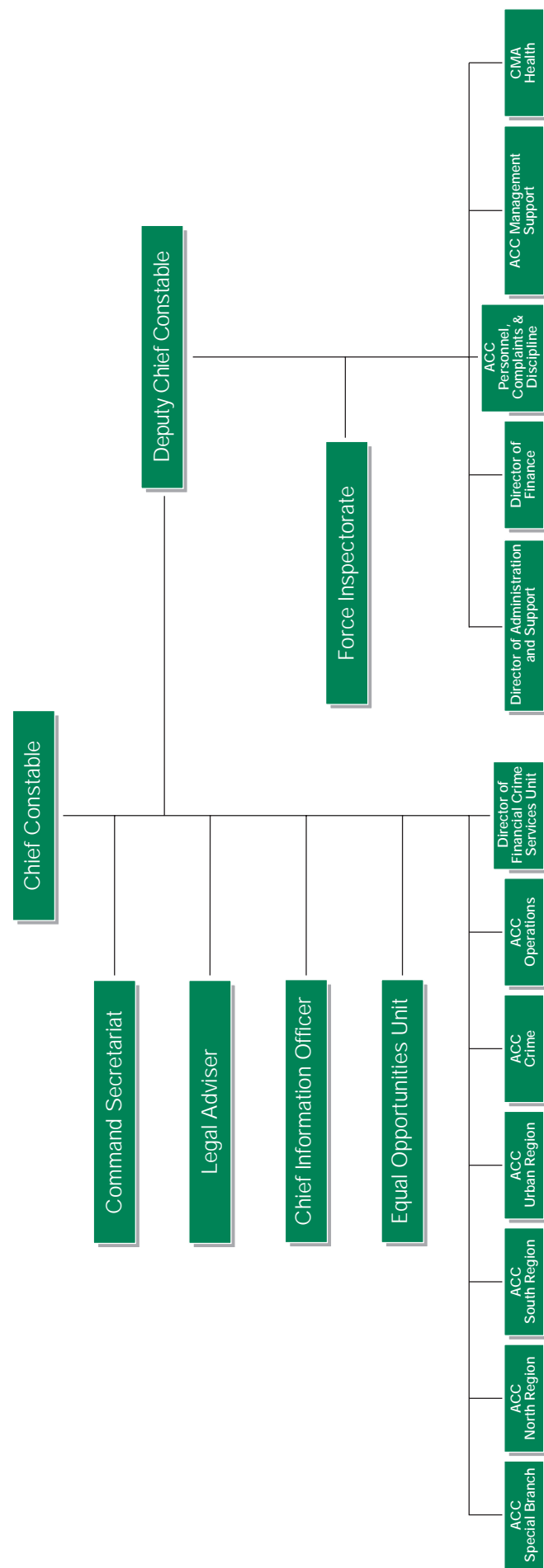
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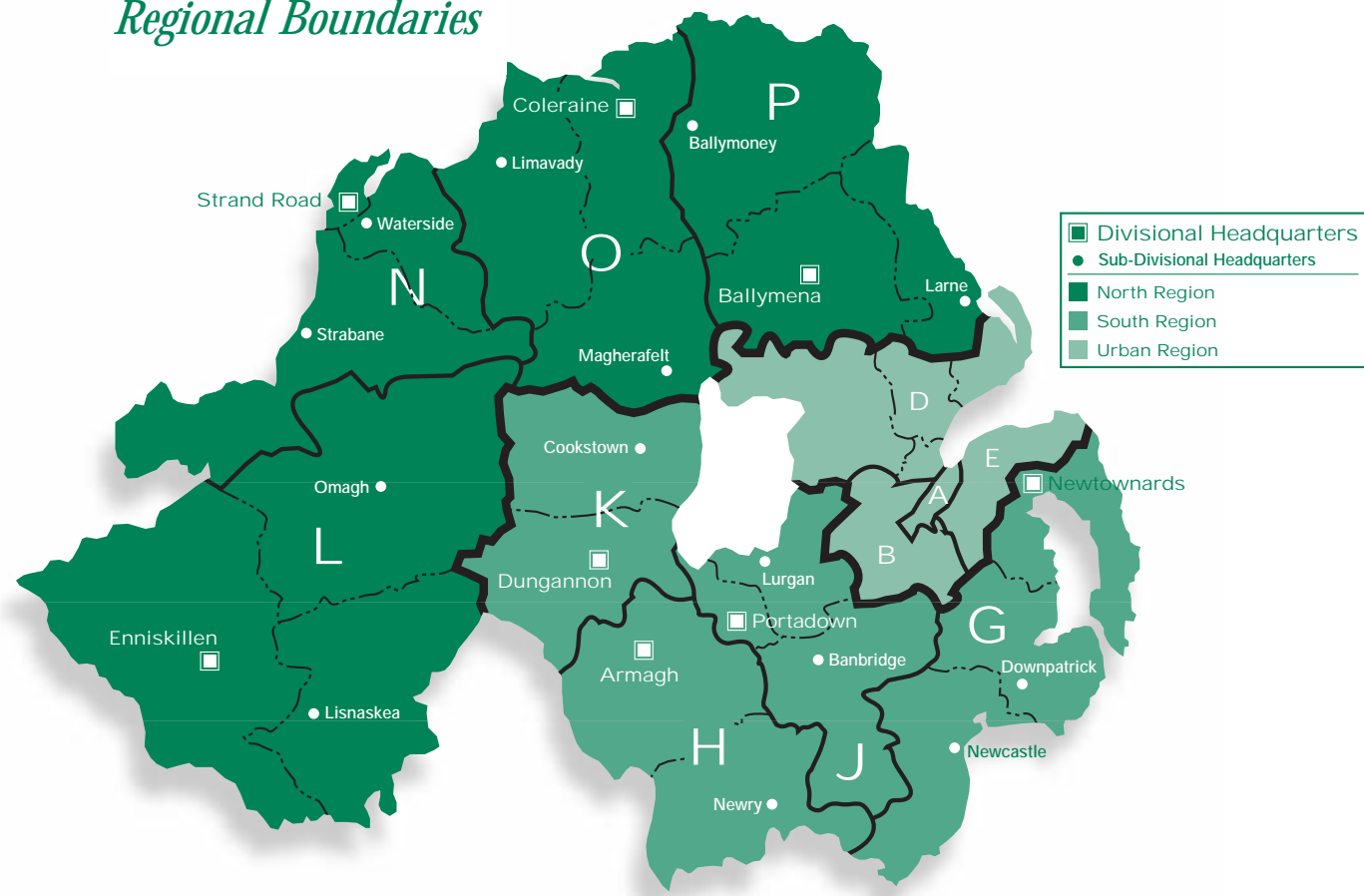




# Organisation Chart



## Regional Boundaries



Region	Sub-division	Contact Number	
North Region	Ballymena	012656 62222	
	Ballymena	01266 653355	
	Coleraine	01265 44122	
	Enniskillen	01365 322823	
	Larne	01574 272266	
	Limavady	015047 66797	
	Lisnaskea	013657 21777	
	Magherafelt	01648 33701	
	Omagh	01662 246177	
	Strabane	01504 367337	
	Strand Road	01504 367337	
	Waterside	01504 367337	
	South Region	Armagh	01861 523311
		Banbridge	018206 62222
Cookstown		01648 766000	
Downpatrick		01396 615011	
Dungannon		01868 752525	
Lurgan		01762 325144	
Newcastle		013967 23583	
Urban Region		Newtownards	01247 818080
		Portadown	01762 332424
		Antrim	01232 650222
	Antrim Road	01232 650222	
	Bangor	01232 650222	
	Carrickfergus	01232 650222	
	Castlereagh	01232 650222	
	Donegall Pass	01232 650222	
	Dunmurry	01232 650222	
	Grosvenor Road	01232 650222	

REPORT of the CHIEF CONSTABLE





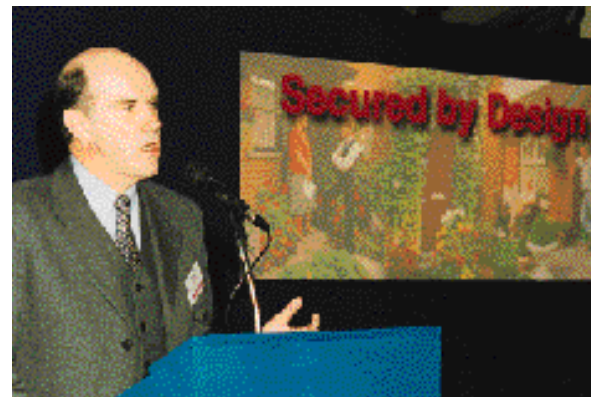
### Crime Prevention

Crime prevention is one of the fundamental principles of policing. Every police officer actively seeks to prevent crime but the main responsibility for promoting crime prevention awareness lies with the Headquarters Crime Prevention Branch and the crime prevention officers attached to the subdivisions.

Everyone has a responsibility to take all reasonable measures to protect their homes, businesses and property. The police work in partnership with a wide variety of organisations to promote the crime prevention message throughout Northern Ireland. These include the Northern Ireland Crime Prevention Panel, the Community Safety Centre, good neighbour schemes, the Tobacco and Alcohol Management Group, Sold Secure, and the Bank Security Group. There are also many initiatives and partnerships organised by crime prevention officers at a local level. These include partnerships with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Northern Ireland Tenant Action Project, Help the Aged, Victim Support and Social Services.

A high percentage of crime involves thefts of or from motor vehicles. We continued the 'Sold Secure' scheme by taking a high profile stand at the Ulster Motor Show and also using a dedicated vehicle to advertise at shows and stands throughout Northern Ireland. Along with the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Office we launched a campaign on car security and

protection for prospective buyers. Car crime prevention leaflets are sent out with every motor tax renewal form. The campaign will last for 18 months.



To combat the level of burglary and other crimes against buildings, the RUC and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive launched the Northern Ireland Secured by Design scheme at the Ideal Home Exhibition. The scheme, in conjunction with the Designing Out Crime Through Environmental Protection project, is aimed at reducing crime by building new homes to exacting standards. The scheme is promoted through the office of the Force Architectural Liaison Officer, a member of the Headquarters Crime Prevention Branch.

Other campaigns during the year included the protection of property and gas safety in caravans, run in partnership with Calor Gas, and 'Home Security During the Holiday Periods', promoted by the Northern Ireland Crime Prevention Panel and the Dairy Council.

Crime Prevention Branch continues to promote the needs of the older person and other vulnerable groups.



REPORT of the CHIEF CONSTABLE



## The Fight against Crime

*"To promote the prevention and detection of crime by improving co-ordination of our activities throughout the organisation and in partnership with outside agencies and the community."*

### Crime Strategy

The crime strategy spans all departments and branches of the service, directing our activities relating to the prevention and detection of crime. The strategy is reviewed annually to take account of operational priorities and objectives set by the secretary of state and the Police Authority for Northern Ireland. Uniformed personnel in particular play a crucial role in its successful implementation.





### Crime Statistics

The RUC follows Home Office counting rules in recording crime. The rules are designed to ensure comparability of statistics across police forces and over time. Recorded crimes are typically the more serious offences reported to the police. Less serious offences, such as minor motoring offences, are processed by the police but are not recorded as crimes.

Recorded offences of similar type are grouped into nine broad classes of crime, as follows:

- Class 1 - Offences against the person
- Class 2 - Sexual offences
- Class 3 - Burglary
- Class 4 - Robbery

- Class 5 - Theft
- Class 6 - Fraud and forgery
- Class 7 - Criminal damage
- Class 8 - Offences against the state
- Class 9 - Other notifiable offences (mainly drug offences).

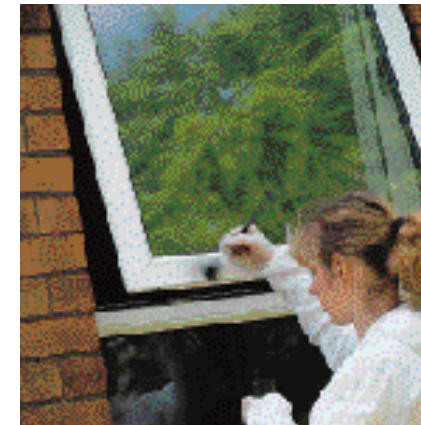
It should be noted that a substantial proportion of crime goes unrecorded as many offences are not reported to the police. The propensity of the public to report crime is influenced by a range of factors - the seriousness of the offence, changes in legislation, public attitudes towards the police, insurance claim requirements and so on. Annual fluctuations in recorded crime, particularly small year on year changes, therefore need to be interpreted with caution.



On the 1st April 1998, the Home Office introduced a number of major revisions in the counting rules under which crime is recorded. These changes impact particularly on the recording of offences against the person, criminal damage and fraud and forgery offences. Crime figures produced from 1st April 1998 onwards under these revised rules should be regarded as a new statistical series.

However, to enable comparisons to be made with 1997/98 and previous years, the RUC, in common with a number of police forces in England and Wales, has operated a dual-recording system during 1998/99. The system attempts to produce crime figures as they would have been recorded under the previous counting rules, as well as under the new rules.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that figures produced under the old rules for 1998/99 can be compared with previous years, it has not been possible to guarantee comparability in all instances. In some cases (particularly in relation to fraud and forgery offences), changes in the counting rules have meant that an element of inflation in the figures is



inevitable. In addition it cannot be ruled out that the introduction of additional recordable offences in some crime classes under the 'new' rules may have led to changes in recording practice - the full extent of the impact of any such changes in practice on the 'old' rules figures cannot easily be quantified. Subject to these caveats, the following commentary refers to crimes recorded under the 'old' rules to allow the 1998/99 figures to be compared with 1997/98 and previous years (see also Tables 1-3 in Appendix 1).

### Recorded Crime in 1998/99

A total of 76,644 crimes were recorded. This represents an increase of 27.9% on 1997/98 (59,922). Within the 1998/99 total there were ostensible increases in seven of the nine classes of recorded crime, including criminal damage offences (up 105.2% to 9,794), fraud and forgery



REPORT of the  
CHIEF CONSTABLE



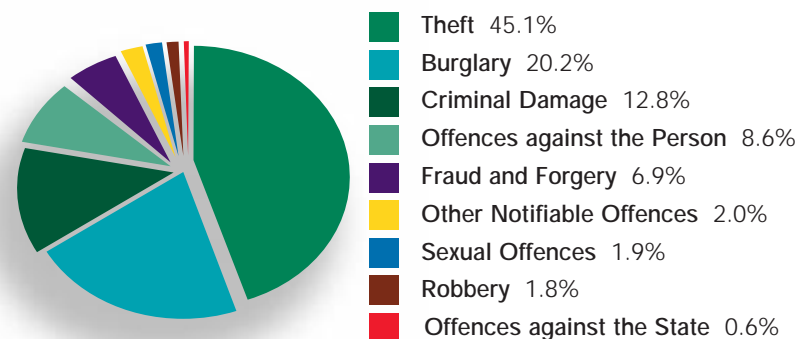


offences (up 45.9% to 5,280) and offences against the person (up 33.2% to 6,616).

There were fewer robbery offences recorded in 1998/99 (down 11.3% to 1,395) while the number of offences against the state remained at a similar level to the previous year (up 2 offences to 459).

As in 1997/98, property crimes (burglary, theft and criminal damage offences) accounted for a large majority of all crimes recorded (78.1%). Violent crimes (offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery) accounted for a further 12.4% of recorded crime.

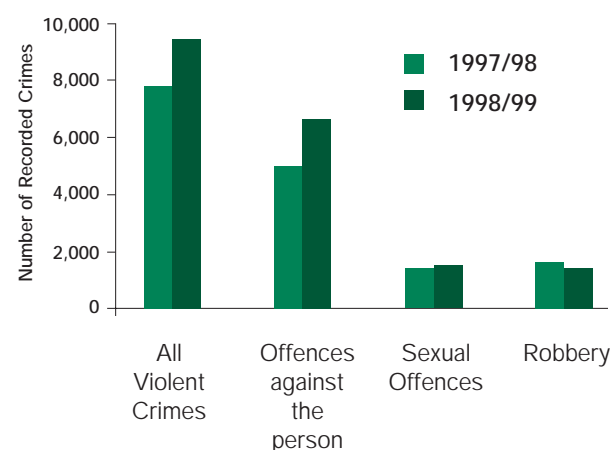
Recorded Crime by Offence Class 1998/99



**Violent Crime**

The number of violent crimes recorded rose by 21.2%, from 7,837 in 1997/98 to 9,496 in 1998/99. Details of offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery offences recorded during 1998/99 are outlined next.

Violent Crime 1997/98 and 1998/99



**Offences against the Person**

A total of 6,616 offences against the person were recorded in 1998/99, an increase of 33.2% on the 1997/98 level (4,967). Approximately one third of this increase can be attributed directly to the Omagh bombing in August 1998. Over five hundred offences were recorded as a result of this one incident.

The number of murders increased substantially compared with 1997/98, from 47 to 71, 29 of which were as a result of the Omagh bomb. The number of attempted murders fell from 113 to 85 over the same period, however there was an increase in threats or conspiracy to murder, from 303 to 415. Serious assaults, including assaults occasioning actual bodily harm, grievous bodily harm and wounding, and wounding or grievous bodily harm with intent, increased by 34.3%, from 3,889 in 1997/98 to 5,221 in 1998/99, again with a substantial component as a

result of the Omagh bombing (Table 1, Appendix 1).

**Sexual Offences**

The number of sexual offences recorded rose by 14.5%, from 1,297 in 1997/98 to 1,485 in 1998/99 (Table 1, Appendix 1). The number of rape offences recorded rose by 17.4% to 284. Recorded offences of attempted rape rose by 11 offences to 40. There was also an increase in the number of indecent assaults recorded during the year - indecent assaults on females increased by 15.9%, from 598 to 693, while indecent assaults on males increased by 38.1%, from 134 to 185.

**Robbery Offences**

The 1,395 robbery offences recorded in 1998/99 represented a decrease of 11.3% on the 1997/98 figure (1,573). Within this offence class, the number of hijacking offences recorded more than halved, from 542 to 249. However the number of armed robberies (all categories of weapons) rose by 6.4% to 632. There was also an increase in robbery offences not involving weapons, from 437 to 514, a rise of 17.6% (Table 1, Appendix 1).

**Property Crime**

Crimes against property, which include burglary, theft and criminal damage offences, rose from 46,815 in 1997/98 to 59,878 in 1998/99, an increase of 27.9%. There were increases within all three offence classes of property crime (see below).

**Burglary**

There were 15,480 burglary offences recorded in 1998/99, 12.8% more than in 1997/98 (13,724). The number of burglaries in dwellings increased by 8.0%, from 7,155 in 1997/98 to 7,725 in 1998/99, accounting for almost half (49.9%) of all burglary offences recorded during the year. Offences of burglary in a building other than a dwelling also rose, by 17.9%, from 6,426 to 7,577 (Table 1, Appendix 1).

**Theft**

A total of 34,604 thefts were recorded in 1998/99, an increase of 22.2% on the 1997/98 level (28,318). Within the theft offence class, there was a substantial rise in vehicle crime. Offences of theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle increased by a fifth (20.0%), from 8,090 to 9,705. Thefts from



REPORT of the CHIEF CONSTABLE

motor vehicles increased by 22.1%, from 4,958 to 6,055 over the same period. After vehicles, shops are the biggest target for theft - in store theft offences also increased during 1998/99, by 20.1%, from 4,702 in 1997/98 to 5,645. There was a small decrease (4.2%) in thefts of pedal cycles, from 1,273 to 1,220 (see Table 1, Appendix 1).

**Criminal Damage Offences**

A total of 9,794 criminal damage offences were recorded in 1998/99, a level more than twice that in 1997/98 (4,773). The 1998/99 total contained 1,997 arson offences, 68.4% more than during 1997/98 (1,186). The largest increase was in criminal damage offences valued at £200 or more which rose from 3,338 to 7,487. This would appear to be an area where the change in counting rules has had a major impact on recording practice (Table 1, Appendix 1).



**Fraud and Forgery**

The number of fraud and forgery offences recorded rose by 45.9%, from 3,620 in 1997/98 to 5,280 in 1998/99. The bulk of this increase was in the area of fraud - deception offences were up by almost a half (49.4%), from 1,951

to 2,915 and making off without payment offences were up by 47.6%, from 1,276 to 1,884. The increase in the much smaller forgery and counterfeiting category was 21.0%, from 353 to 427 (Table 1, Appendix 1).

**Offences Against the State**

During 1998/99 recorded offences against the state remained at a level similar to that in 1997/98, up two offences to 459. Offences under the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act rose by one, from 31 to 32 over this period whilst the number of firearms offences increased from 49 to 89 (Table 1, Appendix 1).

**Other Notifiable Offences**

There was a rise of 28.3% in the number of other notifiable offences recorded, from 1,193 to 1,531. This was due largely to an increase in the number of drug offences recorded, from 1,105 to 1,399. Trafficking offences increased by 9.7% to 193 whilst other drug offences (mainly involving possession) increased by 29.8% to 1,206 (Table 1, Appendix 1).

*Offences cleared by the police*

A crime can be cleared (or 'detected') in a number of ways:

- If one or more persons have been charged, summonsed or cautioned for the offence
- If the offence is 'taken into consideration' by a court
- If there is sufficient evidence to bring charges but the case is not proceeded with because, for example, the suspected offender has died or the victim is unwilling or unable to give evidence against a known offender

The number of offences cleared at 20,711, was 1,537 (8.0%) higher than in 1997/98 (19,174).

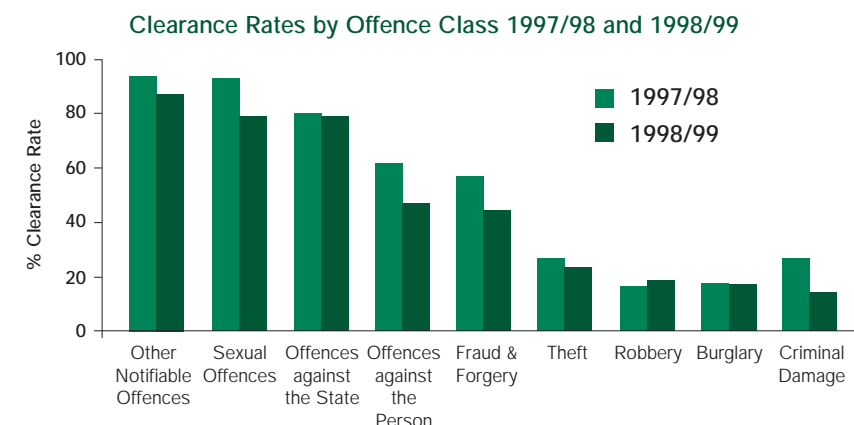
The clearance rate (or detection rate) is conventionally taken as the number of offences cleared in a year expressed as a percentage of the total number recorded in that year. Some of the offences cleared in any one year may have been recorded in previous years. Therefore the clearance rate for particular types of offences may on occasions exceed 100%. Clearance figures for 1998/99 are based on the Home Office counting rules in force prior to 1st April 1998 and can be compared with 1997/98 and previous years.

Although the total number of clearances rose, this rise was not as great as the increase in recorded crime overall. As a result, the recorded clearance rate fell from 32.0% in 1997/98 to 27.0% in 1998/99.

**Clearance Rates by Offence Class**

Clearance rates for recorded crime tend to vary considerably depending on the nature of the offence. Broadly speaking the clearance rate tends to be high where victims can readily identify the offender (e.g. certain violent offences) or where police knowledge of the crime directly identifies the offender (e.g. drug offences). In 1998/99, the clearance rate for 'other notifiable offences' (which includes drug offences) was 87.0%. Sexual offences and offences against the state also had high clearance rates at 79.1% and 78.2% respectively.

In the case of offences where the victim can less easily identify the offender, clearance rates are correspondingly lower (e.g. criminal damage and burglary). In 1998/99 the lowest clearance rates were in respect of criminal damage offences (13.8%), burglary (17.1%) and robbery (19.3%).



**Violent Crimes Cleared**

The total of 4,476 violent crimes (i.e. offences against the person, sexual offences and robbery offences) cleared during 1998/99 showed a small decrease (1.0%) compared with 1997/98 (4,522). The clearance rate for violent crime fell by more than ten percentage points from 57.7% to 47.1%.

The clearance rate for offences against the person was 45.8% compared with 61.8% in 1997/98. Within this offence class there was a decrease in the clearance rate for murder (from 61.7% to 43.7%) and threat or conspiracy to murder (from 82.8% to 80.0%) but a rise in relation to attempted murder (from 40.7% to 54.1%). The clearance rate for serious assaults fell from 63.4% to 43.2%.



**REPORT of the CHIEF CONSTABLE**





There was a decline in the clearance rate for sexual offences, from 92.1% to 79.1%. The fall in the overall clearance rate in this class was reflected across a range of offence categories including rape (down from 91.3% to 75.7%), attempted rape (down from 93.1% to 65.0%) and indecent assault on a female (down from 85.8% to 77.1%).

The clearance rate for robbery offences rose from 16.3% in 1997/98 to 19.3% in 1998/99. There were increases in the clearance rates for hijacking offences (up from 3.9% to 11.6%) and offences of robbery not involving weapons (from 22.0% to 25.1%). The clearance rate for armed robberies fell from 23.4% to 17.6%.

#### Property Crimes Cleared

There was an increase of 10.3% in the number of property crimes (burglary, theft and criminal damage offences) cleared during 1998/99, from 11,090 in 1997/98 to 12,227. The clearance rate in this category fell by just over three percentage points, from 23.7% to 20.4%.

The clearance rate for burglary offences fell marginally from 17.6% in 1997/98 to 17.1% in 1998/99. A rise in the

clearance rate for burglaries of dwellings (from 16.9% to 18.5%) was offset by a fall in the rate for offences of burglary in buildings other than a dwelling (from 16.5% to 13.9%). A greater number of thefts were cleared during 1998/99 (8,226) than in the previous year (7,358). However the clearance rate of 23.8% during the current period compared with a rate of 26.0% in 1997/98. There was a decrease in the clearance rate for offences of 'shoplifting' (from 70.3% to 64.5%), thefts from motor vehicles (from 6.4% to 5.9%) and thefts or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle (from 13.9% to 13.4%). The clearance rate for thefts of pedal cycles (8.3%) was similar to that in 1997/98 (8.2%).

The overall clearance rate for criminal damage offences fell from 27.6% to 13.8%.

#### Other Offences Cleared

The clearance rate for fraud and forgery offences fell from 57.3% in 1997/98 to 43.9% in 1998/99. The clearance rate for offences against the state showed a marginal decrease from 79.9% to 78.2%.

There was a fall in the clearance rate in the category 'other notifiable offences', from 94.1% in 1997/98 to 87.0% in 1998/99. Much of this decline was due to a decrease in the clearance rate for drug offences - the rate for trafficking offences fell from 99.4% to 92.7% while the rate for other drug offences fell from 96.2% to 89.3%.



#### Drug Seizures and Arrests

Statistics relating to drug seizures (including those by Drugs Squad, CID and sub-divisional officers) are compiled in terms of the number of 'drug seizure incidents' - i.e. the number of occasions on which drugs were seized. An individual drug seizure incident may involve the recovery of several different types of drugs.

The number of drug seizure incidents in Northern Ireland rose from 1,335 in 1997/98 to 1,588 in 1998/99, an increase of 19.0%. Over this period the amount of cocaine seized increased more than ten-fold from 470.5 gms in 1997/98 to 4,923.3 gms in 1998/99 and the number of ecstasy tablets seized almost doubled, from 85,600 to 163,023 (Table 6, Appendix 1). Other drugs seized during 1998/99 included 230.5 gms of opiates (up from 144.3 gms in 1997/98), 432.8 kgs of cannabis resin (up from 413.7 kgs in 1997/98) and 31.5 gms of 'crack' cocaine (down from 62.5 gms in

1997/98). There was a substantial fall in the number of LSD doses seized, from 111,676 in 1997/98 to 699 in 1998/99.

A total of 1,264 drug-related arrests were made during 1998/99, 213 (20.3%) more than in 1997/98 (1,051).

#### Security Situation Statistics

A total of 44 people died as a result of the security situation during 1998/99, an increase of 11 on the 33 deaths recorded in 1997/98. Of the 44 people who died, 42 were civilians, one was a police officer and one was a soldier. Twenty-nine of the civilians who were killed during 1998/99 died as a result of the bombing in Omagh on the 15th of August 1998 (Table 1, Appendix 2) During 1998/99, there were 187 shooting incidents, 58 fewer than in the previous year (245). However there was a rise in the number of bombing incidents over this period - the 123 incidents recorded in 1998/99 (in which 229 devices were used) compared with



REPORT of the  
CHIEF CONSTABLE

a total of 73 incidents (91 devices used) in 1997/98. Of the 229 devices used in 1998/99, 107 exploded and 122 were defused (Table 2, Appendix 2).

There was a small increase in the number of firearms recovered by the security forces, from 97 in 1997/98 to 104 during the current period. The amount of explosives recovered also increased, from 661.7 kgs to 778.4 kgs (Table 3, Appendix 2).

**Paramilitary-Style Attacks**

Comparing 1997/98 and 1998/99, there was an increase in the number of casualties as a result of paramilitary-style attacks, from 198 to 245. The increase over this period was due to a rise in the number of persons assaulted (i.e. beaten) - total casualties from such assaults increased from 125 to 172. The number of casualties from shootings was unchanged at 73 (Table 4, Appendix 2).

Of the total of 245 casualties during 1998/99, the majority (152, 62.0%) were attributed to loyalist groupings and the remainder (93, 38.0%) to republican groupings. The equivalent

figures for 1997/98 were 103 and 95 respectively. The most marked change in the profile between the two years was the rise in the number of casualties of loyalist assaults, which increased from 70 to 112.

**Persons Charged**

During 1998/99, a total of 441 persons were charged with terrorist offences or offences related to incidents of serious public disorder (e.g. petrol bombing, hijacking offences). This represents a small increase on the total charged in 1997/98 (423). The 441 persons charged in 1998/99 included 13 who were charged with murder or attempted murder, 69 with firearms or explosives offences and 27 with armed robbery (Table 5, Appendix 2).

*Parades and Demonstrations*

A total of 3,472 parades took place during the year of which 2,694 were loyalist and 230 were nationalist. Of these 101 were illegal (91 loyalist and 10 nationalist), 75 parades were re-routed and 12 parades had other conditions placed upon them. Public disorder occurred at 25 parades. There

	Loyalist	Nationalist	Other	Total
Total parades	2,694	230	548	3,472
Legal parades	2,603	220	548	3,371
Illegal parades	91	10	-	101
Parades re-routed	73	2	-	75
Parades with other conditions imposed	11	1	-	12
Parades at which disorder occurred	19	6	-	25
Parades banned	-	-	-	-

'Loyalist' parades include those organised by the Orange Order, the Royal Black Preceptory and the Apprentice Boys as well as band parades/contests or protest marches involving the Loyalist community. 'Nationalist' parades include parades organised by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Irish National Foresters as well as band parades/contests or protest marches involving the Nationalist community.



were 548 other parades organised by youth groups, Royal British Legion, trade unions etc. In most cases parade organisers co-operated closely with police.

The annual Drumcree Loyal Orange Lodge (LOL) church parade in Portadown was prohibited from returning via Garvaghy Road. Over the following number of days serious rioting took place. Blast bombs were thrown at police lines severely injuring a number of officers. Disorder spread throughout the Province with further attacks on the police. There were a number shooting incidents and attacks on the Roman Catholic community. Later a blast bomb attack in Portadown claimed the life of Constable Frankie O'Reilly. The Drumcree situation continues with a number of members of Portadown LOL remaining at Drumcree Parish Church. A weekly application by Portadown District to return via Garvaghy Road is still being submitted.

In March, 1999, there was rioting and disorder in the Portadown and Lurgan areas following the murder of a well known solicitor, Mrs Rosemary Nelson. For 21 months protests were held every Saturday night outside a chapel in

Harryville, Ballymena, because LOL parades had been prevented from marching through Dunloy to the local Presbyterian church. The protests ended in September 1998 when an LOL church parade was allowed to march through Dunloy via an agreed route.

Throughout the year parades from Ballynafeigh Orange Hall have been prevented from marching the lower part of Ormeau Road between Ormeau Bridge and Ormeau Avenue. Parade organisers have reluctantly accepted these conditions and after handing over protest letters to local police, most of the parades dispersed without any disorder occurring. The parade on 12th July, 1998 was permitted to march down the Ormeau Road and passed off without incident.

Close liaison between local police and parade organisers had a significant impact on the outcome of these parades, ensuring that most passed off peacefully.



REPORT of the CHIEF CONSTABLE





### Missing Persons

Approximately 2,000 persons were reported missing in Northern Ireland. On average details of 50 missing persons are in circulation at any one time. Most return home within a short time.

### Specialist Teams

#### Air Support Unit

The value of air support in RUC operations was illustrated many times during the year. Air support was used to enhance command and control capability and increase levels of supervision and security in routine police work, coverage of public order/disorder operations, traffic management and aerial coverage of the U.S. presidential visit to the Province. The unit responded to 86% of the 783 calls received during the year, and in total 1,011 hours were flown. All police observers are now trained marine band radio operators, allowing aircraft to be used in search and rescue operations with HM Coastguard.



### Aliens Branch

An alien is a person who is not a commonwealth citizen nor a protected person nor a citizen of the Republic of Ireland. On 11th May 1998 the number of countries whose nationals are required to register with the police here was considerably reduced. As a result there are only 610 aliens from 50 countries currently registered in Northern Ireland. This will probably decrease further in 1999 as some of those presently registered will become exempt. The figure of 610 comprises:

- African 107
- Asian 296
- European 99
- American 108

Aliens Branch was involved in the detection and arrest of 48 immigration offenders who were subsequently dealt with by HM Immigration Service and repatriated. A further three were given advice and warning for breaches of the Registration Regulations. The figures indicate an increase on previous years and may highlight a growing problem.

We are still detecting a large number of illegal immigrants from Fujian Province, China, who have been smuggled into the United Kingdom or who applied for political asylum on arrival and absconded.

Illegal immigrants travelling through Northern Ireland from Scotland to the Republic of Ireland, where they claim political asylum and receive social welfare benefits, are another major problem. This has resulted in more foreign nationals being stopped south of the border and returned to Northern Ireland.

We continue to provide assistance and information by lecturing and advising on immigration matters. We also help investigate serious crimes involving foreign nationals and can help with the provision of interpreters.

We work closely with HM Immigration Service, other government departments, voluntary agencies, societies and associations.

### Antiques and Fine Art

This unit is primarily responsible for liaison with those involved in the antiques and fine art trade, assisting both police officers and the general public. Strong professional networks and associations have been developed with auctioneers, art and antique dealers, commercial antique recovery organisations, insurance companies and museums throughout the United Kingdom.

### Child Abuse and Rape Enquiry (CARE)

In partnership with social services, Child Abuse and Rape Enquiry Units investigate all reported cases of child abuse, whether physical, sexual or emotional, or cases of neglect. They also investigate sexual offences against adults such as indecent assault, buggery and rape. Two themes are central to the work of CARE:

- inter-agency co-operation
- a victim centred approach

The 12 CARE units throughout Northern Ireland worked closely with other agencies in the prevention and detection of child abuse and adult sexual offences. In June 1998 an experienced CARE supervisor and other professionals from Northern Ireland were invited to help establish child protection procedures in Estonia. This was seen as an international endorsement of our expertise in this field and of the very special inter-agency co-operation we have established.

CARE staff worked closely with the Probation Board, Prison Service, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) and Social Services concerning the risk assessment and management of sex offenders in the community. Police involvement is largely the result of the Sex Offenders Act 1997. The Act requires convicted and cautioned sex offenders to register their names and addresses with the police. In May 1998 a CARE conference on the issue of sex



REPORT of the  
CHIEF CONSTABLE



offenders in the community gave CARE officers the opportunity to learn from other police forces, prison and probation staff.

During the year CARE worked in partnership with the NSPCC on the 'Young Perpetrators Project' in the Southern Health and Social Services Board area. This is a treatment programme for adolescent sex offenders with funding from the Police Authority, the Probation Board for Northern Ireland and the Southern Health and Social Services Board. Evidence suggests that treatment programmes are potentially more effective at the adolescence stage and can help prevent a young offender embarking on a life of serious sex offending.

Whilst work concerning offenders is clearly very important, CARE units continue to be victim-focused. User feedback and consultation is central to our ethos. In the summer of 1998 a victim comment/suggestion card was introduced as part of a new information pack which is given to victims. The pack also contains leaflets and information on other voluntary and statutory organisations that may be able to help.

We have produced two information leaflets outlining the work of CARE which give contact numbers and addresses for all CARE units. To satisfy requests from students, schools and other organisations, work is underway on a CARE publicity video and a CARE booklet which traces the history of the unit and illustrates the facilities dedicated to ensuring that victims of child abuse and adult sexual crime are dealt with in a suitable environment.

We are always trying to improve these facilities. During the year video interviewing facilities were opened in Portstewart and Newry and we have plans to increase the facilities available to victims throughout Northern Ireland.

CARE staff also worked closely with the NSPCC in developing a 'Child Witness Pack' to help children prepare for giving evidence in the Crown Court. This pack is modelled on an existing version in Great Britain, modified for Northern Ireland. It is hoped that the NSPCC pack will be available in 1999. CARE units will continue to work closely with other agencies in the best interests of victims of child abuse and adult sexual offences.



### Computer Crime Unit

Last year the Computer Crime Unit received an increase in requests for help with the seizure, examination and analysis of computers and related items. The unit undertook 92 investigations from which 103 computers, 4007 disks and 46 other forms of media were submitted for imaging and examination in connection with:

- pornography
- counterfeiting
- ordinary crime
- terrorism
- murder
- computer crime
- drugs

- fraud
- money laundering

The unit also investigated two major crimes relating to misuse of the internet.

### Counterfeit Products Unit

The Counterfeit Products Unit investigates the influence and involvement of organised criminals in counterfeit products. The unit maintains close liaison with other agencies e.g. HM Customs and Excise and companies in the clothing, music and video industries. Seizures during 1998/99 can be summarised as follows:



REPORT of the  
CHIEF CONSTABLE



	Amount	Cash total
Compact Discs	2306	£33,437
Audio Tapes	1596	£15,960
Video Tapes	3092	£46,380
Clothing (ordinary)	3938	£157,520
Clothing (designer)	993	£6,452
Jeans	587	£29,350
Video Recorders	6	£2,100
Perfume	126	£4,410
Counterfeit Watches	10	£450
Fancy Goods	24	£100
Computers/Scanners & Associated Equipment	10	£80,000
	Total	£376,159

During the year the unit assisted in a number of organised searches during which large quantities of clothing, CDs and video tapes were seized. Cigarettes and alcohol seized during these searches were passed to HM Customs and Excise.

There has been a considerable increase in the seizure of CDs, Playstation games, computer equipment and illegally copied discs. We liaise with the Computer Crime Unit in the investigation of material contained within computers.

The unit also gives practical and legal advice on the investigation of counterfeit crime, and on the examination of seized goods by expert witnesses for the purpose of giving evidence in court.

### Crime Operation Support

The Crime Operation Support Unit undertook 132 operations resulting in 40 arrests for offences including smuggling, murder, blackmail, extortion,

deception and drugs. The unit seized 45,000 ecstasy tablets and 4 Kgs of cocaine. A total of 104 Kgs of cannabis resin were also recovered.

The unit was also responsible for the seizure of 810 Kgs of cannabis and 8 Kgs of amphetamines in joint operations with mainland UK forces and An Garda Síochána.

### Criminal Records Office

Our computerised criminal records system provides details of previous convictions for crime investigation, court prosecution and pre-employment vetting purposes. During the year over 460,000 name searches were processed and some 125,000 court records printed.

Over 2.5 million transactions were completed on the system to update and maintain the information in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1984. There are approximately 295,000 subjects in the system allowing 83% of criminal records to be generated by

computer print-out. The Criminal Records Office also maintains a series of databases on wanted and missing persons and lost, found and stolen property.

### Dog Section

A Dog Section is established in each of the three regions, providing valuable operational support and a significant contribution to Force goals. The units were involved in a wide range of activities during the year including searches for missing persons, explosives and drugs, plus attendance at public disorder situations and football matches. Dogs and handlers participated in numerous community events in schools, displays, shows and public talks. Dog units also endeavour to combat car thefts, burglaries and public order offences within their respective regions.

General purpose police dogs have been used for tracking persons from the scenes of crime; searching for stolen property or implements used in connection with crime; searching for lost or missing persons or property; controlling disorderly crowds and complementing beats and patrols in a crime prevention role.

General purpose police dog handlers have undergone public order training and are often deployed in such situations.

In addition to their use during planned search operations and VIP visits, explosives search dogs are a valuable operational asset and continue to assist at bomb scares/warnings.

At present the RUC has drugs recovery dogs based in Belfast and Londonderry. These dogs cover the whole of Northern Ireland working with the Drugs Squad, drugs liaison officers and local crime teams. During the year the dogs were involved in 941 searches resulting in 102 finds, which included cannabis, heroin and ecstasy tablets.

### Drugs Squad

The Drugs Squad's main aim is to reduce the demand and availability of controlled substances and to detect offenders. Our strategy includes enforcement and education aimed at alerting the general public to the dangers of controlled drugs.

The main drugs of abuse in Northern Ireland are cannabis, ecstasy (MDMA) and amphetamine sulphate (speed). Cannabis is still the most abused drug and there is increasing opiate misuse,



REPORT of the  
CHIEF CONSTABLE

while LSD has almost completely disappeared from the drug scene. There has been a disturbing rise in the number of heroin users who are injecting. This puts both abusers and the general public at risk from blood transmitted diseases.

The year was very successful for the Drugs Squad. Significant seizures included:

- 10 Kgs of cannabis with a street value of £100,000 recovered in Londonderry. There were six arrests.
- 90 Kgs of cannabis with a street value of £900,000 recovered in the Crumlin area. There was one arrest.
- 7.8 Kgs of cannabis and 1,000 ecstasy tablets with a street value of £93,000 recovered in a house search in west Belfast.
- 20 Kgs of cannabis, 5,000 ecstasy tablets, 4 Kgs of cocaine and £29,000 in cash recovered in an operation in the Castlewellan area. The total street value was £695,000. There were three arrests.
- In the Limavady area, 5 Kgs of cannabis and 5,000 ecstasy tablets recovered with a street value of £125,000. Two arrests were made.
- A planned search in the Dunvale area of Ballymena uncovered 25 gms of crack cocaine and 27 gms of heroin with a street value of £5,595. One person was arrested.
- 50 Kgs of cannabis with a street value of £500,000 recovered in the Newry area.

- In a house search in south Belfast 4.5 Kgs of cannabis and 3,000 ecstasy tablets with street value of £90,000 recovered. One arrest was made.
- 18 Kgs of cannabis with a street value of £180,000 recovered in a house search in Ballymena. One person was arrested.
- Drugs Squad in Londonderry stopped a vehicle in the city and recovered 4 Kgs of cannabis with a street value of £40,000. One person was arrested.

The large seizures of controlled substances reflect not only positive police action but also the growth of the drugs culture in Northern Ireland.

We continue to liaise with HM Customs & Excise, and other British and foreign police forces, developing information sharing and joint operations.

Drugs Squad officers also made 119 presentations to various groups, voluntary and statutory bodies, members of the general public and professional organisations. We assisted with in-house training and the development of a secondment policy for uniform officers.

### Financial Crime Services Unit

The unit has four branches staffed by civil servants from a wide variety of backgrounds. It provides a range of specialist services:

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### 1. Analysis Branch

The Branch has continued to extend its customer base. A total of 88 major enquiries were supported during the year and we provided research and database search facilities and a gateway to specialist 'open source' data.

UK law enforcement, has been devised. It provides instruction in core and specialist analytical techniques, professional development and exposure to a range of work projects

- Analysis training courses have been delivered to a number of RUC officers. A range of external agencies continue to be provided with training places, emphasising the success of the multi-agency, problem-solving methodologies taught

#### Case Study 1

A Regional Crime Squad asked for assistance in a complex enquiry. Branch analysts helped by preparing a series of "case charts" which set out the evidence in a clearly understandable, chronological sequence. The charts were used to manage the large quantity of information available, to conduct briefings and to support interviews carried out with suspects.

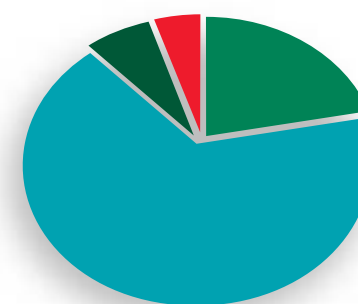
A number of persons were subsequently charged with serious offences including murder.

#### Case Study 2

Police requested assistance in an operation aimed at reducing the incidence of burglary in a provincial town. Target criminals were identified and researched. This was supported by analysis of significant crime problems in order to identify "hot spots" and trends.

Several arrests were subsequently made for drugs, burglary and motor vehicle offences.

Customers for work of FCSU Analysis Branch



- E Department 22%
- C Department 66%
- External 7%
- Other internal 5%

A three pronged strategy has been adopted:

- Preparation of a range of analytical products including 'visualisation' charts, reports and presentations. These are designed to assist understanding of crime and policing problems, help decision-making and inform policy-making
- The development of a cadre of skilled RUC analysts. A number of "trainee analysts" were recruited during the year and an in-house development programme, unique in



REPORT of the CHIEF CONSTABLE

Amongst the external visitors hosted during the year were personnel from the Swedish National Criminal Intelligence Service and Europol. Two members of staff visited the FBI National Academy in January 1999 to share best practice in analysis.

Staff were also involved in helping to establish the UK Chapter of the International Association of Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysts (IALEIA), which exists to promote best practice in the field of analysis.

Assistance has been provided to a UK university for the first postgraduate course of study designed specifically for analysts; and to a leading computer software company in the design and implementation of an "accreditation" scheme - which tests competence in the use of various analytical IT packages.

## 2. Investigation Support Branch

During the year the Branch has supported twenty-six major investigations either by carrying out the detailed examination of seized financial records or by exercising the additional powers of investigation in the Proceeds of Crime (Northern Ireland) Order 1996.

The examination identified evidence that furthered the investigations and in a number of instances uncovered substantial revenue evasion and benefit fraud. Where appropriate these were referred to HM Customs & Excise, Inland Revenue or the Social Security Agency.

The court authorised use of the additional powers of investigation in eight new cases during the year and the powers were used on a total of 294 occasions as follows:

Requirement	Times used
To attend for interview	24
To provide information in writing	5
To produce documents	253
To disclose existence of bank statements in specified names	12

In a number of cases, use of these powers led to the discovery of bank accounts containing substantial sums of money which have been restrained and may be confiscated by the court. Discussions have taken place with the Northern Ireland Office about amendments to make the provisions even more effective and to ensure that they are consistent with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.

## 3. Public Sector Fraud Branch

The Branch has built on its successful track record of developing working relationships with public sector organisations as part of an anti-fraud strategy. This partnership approach, based on the establishment of the Northern Ireland Fraud Forum with a membership of some 24 public sector organisations, has ensured a greater awareness of the threat of fraud and its potential impact on the Government's ability to deliver a range of services in the most effective way.

No accurate figures are available on the extent of public sector fraud in

Northern Ireland but it is estimated at around £200 million per year. Against this background the Branch has sought to imbue an anti-fraud culture across the public sector. As investigation work is time consuming and expensive it makes sense to have systems in place which help prevent fraud occurring in the first place. Fraud prevention also ensures the full spending potential of the various programmes funded by government.

We were instrumental in having a fraud warning included in all claim forms used by government departments. In addition we have promoted changes to systems used to reduce the risk of cattle theft and of stolen vehicles being registered under a changed identity. Systems have also been introduced to reduce fraudulent claims for a wide variety of grants.

We intend to expand our consultancy service, by taking forward assignments to identify solutions to specific problems. These will involve working in partnership with public and private sector organisations and our colleagues in other RUC departments to amend existing procedures, systems and in some cases, legislation.

## 4. Accountancy Advice Branch

The demands on the Branch have continued to grow. The principal areas of activity remain support to sub-divisional officers about the accounts of registered clubs and the provision of in-house accountancy advice.

The Branch has trained a further 40 officers on the accounting requirements for registered clubs and provided briefings to a number of clubs and their accountants. The annual accounts of 39 clubs have been examined and detailed advice provided to the sub-divisional commander concerned.

Accountancy advice has been provided in a wide range of cases including investigations into the proceeds of crime and possible fraudulent insurance claims.

The Branch has also maintained a close working relationship with the Department of Health and Social Services and provided input to their review of the legislation governing betting and gaming, clubs and charities.

### Financial Investigation Unit

Financial investigation officers are exclusively involved in the investigation of financial and economic crime and in the preparation of detailed financial statements required for court purposes and confiscation hearings.

The investigations are usually complex and labour intensive. During the year, 420 financial actions were investigated, 525 voluntary disclosures were made by local and national-based financial institutions, 52 Production Orders were obtained relating to ongoing investigations and there were 31 applications for Restraint Orders at Belfast High Court.

The unit also investigated persons from Northern Ireland involved in financing the importation of £16 million worth of



REPORT of the  
CHIEF CONSTABLE



cannabis to the Republic of Ireland. As a result of a lengthy investigation, nine persons have, to date, been prosecuted for drug trafficking and money laundering offences. Cash amounting to £106,000 has been seized from those prosecuted and Restraint Orders placed on their assets.

### *Fingerprint Branch*

During the year Fingerprint Branch received 19,906 fingerprint submissions. Of these 7,684 sets resulted in new registrations and 1,294 palmprint sets were added to the palm collections. Searches showed criminal use of aliases in 475 cases. Crime scene examination submissions were received in respect of 12,379 investigations. Of those submissions, the Special Examinations Unit processed 36,897 items from which 14,974 'value' finger and palmar marks were developed and processed for identification. During the year 1,724 criminals were identified by fingerprints.

### *Force Intelligence Bureau*

The Force Intelligence Bureau at RUC Headquarters, underwent radical change during 1998 in line with recommendations contained in the 'Review of the RUC Criminal Intelligence Model'.

The change has led to more effective targeting of major international and Northern Ireland criminals as well as the analysis of crime and intelligence reports.

The bureau supports all headquarters

specialist squads and has a lead role in the exchange of intelligence both internally and with other organisations. The following intelligence desks, with clearly defined functional roles, have been created within the Bureau:

- Drugs Crime Desk
- Sexual Offences Crime Desk
- Organised Crime Economic/Specialist Crime Desk
- Analytical Desk
- External Agency Desk

Core tasks for these desks have been identified and will be developed. The bureau has also established a Suspect Information Unit to link offenders, offences and modus operandi across the Province.

### *Forensic Science Agency of Northern Ireland*

4,684 cases were referred to the Forensic Science Agency of Northern Ireland, with 17,779 items submitted to their laboratories for examination and 6,212 DNA samples submitted for analysis. 170 people were identified from searches of the DNA database.

### *Fraud Squad*

The Fraud Squad is responsible for the investigation of complicated frauds or those that require protracted enquiries. Seventeen cases were dealt with by the courts and 7 investigations initiated.

The most common areas of investigation include advanced fee fraud, leasing frauds, mortgage fraud, fraud against government bodies and fraud by professional people. Cases under investigation involve losses of

approximately £58.2 million.

Computers are increasingly used to facilitate fraud. There is also an increase in crimes with an international dimension. Recent investigations have involved enquiries in the USA, France, The Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Yugoslavia, Slovenia and India. The Fraud Squad also acts on behalf of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and during the year was actively involved in investigations where the SFO was the lead authority.

The squad regularly makes presentations to public bodies, trade associations and local trade groups regarding fraud prevention and makes a significant contribution to the work of the Northern Ireland Fraud Forum to prevent fraud against government bodies. Officers of the Fraud Squad have taken part in a number of training seminars for local government auditors.

The Central Cheque Squad, which is under the operational control of the Fraud Squad, investigates and collates details of all fraudulent misuse of cheques and credit/charge cards. A total of 1,847 incidents were reported, slightly fewer than in the previous year. The squad charged 234 individuals with

offences.

The increased availability of scanning/copying technology has led to a sharp rise in the use of forged cheques. The use of stolen/compromised credit cards for mail order/internet shopping is also increasing.

### *Mapping Section*

Members of Mapping Section attended 596 serious crime scenes to produce comprehensive maps and plans for use in criminal trials. Our computer aided design system was upgraded during 1998 and now allows Ordnance Survey maps to be imported and stored. Scans of maps, plans or aerial photographs can also be used in presentations and evidential exhibits.

### *Mobile Support Units*

Mobile support units (MSUs) provide a readily available pool of trained, disciplined personnel for deployment throughout the Province to assist in the achievement of Force goals. There are six MSUs based in Belfast, and 21 in the regions, as well as additional officers who escort prisoners to courts throughout the Province. These units perform a range of duties requiring a high level of professionalism, training



REPORT of the  
CHIEF CONSTABLE

and flexibility. Flexibility is an integral part of the skills of MSUs ensuring that the service they provide meets the needs of the whole community and the Force. The MSU service is continually evolving to meet these diverse needs which include:

**Public Order/Disorder** - as Public Order/Disorder Units, MSUs continue to be the visible face of policing at major public events including football matches and concerts. The training, discipline and teamwork of these units ensures an effective response to policing public order events in a range of environments. The MSUs supplement sub-divisional personnel and are always under local sub-divisional command often helping to police busy areas of entertainment in the regions, ensuring crowd safety and control. Often on these occasions a police officer's sense of humour is important!

On occasions, because of the level of violence displayed at large public events, officers need additional protective equipment to carry out their duties effectively. The use of this equipment is proportionate to the threat faced by officers, but there is a statutory responsibility under health and safety legislation to ensure officers are adequately protected.

**Specialist Search and Support** - MSUs also support a number of other departments such as CID or Drugs Squad by providing a specialist search service. These searches which bring

officers into contact with householders require not just specialist training but strong interpersonal skills. The Belfast MSU has the benefit of an operational search vehicle which enhances the capacity of this service for major incident response.

**Crime Support** - MSU personnel are assigned to specific sub-divisions to work with them on proactive anti-crime operations aimed at areas of local concern such as burglaries and car crime. This developing system uses a range of services and skills provided by MSU officers and operates under the intelligence-led model of policing.

**Community Contact** - MSUs and their individual officers consult with a variety of community groups and representatives through community awareness training, school visits, job experience programmes and a range of informal contacts. The units also support individual local charities. This continuing contact with the local community increases understanding of the role of MSUs and develops relationships with groups such as young people.

MSUs are a valued element of policing within the regions. The nature of their duties, and the skills necessary to perform them, require a high level of commitment from individual officers to provide the most effective and professional service to the whole community.

### *Mountain Rescue Team*

This year the Mountain Rescue Team celebrates 30 years of providing an emergency search and rescue service for the public.

The team consists of 21 constables who, with one exception, operate on a part-time basis. They are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with operational responsibility for the entire province. When not acting as part of the Mountain Rescue Team these constables perform normal policing duties.

The team members are highly trained and all hold the Rescue and Emergency Care qualification, as recommended by the Northern Ireland Mountain Rescue Co-ordinating Committee. In the near future, the team will undergo training relating to the Home Office Rope Rescue standard and health and safety legislation.

The team's high standards have led to a number of their training initiatives being adopted by other police services involved in mountain rescue.

The team has recently been allocated two new vehicles; one is a multi-terrain quad, excellent for carrying equipment, and the other is a 4x4 Transit van which has been fitted as a forward control unit. This vehicle's equipment includes a 35' radio mast, street-lights and an awning, making it one of the country's most modern vehicles for search and rescue in remote areas.

During the year the Mountain Rescue Team was called to 16 emergencies. Some of these involved the help of local community volunteers and military/RAF who provided helicopter assistance.

The team also responded to calls to help people with minor injuries, to rescue animals and to assist police investigations. The latter sometimes involved the distressing job of recovering bodies.



REPORT *of the*  
CHIEF CONSTABLE





The Mountain Rescue Team is actively involved in the community and during the year gave demonstrations at 36 community events. These included a 'Church Challenge Day' held at Gosford Forest, supported by over 8,000 members of the public. The event helped to raise money for African Famine Relief.

The team also accepted a challenge from Bramshill Police College to take part in the Scottish Ridges Walk/Climb. Not only did the team set the fastest police team time over the 25 miles, it also collected £2,000 for the charity, Children's Aid Direct.



### *Photography Branch*

Photography Branch has three units providing a comprehensive imaging service to the RUC, the courts and agencies. The branch produces photographs, slides, video recordings, computer graphics and processes images from other sources such as commercial CCTV security cameras. Subjects include crime scenes, victim injuries and public disorder. The branch also generates photographs which can be shown to potential witnesses for criminal investigation purposes and provides photographs and video evidence of major events which can be

subsequently analysed. Cameras have been used very effectively to prevent nuisance being caused to residents and the general public by persons leaving clubs, discos, etc.

### *Scenes of Crime Officers*

Scenes of crime officers (SOCOs) attended 22,329 crime scenes to identify and retrieve physical and trace evidence for forensic analysis by the Forensic Science Agency for Northern Ireland (FSANI).

A total of 1,254 persons were identified from SOCO fingerprint retrievals, an increase of almost 11%.

SOCOs are undergoing a training programme in photography, which is validated to a national standard. It is anticipated, as the practice is perfected, that this will further improve the level of detections.

### *Serious Crime Squad*

The Headquarters Serious Crime Squad is responsible for the investigation of all serious crime, excluding commercial fraud.

In addition to ongoing investigations, 79 new investigations were undertaken in 1998/99 using the Home Office Large Major Enquiry System (HOLMES). A further 19 investigations were initiated by the Major Complex Crime Unit. As a consequence, eight persons were made amenable for the crimes investigated which included murder, terrorist incidents, fraud, kidnappings, counterfeit currency and computer related offences.

We are committed to the vigorous investigation of terrorist racketeering and financial extortion. Thirty-six cases of blackmail were reported resulting in four persons being charged with blackmail, collecting on behalf of a proscribed organisation and robbery. The total amount of tax evasion investigated was approximately £8 million and a total of 16 persons were interviewed and arrested. Thirty-four investigations are ongoing. A long term fraud enquiry, involving proceeds of over £300,000, for which four persons have been charged, is still ongoing.

### *Stolen Vehicle Squad*

Car 'ringing' operations are run by criminals who steal and dismantle vehicles. The Stolen Vehicle Squad uncovered a major car 'ringing' operation in Belfast, which resulted in the identification of 24 stolen motor vehicles worth over £150,000. Three principal suspects have been charged with 96 offences including theft and receiving and handling stolen goods. The squad also seized 143 suspect 'ringer' vehicles and identified 62 as stolen. These vehicles were valued at £467,756.



The Drive Away Team and the West Belfast Crime Team carried out a major car operation in west Belfast. London Weekend Television accompanied the team to record the operation for ITV's 'Britain's Most Wanted' documentary. The operation went as planned with a number of persons arrested and stolen vehicles recovered. The 'Stinger' device was deployed to stop vehicles safely.

Footage of the operation was shown on national television, giving the community an insight into the department's efforts to fight car crime.

### *The 'Lady Grey'*

The police launch 'Lady Grey', a 30' Fairey Spearfish cruiser, provides a high profile police presence on Lough Erne. The boat can accommodate up to 15 survivors and carries the latest police patrol equipment.

As there is no official rescue service operating on Lough Erne, we have a responsibility to respond to any emergency on the waterway, although in some cases other agencies may be better placed to undertake a primary role. We can however provide the



REPORT *of the*  
CHIEF CONSTABLE



essential communications link from 'Lady Grey', and co-ordinate the operation.

We also provide a police service to the community who use the lakes for their livelihood, their home, their transport, and their leisure. Covering an area of more than 55 square miles, with over 100 miles of shoreline and some 150 islands, there are approximately 3,500 privately owned craft on Lough Erne. Nine local companies operate 150 cruisers, which have access to the Erne-Shannon system as have 2,300 vessels from the Irish Republic. This is a busy waterway, with all the normal problems and responsibilities of any community. Crime prevention and detection, investigations, advice and assistance, are all part and parcel of a routine police boat patrol.

### *Underwater Search Unit*

Working in partnership with civilian organisations, the Underwater Search Unit provides expert emergency services to the community.

The unit was originally set up to help with the investigation of crime and continues to provide expertise in the recovery of evidence and scene preservation in the underwater environment.

The team consists of one sergeant and eight constables, most of whom operate on a part-time basis. They are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with operational responsibility for the entire Province. When not acting as part of the Underwater Search Unit these officers perform normal policing duties.



The team members are highly trained and all hold a commercial diver certificate, permitting them to operate on compressed air at a particular depth and to use 'surface demand diving equipment'. Police officers who apply to join the team undergo assessments involving swimming, lifesaving, aptitude and medical tests. Successful applicants are then subject to a one-year probation period.

Further training in boat handling, seamanship, equipment maintenance and the recognition of hyperbaric illnesses (decompression illness) is also undertaken and team members are expected to maintain a high standard of physical fitness.

To comply with legislation a designated diving contractor (a senior police officer) must sanction all underwater search unit activity.

The unit's work takes many forms including:

- Search for bodies whether the victim of crime, accident or suicide
- Search for property, or the proceeds of crime
- Search for articles/weapons used in the execution of crimes
- Search for illegal drugs being imported by shipping

- Entering confined spaces in which a potentially toxic, noxious or explosive atmosphere exists e.g. sewers, grain silos and even land fill pits filled with dead and rotting animal carcasses
- Special security operations – for example prior to the visit of President Clinton, the unit placed over 4,000 security seals in sewers and confined spaces

Underwater Search Unit members consider themselves to be underwater scenes of crime officers.

During the year the unit was involved in 59 separate diving operations which resulted in the recovery of 7 bodies and evidential material.

The team also took part in 11 community events.



**REPORT of the  
CHIEF CONSTABLE**



government's road casualty reduction target for Northern Ireland, set in 1989. This aims to reduce by one-third, the number of people killed or seriously injured, by the year 2000, and is included in our strategic plan as a priority task. To achieve the target and to provide an effective roads policing service we will continue to:

- Encourage community participation and initiate educational programmes designed to increase awareness of road safety
- Manage enforcement and use technical equipment more widely
- Develop practices which improve our service standards
- Foster new partnerships and develop existing ones
- Refine intelligence-led casualty reduction strategies

Traffic crime strategies and initiatives are supported by the secondment of traffic officers to CID, Drugs Squad and the Stolen Vehicle Squad, contributing to the achievement of wider Force goals.

### *Charter Mark*

RUC Traffic Branch currently holds the charter mark for quality of service to the public. This will expire in September 1999. We plan to resubmit our application.

### *Ongoing Initiatives Operation Roadsafe*

This major road safety initiative aimed at reducing fatal and serious casualties concentrates on:

- Speeding
- Dangerous/Careless driving
- Young drivers
- Drinking and driving
- Pedestrians
- Child safety
- Wearing of seat belts

Each sub-division has an operation roadsafe liaison officer, a uniformed inspector, whose role is to ensure the effective co-ordination of sub-divisional 'roadsafe' initiatives.

Throughout the year, publicity campaigns undertaken in partnership with the Department of the Environment, other agencies and the private sector, focused on the priority areas of Operation Roadsafe.

### *Others*

Officers attached to Traffic Branch have performed numerous joint operations with our colleagues in HM Customs and Excise, Health and Safety Inspectorate, Transport Licensing and Enforcement Branch of the DOE and the DHSS Fraud Branch. These include operations, such as Operation 'Mermaid', which are co-ordinated throughout the UK and occasionally involve other European forces.

The Rallentare Challenge (Young Safe Driver of the Year Competition) endorsed by Formula 1 Grand Prix driver, Eddie Irvine, and supported by Fiat Auto (UK) Ltd, Ferrari and Cool FM, ended on 30th May 1998. More than 600 drivers, aged between 17 and 25 years, underwent skill tests, including Highway Code, manoeuvrability, on-road driving and

REPORT *of the*  
CHIEF CONSTABLE



## *Traffic Branch - Policing the Roads*

*"To provide a roads policing service embracing enforcement, education and engineering which is intelligence-led and aimed at enhancing public safety and tackling vehicle dependent crime."*

### *The Traffic Plan*

In planning traffic policing we take into account a wide range of factors including strategic plans, road safety plans, intelligence-led initiatives and partnerships with other agencies. The Traffic Policy Branch is responsible for developing, co-ordinating and reviewing Traffic Policing policy. We are committed to meeting the

anti-skid testing. The winner received a Fiat Cinquecento car and a trophy sculptured from a part of Eddie Irvine's Formula 1 racing car.

Child safety was highlighted in the 'No More Tears' poster campaign generously supported by Johnson and Johnson Ltd.

The message that wearing seatbelts significantly reduces the likelihood of death or serious injury was the subject of a successful campaign supported by the Department of the Environment and Sun Newspaper. Some 170,000 advisory leaflets were distributed in editions of the Sun Newspaper and provided to the public by police patrols and traffic branch accident prevention officers. The road safety message was also promoted through road safety demonstrations and lectures to schools, youth groups and organisations associated with older persons.

Speeding and careless/dangerous driving were also addressed through a series of high profile radio advertising campaigns, distribution of road safety literature and by the Department of the Environment's television advertising.

The success of the publicity plan means that its further development will be an objective for the year 1999/2000.

Research indicates that a high percentage of collisions occur as a consequence of young drivers travelling at speed, particularly between the hours of 9.00pm and 5.00am. During March 1999 the Force once again

embarked upon a high profile radio advertising campaign, broadcast during the evening and weekends. This highlighted our commitment to educating road users and the consequences if they failed to heed advice.

### *Anti Drink-Driving Campaign*

Combating drink-driving is one of our main priorities and although highlighted during the summer and Christmas periods, remains important throughout the year. Through a combination of education and enforcement, we are committed to reducing the number of alcohol related road deaths. Police activity is supported by television and cinema advertising during the summer and Christmas periods, funded by the Department of the Environment. This is a major feature of the anti drink-drive campaign accounting for some 25% of the total road safety advertising budget. This year, in association with the Department of the Environment, Health Promotion Agency, Road Safety Council and the drinks industry, we again embarked upon a high profile Christmas anti drink-drive campaign launched by the Minister for the Environment Lord Dubs and Assistant Chief Constable Stewart. This was followed by a road-show that visited major shopping centres Province-wide to offer advice and education about the consequences of drinking and driving. During the Christmas initiative 437 drivers were found to be over the legal alcohol limit. This represented an increase of 109 over the previous year.

### *Fixed Penalty Point System*

The Road Traffic Offenders (NI) Order 1996 introduced a system of fixed penalty notices and penalty points for driving offences. Essentially the system has three tiers:

- Non-Endorsable Fixed Penalty Notices
- Endorsable Fixed Penalty Notices
- Conditional Offer Scheme

#### **Non-Endorsable Fixed Penalty Notices**

In the case of non-endorable fixed penalty notices the fine is £20 with no endorsement of the offender's driving licence. Non-endorable notices are issued for offences such as failure to wear a seat belt.

#### **Endorsable Fixed Penalty Notices**

An endorsable fixed penalty notice attracts a £40 fine and three penalty points. A police officer will only issue such a notice if the motorist is willing to surrender their driving licence for endorsement. (The driving licence may be handed to police at the time of detection or within seven days at a police station). Otherwise the offences will be reported with a view to prosecution at court. If a person accrues 12 penalty points within three years he or she will be disqualified from driving for a minimum of six months. Such disqualification can only be applied by a Resident Magistrate at court.

#### **Conditional Offer Scheme**

The 1996 Order allows offences to be investigated after their detection. So, when a speed camera detects a motorist speeding, a 'Notice of Intended Prosecution' will be forwarded to the owner of the vehicle, requiring them to identify the driver at the time of the offence. It is an offence for the owner not to provide this information.

The driver may then be sent a 'conditional offer', giving information of how the penalty can be discharged.

In each of these cases the recipient of the notice has 21 days in which to discharge the appropriate penalty or choose to go to court. If the penalty has not been discharged within that time the fine is increased by 50% and registered with the local clerk of petty sessions.

These procedures are supported and managed by a computer system that also encompasses the production of driving document procedures.

### *Road Traffic Accident Statistics Casualties*

During 1998/99 a total of 13,294 people were killed or injured on Northern Ireland's roads. This represents an increase of 5.7% on 1997/98 (12,581) (Table 1, Appendix 3).



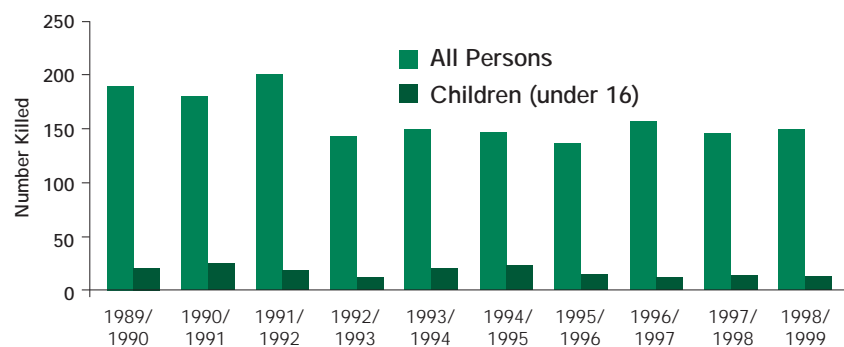
**REPORT of the  
CHIEF CONSTABLE**



The increase in total casualties during 1998/99 was largely accounted for by a substantial rise in the number of slight injuries. The number of persons slightly injured rose by 7.1%, from 10,912 in 1997/98 to 11,682. Over the period there was a fall of 4.2% in the number of people who received serious injuries, from 1,526 to 1,462. The number of people killed as a result of road traffic accidents increased, from 143 to 150.

Fifteen children were killed during the year, one less than in 1997/98. Of the children killed, 10 were pedestrians, 4 were passengers and 1 was a pedal cyclist. (Table 4, Appendix 3). The equivalent figures for 1997/98 were 8 pedestrians, 3 passengers and 5 pedal cyclists. In addition to the fifteen deaths, 218 children were seriously injured, a decrease of 12.1% on the 1997/98 figure (248). A further 1,641 children were slightly injured, up 10.3% from 1997/98 (1,488).

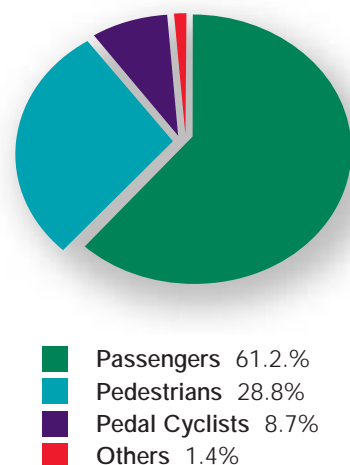
Persons Killed in Road Traffic Accidents 1989/90 - 1998/99



Of the deaths in 1998/99, 53 were drivers, 2 more than in 1997/98 and 42 were passengers, 8 more than in the previous year. There were also more pedestrians killed during 1998/99 - a total of 40 deaths compared with 32 in 1997/98. However there was a decline in the number of deaths among both motor cyclists (down from 16 to 9) and pedal cyclists (down from 7 to 5). No pillion passengers were killed during 1998/99. Two pillion passengers died in 1997/98. As in 1997/98, one driver of an 'other vehicle' (a tractor) was also killed (Table 2, Appendix 3).

The number of children (under 16) killed and injured in road accidents rose from 1,752 in 1997/98 to 1,874 in 1998/99, an increase of 7.0% (Table 3, Appendix 3).

Child Casualties (under 16) by Type of Road User 1998/99



Over the last decade, there has been a downward trend in the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads (Table 1, Appendix 3). Comparing 1989/90 and 1998/99, the number of people killed has fallen by almost a fifth (19.8%), from 187 to 150 and the number of those seriously injured has fallen by 28.2% (from 2,036 to 1,462). However, in marked contrast, the number with slight injuries has risen by 23.2% (from 9,481 to 11,682) over the same period.

### Road Traffic Injury Accidents

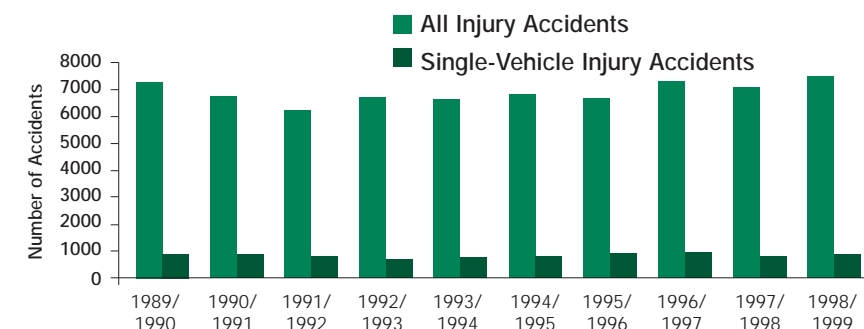
The number of road traffic injury accidents increased from 7,081 in 1997/98 to 7,460 in 1998/99, a rise of 5.4% (Table 1, Appendix 3). Nearly a fifth of accidents in 1998/99 (19.7%, 1,472) involved children (Table 3, Appendix 3).

Overall, the most common cause of road traffic injury accidents in 1998/99 was 'inattention' (1,607 accidents) followed by 'excessive speed having regard to the conditions' (1,042 accidents - see Table 5, Appendix 3). During 1998/99, more than three-quarters of accidents were mainly attributable to driver behaviour and a large proportion of these accidents were the result of carelessness on the part of the driver(s) involved. 'Inattention', 'emerging from a minor road/driveway without care' and other factors associated with driver carelessness were the principal cause of almost three-fifths (57.9%, 4,319) of injury accidents during 1998/99. The majority of accidents involving child casualties during the year were also caused by the behaviour of drivers (Table 6, Appendix 3).

In recent years the main causes of road traffic accident fatalities have consistently been 'excessive speed' and 'alcohol or drugs'. During 1998/99, 41 (27.3%) of the 150 deaths occurred in accidents in which the principal factor was excessive speed. A further 37 deaths (24.7% of the total) occurred in accidents in which the principal factor was alcohol or drug consumption by drivers/riders, passengers or pedestrians.

A substantial proportion of the injury accidents that occur in Northern Ireland involve single vehicles with no other vehicle or pedestrian involved. During 1998/99, there were 806 accidents of this kind, which resulted in 35 deaths. Single vehicle accidents represented just over a tenth (10.8%) of all injury accidents in 1998/99 but accounted for more than a fifth (23.3%) of all road user deaths. During 1997/98, there were 767 single vehicle accidents and 43 people killed. Excessive speed and driver/rider alcohol or drugs were the main causes of single vehicle accidents during 1997/98 and 1998/99.

Road Traffic Injury Accidents 1989/90 - 1998/99



During the 1990's the number of accidents has tended to fluctuate annually. The total for the 1998/99 financial year was 3.1% higher than in 1989/90 (7,237).

### The Year 2000 Target

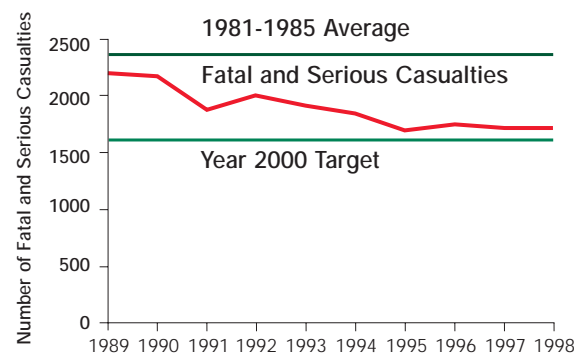
In 1989 the Government set a target to reduce the total number of people killed and seriously injured on Northern Ireland's roads by one third by the end of the year 2000. This target was based on the average number of fatal and serious casualties recorded in the years 1981-1985. The average over this five year period was 2,362; therefore the



REPORT of the CHIEF CONSTABLE

target for the year 2000 was set at 1,575. The RUC, in partnership with the Department of the Environment and other agencies, is committed to achieving this target.

**Progress Towards the Year 2000 Casualty Reduction Target**



In order to maintain progress towards the Year 2000 target, the number of fatal and serious casualties in Northern Ireland as a whole during the 1998/99 financial year should not have exceeded 1,674. During 1998/99 deaths and serious injuries due to road traffic accidents in fact totalled 1,612. Northern Ireland therefore remains on course to achieve the Year 2000 target.

**Detections**

As part of our commitment to enforcement, traffic branch and sub-divisional detections resulted in:

- 29,426 prosecution recommendations
- 186,197 advice warnings
- 119,290 fixed penalty notices issued

In addition there was a strong commitment to our obligation under European law to carry out tachograph

inspections. A total of 16,888 road-side inspections were carried out and 247 operator premises were inspected throughout the year. Urban Region Traffic Branch has established a commercial vehicle unit which contributes to the commercial aspects of traffic policing.

**New Approaches**

**Speed Cameras**

We are now using more speed cameras to encourage drivers and riders to heed their speed. It is hoped that the result will be a reduction in the carnage on our roads. The cameras are portable, enabling us to use them on roads and at junctions where data analysis indicates a high incidence of speed-related incidents.

Offences detected by speed camera can be dealt with by the conditional offer scheme, or by prosecution.

**Introduction of New Technology**

We continue to use and develop new technology to help us make best use of our resources and operate in the most effective way to achieve road safety casualty reduction. Officers use a wide variety of equipment for speed detection, including laser-operated mobile cameras, hand held radars and the latest 8mm in-car camera system. These significantly increase our ability to detect speeding and careless or dangerous driving, and to enforce speed-related legislation.

During the year we purchased 30 state-of-the-art evidential breath testing



devices at a cost of almost £500,000. The machines are station based and use infra-red technology to analyse the deep lung air of a motorist, which is the most accurate measure of the amount of alcohol consumed.

For the first time a printout of the breath test procedure will be available, a copy of which will be given to the driver.

The new equipment, together with new software which controls the procedural aspects of offender testing, will create a more streamlined process. This will reduce retention periods for prisoners and allow faster re-deployment of personnel.

**Marked Police Cars**

Driver behaviour and accident trends can be influenced by the presence of police patrols. During the year, we increased the number of liveried vehicles, which enhanced our visibility, helped to increase public confidence and provide reassurance.

**Other Duties**

**Motorcycle Escort Team**

Our Motorcycle Escort Team ensures that VIP visitors to the Province enjoy a speedy and safe passage through our roads network. These high visibility teams have the benefit of being more cost-effective than the traditional method of having constables deployed on static points.

**Motorway Policing**

All motorways are patrolled on a 24-hour basis by traffic officers, who are suitably equipped and trained. They adhere to the principles of effective motorway policing contained in the standard national motorway manual.



REPORT of the CHIEF CONSTABLE



### *Abnormal Loads*

We are committed to the safe movement of abnormal loads in the Province. Using rolling road closures, where required, traffic officers ensure escorted loads reach their destination safely, and with the minimum disruption to the road user.

During the past twelve months 223 abnormal loads were escorted by police.

"Big Norman" a 206 tonne, 177 feet long, 20 feet wide and 23 feet high barge was transported, by road, from Londonderry to Lough Neagh in October 1998, on the final stage of its journey from the Netherlands. We escorted the load for the 35 miles and 12 hours it took to complete its journey. There were thousands of spectators along the route to see one of the largest loads ever moved in Northern Ireland.

### *Traffic Management*

Traffic management continued to play an important role ensuring the free flow of traffic and the overall convenience and safety of road users. Throughout the year traffic management officers had regular meetings with representatives of the Department of the Environment Roads Service, other statutory bodies and organisations to discuss the implementation of road safety measures.



## *Working for and with the Community*



*"Community policing has to be the golden thread that runs through absolutely every aspect of activity that we are engaged in." Sir Ronnie Flanagan, Chief Constable.*

### *Community Policing*

The RUC aims to provide a high quality, effective police service to all the people of Northern Ireland. To achieve this we need to work in partnership with the community, and with other agencies. We are currently engaged in a number of successful community partnerships throughout Northern Ireland and in a wide



range of multi-agency and community initiatives and programmes.

These provide a solid foundation for our 'Policing in Partnership' strategy which aims to progress community policing.

### *Establishing Best Practice*

To help us adopt an integrated approach to community policing, the Community Policing Project Team was established in November 1997.

The team carried out extensive research within the RUC, and further afield, to establish best practice in community policing. The research showed that partnership, consultation and co-operation with the community are practised widely throughout Northern Ireland but also confirmed that a comprehensive strategy would refine and enhance the service provided to the public.

The research project acknowledged that a community policing strategy must reflect the demands of Northern Ireland society. As a result the team regularly consults community relations specialists who bring community perspectives to the work.

Dialogue has also taken place between a group of police officers, representative of the diversity within the RUC, and community representatives who reflect all shades of opinion.

This research informs the policing in partnership strategy, which is being

piloted in selected sub-divisions, supported by the project team and Community Affairs Headquarters.

The community-oriented approach is part of all the Force's strategies including training, recruitment, personnel, crime and traffic. Through partnership we aim to involve all the stakeholders in the community, and to play an integral role in identifying local concerns and addressing them using problem solving methods.

### *Community Affairs Branch*

Our Community Affairs Branch aims to improve relations with the whole community through consultation and co-operation with a wide variety of agencies, community groups, community representatives and charitable organisations.

We take a multi-agency approach to our projects, drawing on the experience and support of the many people already working in the community. Projects are focused around three central themes: community involvement, community safety, and diverting young people away from criminal activities.

Community affairs teams in each sub-division are supported by a headquarters team based at Lisnasharragh. They are responsible for developing policy and offering guidance on implementation issues, where necessary.

Fundamental to our consultation efforts is the developing network of community

and police liaison committees (CPLCs), promoted by Community Affairs Branch and the Police Authority for Northern Ireland. The role of these committees is to give communities the chance to consult with their respective police commander on local issues and work towards a partnership approach to problem solving.

There are presently 112 CPLCs, including those based on the local councils, those involving community representatives and key stakeholders in the communities, and forums involving a more localised representation.

This year has seen the inaugural meeting of the Ethnic Minority CPLC and new issue focused forums are being developed for other hard to reach groups, namely young people and the travelling community.

### *Human Rights and Policing*

The protection of Human Rights is at the very core of policing and is a fundamental responsibility of any policing service.

In December 1998 Community Affairs organised a conference hosted by the Chief Constable entitled 'Human Rights and Policing'.

This was organised to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to demonstrate the Royal Ulster Constabulary's commitment to safeguarding the human rights of all members of the community. The conference was not aimed

exclusively at police officers but facilitated dialogue between the police and members of the public.

The audience of some two hundred included many of the Force's most senior officers and representatives from community groups, the clergy, the legal profession and organisations working in the field of human rights.

The Chief Constable addressed the conference and later participated in a question and answer session. Other speakers included an international expert on human rights and policing and prominent local civil libertarians.

### *Working with Young People*

#### *Young People*

Consulting young people in society continues to be a priority for us. During the year we participated in 101 seminars involving fifth and sixth form pupils. This gave us the opportunity to talk to young people from all cultures and traditions.

Some 11,746 young people participated in the Ramble Scheme, which brings together young people with their peers from different cultures or traditions as well as police officers, in a different environment from their day to day routine. Forty-five scholarships were awarded to UK outward bound centres for those who successfully completed the Stage IV Ramble. Scholarships are jointly funded by local councils and the RUC and are designed



REPORT of the  
CHIEF CONSTABLE

to test the courage, skills and abilities of the participants in a series of arduous physical challenges.

We are indebted to all participants, schools, youth clubs and the local councils for their support of the scheme over the last 25 years.

Community Affairs Branch supports and encourages a wide variety of cross-community activities, including a five-a-side football tournament, traditional camping trips and various other outdoor pursuits. The branch assists many local community initiatives by providing practical assistance, sponsorship or advice and guidance.

### Juvenile Crime

The Juvenile Liaison Scheme plays a key role in the work of Community

Affairs Branch regarding juvenile crime. The scheme aims to deter juvenile offenders from delinquent and/or criminal behaviour and, where possible, prevent them from appearing in court.

Specially trained juvenile liaison officers in each sub-division manage the scheme and form part of the Juvenile Liaison Bureau comprising police, education, welfare, social services and probation services. These agencies work together to ensure that the most appropriate course of action is taken for each young offender.

Juvenile liaison officers throughout the Province received a total of 10,988 referrals. The table below gives details of the outcome of those referrals:

Action taken	Number of juveniles
Advice and warning	5,826
Official caution	1,327
Prosecution	714
No further police action	1,747
Case pending	1,374

### Restorative Justice

Recognising that crime affects not just the victim, but also the offender and the community, we are moving away from the traditional approach of retributive justice to the philosophy of restorative justice.

This encourages the offender to take responsibility for his/her actions and gives both the victim and those directly affected in the community the opportunity to play an active role in this

process. The process tries to address the needs of all those affected by the offence and to point offenders in new directions to prevent re-offending.

Our Community Affairs Branch continues to carry out considerable research in this area and a number of police officers are trained as facilitators for the process. More officers and members from the other statutory agencies involved in the juvenile bureau will be trained before the

implementation of pilot projects in Belfast and Ballymena.

We fully support community-based schemes which seek to divert young people from crime and which address the needs of the victim. However, these schemes must operate within clear parameters and with safeguards. To achieve this we have been working with other agencies and the Northern Ireland Office in formulating workable protocols for such schemes.

### Youthstart

To date 37 young people have benefited from three unique and groundbreaking ten-week courses funded by the Youthstart initiative. Officially launched on 8th May 1998, Youthstart is a project jointly funded by the European Social Fund and the RUC. It is a STEP programme (Special Training in Employment Prospects) involving many organisations including Belfast Institute of Further and Higher Education, Careers Service, EXTERN, FT International, Probation Board for Northern Ireland, Belfast city YMCA and the Belfast Education and Library Board.

Following this course, which covers community awareness, challenging offending behaviour, voluntary community work, drugs awareness and



outdoor activities, a number of trainees found jobs or places in further education/training.

The project is co-ordinated by Community Affairs Branch Headquarters. A trans-national partnership also exists involving Sweden, the Netherlands and Italy providing the opportunity for information exchange and mutual support.

### Open Days

Young people from schools and youth organisations were welcomed at police stations throughout the Province during the year. Open days gave them the opportunity of gaining an understanding of policing, its diverse functions and its role in society.

Open days include visits to custody suites, interview rooms, a CID office, and close examination of police equipment including vehicles. Most importantly, the young people had the opportunity to talk to individual officers about their roles and experiences.

Open days at police stations and establishments may be arranged locally through the Community Affairs Team.

### Police Educational Programme

Our Police Educational Programme is designed for children in the Key Stage 2 age range and concentrates on road and cycle safety, safety at play, bullying, 'stranger danger', drugs education and crime prevention.



## REPORT of the CHIEF CONSTABLE

The programme is delivered by our specially trained juvenile and schools liaison officers and is being developed in consultation with the Department of Education, Education and Library Boards, the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, and the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education.

Branch headquarters employs a qualified teacher who provides advice and guidance to community affairs teams in addition to lesson plans and workshops.

At present some 912 schools across the Province are involved in the programme.

The 'Adult Free Zone' which is part of the RUC web site at <http://www.ruc.police.uk> focuses on child safety and crime prevention. It has been a great success, attracting approximately 337,877 'hits'.



The Community Affairs Branch has also been involved in developing the 'Global Rock Challenge', a performing arts competition directing children away from drugs and promoting crime prevention. Approximately 700 pupils from nine schools took part in the event which was held in the Waterfront Hall,

Belfast. The winners, Ashfield Girls' High School, represented Northern Ireland at the southern area final in Portsmouth, finishing third overall.

## *Working with Vulnerable Groups*

### *Domestic Violence*

Our domestic violence policy is a positive one, geared towards the arrest and prosecution of offenders. Our response to domestic incidents is based on four main policy objectives:

- **Protection** - to protect victims from further physical violence and ensure they are not at continuing risk
- **Enforcement** - to take firm, positive and prompt action against the assailant and to thoroughly and quickly investigate any offences which have been committed
- **Support** - to provide information and facilitate victims in making informed choices and to assist them in their involvement with the Criminal Justice System
- **Awareness** - to provide information and training to police officers about the causes and effects of domestic violence. To work with outside agencies and the media to highlight the police response to domestic violence and encourage co-operation

By means of a multi-agency approach, we are continuing to make strenuous efforts to increase awareness of domestic violence in Northern Ireland.

In 1997, in a Force-wide pilot scheme, specially trained domestic violence officers were appointed in each sub-division. This pilot scheme has now been reviewed and evaluated and we are working to implement the recommendations of the report. It is clear that the role of domestic violence officers will be pivotal in our future domestic violence strategy.

There were 14,889 domestic incidents referred to police as compared to 10,367 in 1997/98. The number of reported domestic incidents involving the use of physical violence in 1998/99 was 6,761 compared with 4,392 in 1997/98. This increase in reported incidents, whilst disturbing, in itself, also reflects an increased confidence in the relationships between victims and police.

### *Racial Incidents and Ethnic Minorities*

The Association of Chief Police Officers, in agreement with the Commission for Racial Equality, defines a racial incident as:

**"Any incident which, it appears to the reporting or investigating officer, involves an element of racial motivation or any incident which includes an allegation of racial motivation, made by any person."**

We continue to promote awareness of this definition and to ensure that all complaints of racial incidents are dealt with professionally and sensitively, placing an emphasis on the needs of victims.

Ethnic minority liaison officers have been appointed in all sub-divisions. They are responsible for overseeing the investigation of racial incidents, forming contacts and enhancing relationships between the police and ethnic minority communities.

In 1998/99, 90 racial incidents were reported to the police, an increase from the previous year. We are addressing these matters very seriously and regard the increase in reported incidents as a positive indication of growing confidence in our response.

A new training package has been developed for our ethnic minority liaison officers, placing particular emphasis on the need for sensitive responses to incidents, cultural awareness and a specific anti-racist input.

Race relations training is important for all RUC officers. Training courses are developed and delivered in partnership with organisations representing the interests of ethnic minority groups in Northern Ireland.

Community Affairs Branch is actively involved with a number of these organisations and is developing initiatives on crime prevention, community safety, trust and confidence building.

To address the needs and priorities of ethnic minorities in respect of policing, a community police liaison committee has been set up in association with the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities and the Police Authority for Northern Ireland. This forum will



**REPORT of the  
CHIEF CONSTABLE**



facilitate the exchange of views between ethnic community representatives and the police, and encourage the involvement of all ethnic communities in the wider crime prevention liaison committee network.

### *Community Safety*

We are committed to making the community safer for all the people of Northern Ireland. Working with other agencies such as the Community Safety Centre and the RUC Crime Prevention Unit we deliver public presentations, informal workshops and personal home visits. Multi-agency community education programmes for primary school pupils such as 'Streetwise', 'Streetsmart', 'Safety Trials 999', and 'Careful Kids' are all programmes that can be tailored to meet local needs. The aim is to instil in children a healthy respect for potential dangers and to encourage the development and practice of basic safety skills, ways of finding help, responsibility for personal safety and the safety of others. This fosters the spirit of good citizenship and contributes to crime prevention.



## *Working with the Public*

### *Crimestoppers*

The Crimestoppers initiative provides an opportunity for members of the public to speak anonymously to a police officer using a free phone service.

Five Crimestoppers lines, using the free-phone number **0800 555111**, are answered by experienced police officers at RUC Headquarters. A caller who gives information leading to the arrest and charge of a suspect is entitled to claim a financial reward. The scheme is supported, marketed and developed by a management board of local businessmen. The police however, are responsible for answering and actioning calls received.

There were 32,738 calls made to Crimestoppers in 1998/99. Of these, 1,107 were relayed from RUC Headquarters to the relevant sub-divisional commander for action. As a result of these calls 62 persons were arrested, 54 persons were charged or reported for various offences, drugs to the value of £1,961 were recovered and property valued at £76,948 recovered.

### *Lay Visitor Scheme*

Lay visitors are members of the public who carry out random visits to designated police stations to observe, comment and report upon the conditions under which persons are detained.

A designated station is one that is appointed as suitable for the detention of persons under the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Order and its associated codes of practice. Statistics referring to search and detention are at Tables 4 and 5, Appendix 1.

The Lay Visiting Scheme, set up in 1991, consists of five lay visitor panels. Those appointed to these panels cover all of the 22 designated PACE stations in Northern Ireland.

During the year the lay visitors made 723 visits to designated stations and spoke with some 228 detained persons.

In November 1998, The National Association of Lay Visitors Conference was held in Belfast. Over 200 lay visitors from all over England, Wales and Northern Ireland attended. The theme of the conference was 'Health and Safety' and it provided a very real opportunity for sharing of information and best practice, which contributed to ensuring that prisoners are detained in a manner assuring their well-being.

## *A Wider Involvement*

### *History on display – the RUC Museum*

The RUC museum welcomed more visitors than ever, reflecting an increasing interest in the history of policing in the Province. Visitors came from all parts of Northern Ireland and from as far away as New Zealand and the Czech Republic.

The museum was also successful in



reaching out to new audiences in schools, youth clubs, churches and community centres. One particularly successful initiative involved taking a collection of artefacts to primary schools, to show how policing has changed over the last century.

Interest in the 'virtual museum' on the RUC internet site also continued to grow, with enquiries being received from users world-wide.

The museum continues to work closely with the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum at Cultra with which we completed a working exhibition on police communications. Police Authority for NI workshops painstakingly restored a unique Lancia 'Cage Car' which dates from 1916 and was in RIC and RUC use until 1964.

Visits to the RUC Museum may be arranged with the curator by telephoning Belfast (01232) 650222, extension 22499, between 9.30 am and 4.30 pm on week-days.

REPORT of the  
CHIEF CONSTABLE



### *RUC Band*

The RUC Band continues to play a significant role in our efforts to enhance relations with all sections of the community. The band performed over 160 concerts during the year ranging from school concerts throughout the Province, to official state occasions such as royal garden parties and investitures at Hillsborough Castle.

A number of very special engagements were undertaken during this year:

- With the help of the Royal Air Force and as part of a fun day on Rathlin Island, the band performed a marching concert, and played ashore holiday-makers arriving by boat from the mainland
- For the first time in the history of the RUC, the band was invited to perform at the 'Auld Lammas Fair' in Ballycastle. The performance was very well received

- The band was delighted to assist in the events organised around the Transplant Games. This was the first time the games had been held in Northern Ireland and it coincided with their 21st anniversary
- In December at Belfast's Waterfront Hall, the band participated in a gala concert organised by the Irish Peace Institute. We performed with our colleagues in the Band of An Garda Síochána and the Warrington Male Voice Choir, in what was a very well supported concert

Other engagements included cross-community concerts as well as the provision of a small ensemble for numerous official receptions and banquets.

### *RUC Pipe Band*

During the year the RUC Pipe Band took part in 14 competitions throughout Scotland and Northern Ireland, winning a total of 29 prizes. These included three sixth places in the Scottish, British and European Pipe Band



Championships. The band's drum corps took first place in the World Pipe Band Championships qualifying heat in Glasgow while in Northern Ireland the band was 'Champion of Champions' in Grade 1, having won three first places and a number of second places over the competition season.

The band also took part in a number of charity fund-raising events and was in attendance at the RUC Sports Day, a passing-out parade, and by special request, at the closing ceremony of the British Transplant Games. The band also made its annual appearance at the Ulster Hall concerts in February 1999.

The band is made up of volunteers who meet twice weekly to rehearse. New members are always welcome.

### *RUC Male Voice Choir*

The RUC Male Voice Choir celebrated its silver jubilee in style this year with a string of competition wins beginning with the male voice choir section of the Bangor Choral Festival. This was followed by record-breaking success at the Cheltenham Competitive Festival. There, we became the first male voice choir from Northern Ireland to win two male voice choir competitions and the 'Gold Cup' in the same year.

Since its formation in 1973 the choir has won 20 of the 28 competitions it has entered.

The choir has also raised thousands of pounds for charities through concert performances across Northern Ireland. Just before Christmas the choir was pleased to present a cheque for £1,000 towards the building of a Children's Hospice for Northern Ireland.



REPORT *of the*  
CHIEF CONSTABLE



**RUC Ladies Choir**

Our Ladies Choir has had another successful year winning first prize at the Coleraine Music Festival for 'Light Entertainment' and at the Croydon Music Festival for 'Ladies Voices'.

In January 1999 they released a new CD and tape, with 17 new songs. During the year the choir took part in 14 concerts and three church services across Northern Ireland, helping many charities and organisations to raise funds for various causes.

**Christian Police Association**

The Christian Police Association is an international organisation which has been in existence for over 100 years.



The Northern Ireland branch provides Christian help, support and fellowship to members of the RUC and for many years has made New Testaments available to students in training.

The association also provides a vital link between the police and the community through participation in church services and other activities such as women's meetings. In 1998, to strengthen these links, the Christian Police Association launched 'Adopt a Cop'. The scheme involves churches appointing co-ordinators to liaise with police officers so that the former can be aware of the stresses placed on police officers and their families, and thus be in a position to pray for and support them.

This project is open to all and provides a practical focus for forging links between police and the community.

**Sport**

Sport plays a key role in the life of the Force. It not only promotes physical and mental well-being, it also develops the motivation and "team spirit" of which we are so proud. In the wider sphere, our sportsmen and sportswomen continue to provide a valuable means of further enhancing the relationship between the police and all sections of the community.

The RUC Amateur Boxing Club has continued its successful association with our colleagues in An Garda Síochána. Early in the season the combined teams had resounding wins against the Royal Navy in Portsmouth and the New York Police Department in Belfast. Substantial funds were raised for charity in the process. In February we defeated An Garda Síochána in our annual contest. The New York Police Department got their revenge when the combined teams visited New York. It was, as always, an entertaining and sporting occasion.



Some two years ago the soccer management committee appointed a fully qualified European 'A' level coach. This, together with the introduction of some civilian players and the resurgence and commitment of



experienced RUC players, has strengthened the soccer squad. We reached the final of the prestigious Steel & Sons Cup, the quarter finals of the IFA Intermediate and Smirnoff cups and are at the time of writing second in the Irish League 'B' Division.

At the outset of the 1998/99 rugby season, with several players either retiring or transferring to other clubs, the rugby club's main priorities were team rebuilding and maintaining

qualifying league status. By early new-year we had recruited a number of new young players whose youth combined with the team's experience produced a side capable of beating any team in the league. By the end of March 1999 the 1st XV had achieved a respectable mid-table place and also reached the final of the McCrea Cup.

At the time of writing the club had also booked its place in the British Police Rugby Final. A total of 40 players represented the 1st XV, during the year, playing 17 league and cup games, winning 10 and losing 7, scoring 285 points for and 228 against. With several younger players on the scene the future of the club looks bright.



**REPORT of the CHIEF CONSTABLE**





Once again our hockey club retained the Police Athletic Association (PAA) Championship. In cricket we lifted three trophies winning the Midweek League, McCready Cup and Singh Challenge Trophy, which raised over £700 for charity.

The RUC Clay Pigeon Section rose to the top of the clay pigeon shooting tree and totally dominated the Skeet Competition in the finals of the PAA, winning gold and silver and another gold in the International High Gun Prize.

There were also many outstanding individual performances, with international honours in indoor bowls, clay pigeon and small-bore rifle competitions.

Off the field, the Athletic Association continued to expand its business and leisure activities with the appointment of a new leisure and fitness co-ordinator and the launch of our 'Life-Force' programme in association with our Physical Education Unit. A new coaching programme is also being developed aimed at our grass roots sport members.



## *Policing on the Ground*



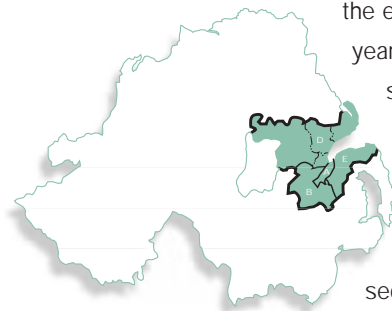
*The success of the RUC is dependent upon the hard work and skill of its personnel, who carry out day to day policing throughout Northern Ireland. We work with local communities dealing with a wide range of issues from the most horrific and tragic to the routine and general.*

The following pages give a flavour of some of the day to day activities undertaken in the regions.

## Urban Region

Urban Region received 63,408 calls to the emergency 999 number during the year. 98.7% were answered within 10 seconds. This exceeds the target set in the RUC Charter requiring the Force

"To answer 98% of all 999 telephone calls within 10 seconds of receiving them at the police switchboard."



## 'A' Division

The day-to-day policing of Belfast city centre is a major priority in 'A' Division and involves preserving a safe environment for all residents, visitors and businesses. Consequently, there are regular, ongoing and new initiatives addressing city centre crime, and such matters as public disorder and the contravention of bye-laws.



The use of CCTV, in Musgrave Street and Donegall Pass Sub-Divisions, has proven so effective in reducing city centre crime and disorder that additional cameras were installed in May 1998 to cover the fast developing Laganside projects. These 'tilt and zoom' cameras are located throughout Belfast city centre. The CCTV system assisted, or was directly responsible for, the detection of incidents such as

disorderly behaviour, assaults and criminal damage. The system may now be extended into the east of the city. The introduction of a new Police Post set up over the Christmas period in the Castle Court shopping complex delighted city centre business people. The new post was our response to their request for more accessible policing. Shoppers also benefitted by using the post to report crime, to obtain information about crime prevention, and to browse through pages on the RUC internet site. Neighbourhood officers were on hand throughout the period to deal directly with every-day policing issues.

A further initiative to combat crime in Belfast city centre brought an alliance between the RUC, Belfast City Council and the Department of Health and Social Services in partnership with city retailers. They joined forces to form 'Retailers Against Crime.' Almost 60 stores are participating in the initiative which involves examining various anti-crime measures.

In recent years Belfast has seen a marked increase in the number of street traders. This creates a variety of problems such as obstruction and contravention of bye-laws. Police have responded by mounting various operations, but the relevant 1929 legislation has proven restrictive in dealing with the problem. Alongside three other agencies, however, we sought changes to the law, with the result that new legislation has been drafted and should be brought before Parliament in the near future.

Breaches of the alcohol-free bye-laws often result in public disorder. But through an education and enforcement programme in consultation with licensees the amount of alcohol brought from licensed premises into city centre alcohol-free zones has been reduced. In addition 400 persons were cautioned with this offence during the year and 120 were reported to Belfast City Council for prosecution.

During the year community policing in Belfast in general received a major boost after a Musgrave Street Sub-Division sergeant won a top community policing award. Sergeant Stevie Jones, from the Markets Neighbourhood Unit, was presented with the coveted prize of Community Police Officer of the Year in January 1999 by the Rt Honourable Jack Straw, Home Secretary. Sergeant Jones won the award for his outstanding leadership of the community policing unit responsible for the Markets area of Belfast. Through commitment and dedication the unit has succeeded in maintaining an effective police service, responding to the needs of the local community.

In Mountpottinger Sub-Division a Pilot Juvenile Liaison Bureau for south and east Belfast was established in partnership with the Probation Service and education, health, social services and youth representatives. The aim of the bureau is to promote a multi-agency approach to the reduction of juvenile crime.

Elswhere in 'A' Division, Donegall Pass Sub-Division moved to tackle high-spirited antics, disruptive parties

and general minor public disorder created by some students in south Belfast. The area houses a large number of students attending Queen's University, the University of Ulster and other education centres. The resident community has seen some normality and quality of life return after police set up a scheme in partnership with the two universities and Belfast Institute of Further Education. Students who come to police attention because of anti-social behaviour are reported to the relevant education centre, (criminal matters are reported only after court proceedings terminate). Disciplinary committees of the respective institutions decide what action should be taken against the offending students.

More than £41,000 was raised for The Malcolm Sargent Children's Cancer Fund. Most of the money went to buy a much needed people carrier especially equipped to meet the needs of the cancer fund.



Dunmurry Sub-Division in partnership with Belfast City Council Parks Department and Lagan Valley Regional Parks introduced 'Lagan Watch' during the year. This is an initiative aimed at protecting people who use Lagan Valley Regional Park. A co-ordinated approach

REPORT of the  
CHIEF CONSTABLE





involving the public, parks officials and police should lead to a safer environment for everyone. Leaflets encouraging the public to report

suspicious activity and crime, and outlining crime prevention measures, are regularly distributed to park patrons.



### *'B' Division*

The reduced terrorist threat has allowed sub-divisions in 'B' Division to concentrate resources on establishing stronger links with the community. This is particularly true of Grosvenor Road and Woodbourne Sub-Divisions in west Belfast, which are developing a more community responsive policing strategy within the area. Community audits have been carried out to establish what the community needs from the police. The results show that there is a desire to see greater numbers of officers 'on the beat'. Some changes are visible such as the use of liveried vehicles to patrol the area and the establishment of a mid-Springfield community forum, now registered with the Police Authority. Neighbourhood policing units have also been established in Grosvenor Road Sub-Division. These measures are already benefiting both the community and the Force.

The community around Lisburn will also benefit through a sub-divisional initiative which has established a committee within Lisburn Development Association. It consists of representatives from the retail sector, Lisburn Borough Council and the sub-divisional commander and has been established to address retail crime and town centre issues. Various initiatives such as town centre CCTV, the use of exclusion orders and other crime preventative measures are being examined and evaluated. One conclusion reached is that the 'radio link' dedicated town centre radio system has been the most successful venture to date. Around 30 stores now operate this system and pass and receive details of suspicious persons and known criminals.

The sub-divisional commanders continue to work at strengthening links with the community and have shown that the police can be responsive to

local community needs even in an area where hostility from some factions continues to exist.

### *'D' Division*

Over the past year in North Queen Street Sub-Division there were a number of paramilitary-style shootings and throughout July 1998 there was significant public disorder. Officers were attacked, with shots being fired and blast bombs thrown. However, in comparison with 1997/98 there was a substantial reduction in public disorder.

The area surrounding North Queen Street Sub-Division is home to groups of people belonging to various ethnic minorities. So while North Queen Street police have been actively involved in a series of community projects which cater for the older person, adults and youth, one of our priorities is to work closely with groups such as the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities, the Islamic Welfare Association and The Travellers Association. Representatives from the sub-division have met with the Chinese Welfare Association to identify a key person to help us liaise with the local Chinese community. Our objective is to make this community and other minority communities aware of what we can provide for them, and discuss crime prevention, racial incidents and the role of the RUC Ethnic Minority Liaison Officer.

North Queen Street Sub-Division policed 52 parades over the year, including the 'Tour of the North', which passed without major incident. Officers also took part in a series of

charity events raising money for the Northern Ireland Hospice, Children's Division. Our 'Land Rover pull' from Glengormley to Carrickfergus raised £3,126 bringing the total raised to date to £6,400.

In the Newtownabbey Sub-Division area there were 64 domestic incidents on average each month. A domestic violence liaison officer co-ordinates the police response and community affairs staff are involved with a local domestic violence forum. Presentations have been made to groups and organisations to promote greater understanding of the domestic violence issue.

There were 7 casualties as a result of paramilitary-style shootings and 20 as a result of paramilitary-style assaults in Newtownabbey. During the 'Drumcree period' there was also widespread rioting, which included gun attacks on police in Rathcoole, numerous road blockages and instances of damage to property.

A number of seminars were held with young people from nationalist areas by Antrim Road Sub-Division officers to discuss policing issues. Both police and young people were keen to develop this initiative and a number of police to community contact points have been set up and others are planned. These allow the police and members of the community to discuss subjects of concern.

Meanwhile, an initiative by Tennent Street Sub-Division this year saw members of Tennent Street Community Police Liaison Committee visit



**REPORT of the  
CHIEF CONSTABLE**



Merseyside, through a twinning arrangement with Bootle. The visit included a meeting with the chief constable of Merseyside, Mr Norman Bettison. Meetings and visits to local police stations took place and the Tennent Street delegation also attended a police and community forum. The forum gave the delegation an insight into how the police and the community work together on improving the local quality of life and how the police inform the public about specialised activities.

In common with other sub-divisions Carrickfergus witnessed large-scale public disorder during the 'Drumcree period' last summer. Petrol and blast bombs were thrown at the security forces. Police recovered petrol bombs, crates of bottles and gallons of petrol. Eight police and 10 civilian families were forced to move home. Roads were also blocked and vehicles hijacked.

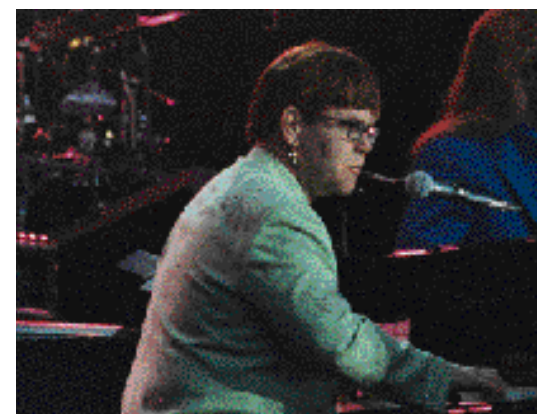
***'E' Division***

Policing in partnership was one of the main thrusts of 'E' Division's work throughout the year and Castlereagh Sub-Division saw the successful launch of an initiative with the objective of resolving low level crime and public nuisance offences. Belvoir Community Watch was set up in September 1998. It involves a confidential telephone line monitored by the Northern Ireland Tenants Action Project. Information gathered is passed to an implementation team consisting of police, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the environmental health department of Castlereagh Borough Council.

During the year the neighbourhood police at Strandtown Sub-Division took part in a community project managed by the EXTERN organisation, which has funding from the Northern Ireland Office and the Probation Board. It identified the Tullycarnet Housing Estate for a study aimed at fostering local awareness of the statutory bodies and other agencies which exist to help the community. Tullycarnet, a public housing estate of approximately 1,000 households, was divided into four locally recognised community areas. Within each of these areas home education groups were established in residents' homes and the project team, consisting of members of EXTERN and the police, facilitated discussions on local issues affecting the community. The home education groups gathered information which was presented at conferences attended by residents from the area and representatives of the participating agencies. The issues of concern to the community were identified and prioritised. A project document was produced and circulated to all those involved. A plan of action has been drawn up to address the issues raised.

During his inspection of the RUC in March 1999, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary visited Strandtown Sub-Division. Whilst there he spoke with representatives of Tullycarnet Community Forum and had a tour of the estate. As a result he was given an insight into one example of the many partnerships which exist between police, the local community and other agencies in Strandtown Sub-Division.

Stormont Sub-Division policed events which had significance for the whole Northern Ireland community. The Stormont Estate was the venue for several notable occurrences during the year which had an impact on operational planning. April 1998 witnessed much activity in respect of the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement, including attention from the world's media. The same venue saw a concert by Elton John attended by some 10,000 spectators. A central command and control room at Stormont was established, assisted by Traffic Branch and others. The event passed off peacefully and was a huge success. On the 3rd of September 1998 President Clinton attended Parliament Buildings during his visit to the Province.



Bangor Sub-Division recently developed a plan to target crime and in particular domestic burglary. For a six-week period from January 1999, local police resources were augmented by a mobile support unit and input from crime department personnel. A number of operations against local criminals were carried out. There were 21 arrests of suspects either in the process of committing crime or apprehended with the proceeds of their crime. The result

was a dramatic reduction in crime in Bangor town centre.

For the first time in Northern Ireland a person was charged and convicted of Child Destruction within the Womb. This incident occurred in Bangor, when a pregnant woman was repeatedly beaten by her then boyfriend. He used a kitchen knife to inflict multiple stab wounds causing a fatal wound to her unborn baby. She was also savagely raped.

Police assisted the seriously injured victim at the scene and arrested her assailant. Extensive evidence gathering resulted in the case going to trial at Downpatrick Crown Court.



***North Region***

North Region received a total of 19,211 calls to the emergency 999 number during the year.

***'L' Division***

A priority for 'L' Division has been consulting with local communities and as part of the consultation process for Enniskillen Sub-Division's 1999/2000 Sub-Divisional Plan, 700 questionnaires were sent out in January this year. To date 261 questionnaires (37%) have been returned. The information is allowing us to gauge the public perception of our role and is providing valuable assistance in shaping other priorities.

A number of drugs operations mounted in Enniskillen resulted in the recovery of approximately £30,000 worth of drugs. Drug seizures rose during the year and drug related arrests increased from



**REPORT of the CHIEF CONSTABLE**

12 to 34. We policed a total of 114 parades in 1998/99, all of which took place without serious disorder.

The most serious incidents in the sub-division were terrorist related. In April 1998 shots were fired at Belleek RUC Station and in May the same station suffered a mortar attack. A letter bomb delivered to a residential home at Irvinestown was defused by an Army Technical Officer. Four of our officers were injured (two seriously) at Drumcree, when attacked with a blast bomb.

The sub-division also had the duty of policing 20 VIP visits, which included the Duke of York and government ministers.

A major environmental disaster was averted in Lisnaskea Sub-Division thanks to the combined efforts of police, ambulance service, fire brigade and the Department of the Environment, after an oil tanker carrying 2,000 gallons of petrol and diesel fuel crashed at the edge of a river bank.

Elsewhere, joint crime and traffic operations were carried out by the sub-division and our colleagues from An Garda Síochána. Lisnaskea police regularly assist with traffic control for the widely supported GAA games in Clones, in the Republic of Ireland. Joint operations have also been mounted with HM Customs and Excise around border areas to intercept smugglers especially of fuel, and with the Department of Agriculture, relating to the smuggling of livestock.

Sadly, Omagh Sub-Division experienced the largest single atrocity in the history of the Province, with 29 persons killed and more than 500 other persons sustaining injuries ranging from shock to loss of limbs. The explosion came during a period when the main paramilitary organisations had declared a cessation of hostilities and dialogue was ongoing between the main political parties.

President Clinton, the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, HRH the Prince of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and the Princess Alexandra visited the area following the bomb. Thirty-seven year old Sergeant Philip Marshall was honoured with an MBE for his commitment and leadership displayed at the scene of the bomb.

The fight against drug abuse continues in Omagh with a 23% increase in the number of arrests for drug related offences since last year. The street value of drugs recovered has also increased dramatically.

The Drugs Squad in Enniskillen and the Drugs Liaison Unit in Omagh continue to target the illegal supply of controlled drugs and to work in partnership with other agencies in tackling the problem of drug misuse.

The main instance of public disorder in Omagh during the year arose as a result of the local community venting their anger after a man was arrested for the murder of a young local girl.

### *'N' Division*

Considerable growth in the number of community police liaison committees (CPLCs) in the division has taken place over the past year. The committees meet regularly with officers and aim to tackle crime and other policing issues in partnership. Strand Road Sub-Division now has eight CPLCs, representing a wide cross-section of the community. Waterside Sub-Division has established four, while Strabane Sub-Division has increased its CPLCs from one to five - and three more are planned. In addition, a youth forum has been established in Strabane Sub-Division, bringing together pupils from all but one of the secondary and grammar schools in the Strabane area.

Strabane and Waterside Sub-Divisions have both conducted surveys into 'customer' satisfaction. Questionnaires were sent to members of the public who had recently telephoned or called at police stations asking about the standard of service received. A high percentage of people were satisfied or very satisfied with the service. However, a need for more follow-up contact was identified.

Crime teams are established in every sub-division in 'N' Division. The Strand Road Crime Team has two specific remits: to tackle taking vehicles without the owner's consent, and to act as a drugs liaison unit. To address car crime problems the team analysed statistical data which highlighted trends such as location and time. Many arrests resulted from this. Strabane Sub-Division's crime team, meanwhile, are

focusing on the drugs issue and have greatly increased the number of arrests and seizures.

Strabane Sub-Division routinely equips uniform mobile patrols on weekend public order duty with hand-held video cameras. These are displayed openly by officers and have a considerable deterrent effect on potential troublemakers. Any incidents occurring are recorded for court purposes.

### *'O' Division*

A very successful conference for young people was organised in the Coleraine Sub-Division with the assistance of the North Eastern Education and Library Board Youth Council. The theme of the conference was 'Making Communities Safer - Police and Young People Working Together.' It was attended by young people aged between 16 and 25, from all walks of life. As a result of the conference a youth forum has been established to operate alongside the local community police liaison committee and community forum.

A door supervisors registration scheme is currently being piloted in Coleraine Sub-Division. The project is managed by representatives of Coleraine Borough Council, the local licensing trade and the RUC. Door supervisors employed at premises holding a public entertainment licence must be registered with the scheme. To become registered they undergo a selection process following which temporary registration is provided. For full registration a supervisor must attend training seminars which cover licensing laws, first aid, civilian powers of arrest



REPORT of the  
CHIEF CONSTABLE





and seizure, evacuation procedures and health and safety. Door supervisors must also agree to work under a code of conduct.

The North West 200 motor cycle course runs between the towns of Portrush, Portstewart and Coleraine.

The event is now the largest spectator event in Ireland, drawing an estimated 100,000 spectators from around the world. Working with a local school we have compiled information on the history of the event which has been posted on the RUC web site.

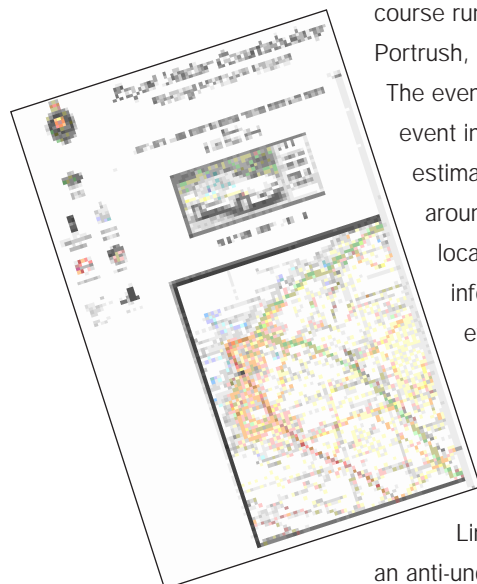
Initiatives involving both police and public in the Limavady Sub-Division include an anti-underage drinking scheme, a training scheme for door supervisors and a project to introduce CCTV into the town centre. Public disorder is generally not a major problem in the sub-division with rowdy or anti-social behaviour by young people in housing estates the main area of concern together with street disorder in Magherafelt town centre at certain periods. The strategy is to provide high

visibility policing to reassure the public and reduce anti-social behaviour. There were 93 band parades around Limavady during the year. All passed off peacefully with organisers co-operating well with police on contentious parades.

Limavady police were called to a derailed passenger train last year between Magilligan and Bellarena. The Belfast to Londonderry train struck and killed 12 cows being driven over an accommodation crossing. The derailed coach holding 16 passengers came to rest in a field. Four crew and three passengers were slightly injured.

The sub-division raised £4,600 for the purchase of a Mountbatten Braille and Reading Scanner which was presented to a local nine year old girl.

A series of terrorist attacks in Magherafelt Sub-Division were claimed by the Orange Volunteer Force. These included a grenade and shooting attack on a family home, a booby trap device left at a GAA Club and a grenade attack on a licensed restaurant. Fortunately there has been no loss of life in these indiscriminate murder bids.



### 'P' Division

Unfortunately, in common with other police divisions, Ballymoney Sub-Division witnessed incidents that brought death and tragedy to families. The murder of three young brothers in Ballymoney as a result of an arson attack, touched us all deeply and led to world-wide condemnation.

Ongoing initiatives include a coastal car crime scheme, developed in partnership with the National Trust and other agencies responsible for car parks and tourist attractions. Thefts of and from vehicles have been reduced as a result.

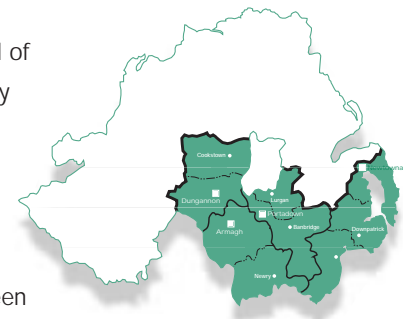
Ballymena Sub-Division has successfully tackled problems ranging from drug dealing to neighbour disputes through a community crimewatch scheme. Partners in the scheme include representatives from the Neighbourhood Police Unit, Ballymena Borough Council, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Northern Ireland Tenants Action Project. A confidential telephone service is available to the public, and the statutory agencies can act as complainants in court proceedings. With an average of 400 complaints per year, the current clearance rate for the scheme is 98%. Ballymena police with the participation of other local agencies issued a Ballymena Directory of Help for Drug-

Related Issues. Posted to every household, the directory sets out what is being done to address the drug situation and shows where help and advice is available both at local and regional level.

A traffic section in Larne Sub-Division has permitted a greater focus on road safety in the area. Whilst fatalities remain at the same level as last year it is encouraging to note that serious casualties have reduced from 29 to 20.

### South Region

South Region received a total of 14,023 calls to the emergency 999 number during the year.



### 'G' Division

Community police liaison committees (CPLCs) have been established for all five stations within Newtownards Sub-Division. The Bowtown Development Agency, formed in 1998, further addressed community concerns such as vandalism and alcohol-related incidents. A youth programme was established in January 1999 with funding from the Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation. It is designed to encourage youth and community group activities within the area.

The targeting of drug dealers in



REPORT of the CHIEF CONSTABLE







Newcastle Sub-Division yielded stunning results. In one operation alone £695,000 worth of controlled drugs and £29,000 in cash were recovered. We are building on this success by encouraging licensees to eradicate drug dealing on their premises through a 'Pub Watch' scheme. This encourages landlords to exercise discretion as to who is allowed on their premises.

Other successes include a crime operation which resulted in the recovery of £23,000 worth of stolen property. Four persons were charged in relation to burglary and handling stolen goods.

Thirty-six sixth form students representing several grammar schools in Downpatrick Sub-Division took part in a seminar organised by the Community Affairs Team. The seminar helped young people understand the role of the police in the community. The students concluded that it was an excellent way to learn more about the police and current social issues.

### *'H' Division*

A priority in Armagh and Newry Sub-Divisions is working with elderly groups to provide advice and practical assistance on crime prevention. In Newry, the crime prevention officer has been involved in training voluntary community workers as part of a Safety For The Elderly and Vulnerable scheme. This collaboration allows voluntary workers to pass on the basic requirements of home security to the older person in the course of their normal duties.

In Armagh pensioners have been provided with crime prevention literature when drawing their pensions at post offices. In Keady and Middletown, as part of an initiative promoted by the local community police liaison committees, vulnerable pensioners were visited and supplied with crime prevention information and free door chains. The Community Crime Alert Team in Armagh, with representatives from social services, Armagh District Council, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the local crime prevention officer, have been operating for a number of years.

This group has also promoted free door chains to vulnerable persons. Finance for this scheme has come from the local council and donations from the local police community affairs budget. Each station in Armagh Sub-Division now has a vulnerable persons register maintained in conjunction with local knowledge registers.

A co-ordinated response to domestic violence is promoted by both the Newry and Armagh domestic violence officers. They work with local committees dealing with the problem, including the Newry and Mourne Forum on Domestic Violence and the Armagh and Dungannon Inter-Agency Forum on Domestic Violence.

'H' division has piloted a number of crime prevention initiatives. In Armagh city, a 'radio link' scheme was promoted by Armagh District Council in partnership with local police. Local businesses installed a radio network allowing each to alert the other to the movements of suspected shoplifters. The radio transmissions are monitored by our officers.

A notable decrease in underage drinking has been achieved through action by Warrenpoint police. A campaign in partnership with Guinness (NI) and local licencees provides literature and advice on the negative effects and legal implications of this problem. At the request of Newry police, Newry and Mourne District Council have designated private property such as churches and community centres as 'no drinking areas'.

Throughout the division operations have uncovered large quantities of drugs intended for distribution. Last year a mobile police patrol operating in Newry stopped and searched a vehicle. Cannabis with a street value of £30,000 was discovered. Two persons were arrested.

In Newry and Armagh Sub-Divisions, police officers have been deployed at accident black spots in an effort to reduce accident rates and to educate motorists. Both sub-divisions have made greater use of liveried vehicles and radar equipment. In the autumn of 1998 every primary school in Newry and Warrenpoint was the subject of a Roadsafe Operation, aimed at increasing the safety of children in cars. Each child was given a ruler, pencil and rubber encouraging the wearing of seat belts.

Armagh Sub-Division's Juvenile Bureau Panel, consisting of representatives of statutory agencies involved with children, meets bi-monthly. Cases of juveniles under investigation by local police are discussed and the bureau makes a collective recommendation on the best course of action for each juvenile. This is forwarded to the sub-divisional commander. Preparations for a Newry panel are at the final stages.

The professionalism of police officers in dealing with bereaved families was both demonstrated and tested as 'H' Division witnessed a number of tragic incidents during the year. In the Maracyle tragedy in June 1998 two people were killed. A triple fatal road traffic accident occurred in Keady in



**REPORT of the  
CHIEF CONSTABLE**

November 1998 and a house fire in Rostrevor in January 1999 claimed the lives of three members of the same family. A murder also took place in the same month.

### *J' Division*

Property theft and crime prevention in Lurgan Sub-Division focussed on a property coding event organised through Craigavon Neighbourhood Unit. Forty-seven bicycles were coded during the event as were numerous videos, cameras and stereos. The general public's awareness of crime prevention was also raised because of the initiative.

Meanwhile in Banbridge Sub-Division the Neighbourhood Police Unit purchased and fitted 150 smoke alarms in the homes of pensioners. Financial assistance was provided by the local Community Affairs Team, Banbridge District Council and local traders. The unit also organised eight cross-community discos which raised £3,500 for local charities.

In Portadown Sub-Division the community affairs team became involved with the social education centre which caters for adults with learning difficulties. Initial contact was restricted to advice on aspects such as 'stranger danger' and road safety. However, in integrating the community affairs team with the wider community we became involved in events organised for secondary schools such as 'It's a Knockout' competitions, an 'Aqua Challenge' and canoeing.

### *K' Division*

A major thrust in Dungannon and Cookstown Sub-Divisions has been broadening the base of community police liaison committees to reflect a wide range of community groups in the area. In Cookstown a member of the Chinese community sits on the CPLC. A community policing strategy has been produced which directs the Neighbourhood Policing Unit towards encouraging frequent contact with statutory and community groups.

To tackle crime in Dungannon town centre, a working group was established between police and the Chamber of Trade. This led to the introduction of a 'ring around' system to relay information about 'shoplifting', stolen cheques and counterfeit currency. Crime prevention officers from Dungannon, Cookstown and neighbouring sub-divisions took part in a weekly broadcast on Gold Beat Radio offering crime prevention advice to an estimated 50,000 listeners.

A combined domestic violence police/Women's Aid initiative promoted awareness of domestic violence among the 12-16 age group.

In May 1998 a shooting incident in Dungannon resulted in the death of one man and the subsequent arrest and charging of persons in connection with the incident. As the result of a house search in Coalisland police recovered 50,000 ecstasy tablets and 17.5 Kgs of cannabis resin with a total street value of £925,000. Two persons were charged and remanded in custody.



## *Training and Development*



*“To recruit the best possible candidates, ensuring that all members receive fair and equal career development and deployment, thus providing the best possible assistance to the Police Service, the individual and the community.”*

## Honours and Awards

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

### KNIGHT BACHELOR

R Flanagan, Chief Constable

### OFFICER OF THE CIVIL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

D Beaney, Assistant Chief Constable

T J Craig, Assistant Chief Constable

### MEMBER OF THE CIVIL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

N Connolly, Chief Superintendent

G W Sillery, Chief Superintendent

R N Walmsley, Chief Superintendent

C Kerr, Superintendent

A T Lavelle, Chief Inspector

J A Magowan, Chief Inspector

W E Daniel, D/Inspector

S M Millar, Inspector

P J O'Hare, Inspector

T H Caskey, Sergeant

F W Hobson, Sergeant

G M Kennedy, D/Sergeant

P J Marshall, Sergeant

H McDonald, Sergeant

J Swanston, Sergeant

D A Carson, Constable

S B Thompson, R/Constable

M E Eaton, R/Constable PT

### QUEEN'S POLICE MEDAL

T M Barbour, (Retired) Superintendent

B Fitzpatrick, Superintendent

J R C Morrison, Superintendent

B McCargo, Superintendent

T D Corr, (Retired) Constable

### QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVERY

J A F Jardine, Sergeant

G M A Morton, Sergeant

J M Anderson, Constable

S A Anderson, Constable

J G Ferguson, Constable

D N J Kerr, Constable

C W Telford, Constable

### ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY

R H Bell, Inspector

I Harrison, Sergeant

M L Hogg, Constable

P Lowry, Constable

I van der Schyff, Constable

N D Parkes, R/Constable FT

W Drysdale, R/Constable FT

I Gillespie, R/Constable FT

### SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIFE FROM FIRE AWARD

E Andrews, Sergeant

C McClelland, Constable

P S Neill, Constable

D Spence, Constable

R D Fella, R/Constable FT

### COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

S Jones, Sergeant

## Commendations

This year the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was awarded to 236 regular officers who had completed 22 years' service. Similarly, 298 members of the RUC Reserve, full-time

and part-time, received the Reserve Long Service Medal for completion of 15 years' service.

The chief constable commended 1,369 officers for performance of good police duty as shown below:

	Regular Officers	Reserve Officers
Highly Commended	400	83
Commended	765	121
TOTALS	1165	204

## Extracts from some letters of appreciation

It is pleasing to record that during the year a total of 2,701 letters were received from members of the public expressing appreciation for assistance given by police officers.

"A little note to say Thank you for such a great display, and for taking time to support the Children's Hospice charity. With your help we raised over £500.00 on the day. Well done."

"... our involvement with and introduction to the CARE unit was an experience we did not expect yet we feel the need to express our appreciation and indeed, pride, in this service of the RUC. Please pass on our thanks to the unit."

"... The event brought together pupils from all sections of the community, along with their parents, in an enjoyable and positive atmosphere. Everyone I spoke to praised the work of the local police, and the friendly atmosphere engendered by your officers was a credit to the local force."

".... I was involved in a road traffic accident and was very seriously injured. Your officers played a fundamental role in my life being saved and for that I am more than grateful. Their quick thinking, professionalism, pro-active support, and basic concern for a fellow person helped to sustain my life during those perilous minutes. In this present climate where you and your officers appear to be criticised from all sides it gives me personally a secure and confident feeling that you have officers of such acumen and quality within the force.

"How far that little candle throws his beams! / So shines a good deed in a naughty world"

The Merchant of Venice  
Act 5, Scene 1 line 90  
William Shakespeare.

"...I would like to thank you for the work of your MSU colleagues in the removal of burning barricades. Not only did many of us appreciate the speed of response, but also the diligent way in which they disposed of the subsequent debris to prevent it being used again. We appreciate your work very much indeed."



REPORT of the  
CHIEF CONSTABLE



## *Recruiting*

The recruiting process has been designed to ensure equality of opportunity and fair employment. New recruits must be of such calibre that, with training and self-development, they will become officers who can maintain a high quality, effective police service for all the people of Northern Ireland.

We recognise that there is an imbalance in the representation of Roman Catholics and females within the RUC. To address this we include in all recruitment advertisements, a statement welcoming applications, in particular, from these two groups, as well as applicants from the ethnic community. A joint working party with representatives from the RUC, Police Authority for Northern Ireland and others with particular expertise in personnel issues, has now reported alongside a report from the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee. These reports are currently being considered. Many of the recommendations contained in them have already been implemented, or are awaiting implementation.

Recruiting Branch continues to actively present the option of a career in the RUC to the widest possible audience. To improve the availability of information a computerised recruitment package has been developed which will be available to schools, employment agencies and other interested bodies. We will also be making full use of the internet.

We hosted several successful career familiarisation days at operational stations throughout the Province. These events allow prospective recruits, and the general public, to receive more detailed information on the roles of specialist branches and departments. We have signed up to 'Opportunity 2000' which promotes female opportunities and intend to hold a number of recruiting events directed at females.

The Work Experience Scheme, which offers fifth and sixth year students a week of work experience, has been decentralised and is now co-ordinated by local recruiting officers.

The recruiting process continues to be developed and improved. We have introduced a new form of initial selection test, new assessment day scenarios and modified aspects of the physical competence day. Recruiting competitions throughout the year have been very successful, with a high ratio of applicants to the number of vacancies.

During the year 210 regular officers were recruited in 3 intakes: 64 in June, 56 in October and 90 in January 1999. The competition in December 1998 attracted 3,359 applicants and from this 54 recruits were chosen to start training in August 1999 and 54 in November 1999.

Positive action to attract recruits from under represented groups resulted in an increase of 74% in the number of applications received from the Roman Catholic community and an increase of

73% in the number of applications from female Roman Catholics. Overall, 22% of applications came from the Roman Catholic community. Applications from females increased to 36%. We will continue trying to improve these figures and over the next 12 months will also be targeting ethnic minority groups.

During the year 91 full-time reserve officers were recruited in two intakes: 34 in May and 57 in September.

The vital service provided by our full-time reserve officers should not be underestimated. During the year, 1,060 contracts were offered and accepted, and 26 contracts were refused.

None of the 33 graduate applications received for the 1998/99 Home Office Accelerated Promotion Scheme were recommended for extended interview. However, two candidates applied for standard entry in the June 1999 intake.

## *Training Branch*

High quality training is essential to ensure that we can adapt to the complicated changes taking place at operational level. The Training Branch is alive to the challenge and much work is being done to match training provision to training need, and to research and use best training practice.

## *Training Resources Unit*

We are committed to the professional development of our officers and take an inter-agency approach to training.

During the year divisional training courses included Homelessness in Northern Ireland, delivered in

partnership with the Simon Community; Anti-Harassment in the Workplace, run with assistance from the Fair Employment Commission, the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality, and Cultural Diversity, developed with the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities. An external consultant was employed to assist with the content and direction of this training. Divisional training also covered the Family Homes and Domestic Violence (NI) Order 1998, supported by input from Women's Aid.

## *Force Evaluation Unit*

The Force Evaluation Unit ensures that course content remains relevant, that delivery is effective and that identified needs are met.

During the year the unit carried out a number of evaluations and training needs analyses, including a review of the initial delivery of Performance Development Review training. A total of 46 reaction level evaluations were also carried out on a wide variety of courses.

## *Initial Training*

210 students started their initial training for regular officers at Garnerville Training Centre. In addition, 121 students completed the Full-Time Reserve Course.

The Community Awareness Programme is a cornerstone of the foundation training and enlists substantial support from community representatives, academics, the clergy and minority groups.



Our training courses have been re-designed to fully ensure that students are equipped for policing within the community.

### Further Training

Further Training courses included management training for inspectors and sergeants; various investigative courses for CID and CARE officers; training in information technology systems; and the training of RUC trainers themselves.

'The Policing with the Community Programme' was delivered by divisional training staff to operational officers up to the rank of inspector. The programme was extended to include two-day workshops for chief inspectors and superintendents.

During the year approval was given to introduce trainer development officers (TDOs). These are qualified trainers who will have the additional responsibilities of:

- Assessing and developing, in the short term, the competencies attained by a trainer during his/her student trainer's course
- Ensuring in the long term that the quality of the training being delivered is of a consistently high standard

The first course to train TDOs commenced in January 1999, which seven officers successfully completed.

In the field of information technology 210 officers and 122 civilian staff were trained in the 'Integrated Crime Information System'.

### Examinations Unit

RUC officers may qualify for promotion to the ranks of sergeant and inspector by successfully completing parts 1 and 2 of the Objective Structured Performance Related Examination. (OSPRE).



Details of the 1998 examination results are outlined below:

### Inspector's Examinations

- OSPRE Part 1 - 105 officers took part, 49 were successful
- Of the 100 males who took part - 46 were successful
- Of the 5 females who took part - 3 were successful
- OSPRE Part 2 - 66 officers took part, 35 were successful
- Of the 61 males who took part - 32 were successful
- Of the 5 females who took part - 3 were successful

### Sergeant's Examinations

- OSPRE Part 1 - 476 officers took part, 192 were successful
- Of the 410 males who took part - 164 were successful
- Of the 66 females who took part - 28 were successful
- OSPRE Part 2 - 253 officers took part, 130 were successful
- Of the 221 males who took part - 108 were successful
- Of the 32 females who took part - 22 were successful

### Academic Courses

Over 149 of our officers are studying at diploma and degree level. Fifty-nine officers are taking the new Diploma in Police Studies course and 37 are taking the BA degree in Public Policy and Management. Eighteen officers from each of these courses should graduate this year.

Fifty-four officers are taking other primary degree courses, with 28 others

currently studying at post-graduate level.

### Specific Training Combined Operational Training

The amalgamation in 1997 of the sub-branches of Combined Operational Training (COT) gave the department the opportunity to produce a more cohesive and better co-ordinated training programme. Training in public order, use of the riot gun, conflict resolution skills and training of both Level 1 and Level 2 mobile support units, ensured that those officers involved in public order duties received the most comprehensive and professional training available.

During 1998/99 COT had a large number of visitors from all over the world. The visitors identified COT and the Force as a source of best practice for the many areas in which it specialises.

### Firearms Training

This unit provides high quality initial, refresher and enhanced firearms training, emphasising safety and the legal implications of carrying and using firearms.

Specialised courses were delivered to the close protection and mobile support units. The Occupational Health Unit assisted in retraining officers involved in traumatic incidents.



REPORT of the CHIEF CONSTABLE

### Traffic and Driver Training Unit

Some 350 probationer students attended standard driving courses, and 110 officers attended the advanced driving course. The unit also provided training in respect of the Stinger Car Arresting System, the new Lion Intoxilyzer Drink/Drive Equipment, HGV Training, Tachograph Familiarisation, Motorcycle Training, Authorised Officers Courses, Vehicle Defect Rectification Schemes and Speed Detection Systems.

### Dog Training Unit

The unit provided training for dogs used in general purpose, explosive and drug duties. RUC dogs are all trained using a simple but effective reward system which we consider produces fit, enthusiastic animals, keen to work.

The unit competed in and judged a number of regional and national dog trials. Our success in these trials showed us to have some of the best police dogs and dog handlers in the United Kingdom and Europe.



We are grateful to the public who regularly donate their own dogs for use in the service. Without such help, providing high quality professionally trained police dogs would be a great deal more difficult.

### Personnel Management

#### Career Management

Career management aims to facilitate the development of the individual police officer, so that his/her personal needs, the needs of the Force, and those of the community are best met.

The main information source for this is the Performance Development Review (PDR) system, through which members express their preferred duty type, future aspirations and any concerns. This allows career objectives to be set and a strategy devised to help meet them. The PDR system was introduced in September 1998, and all regular officers were trained in its procedures. A manual entitled 'The Performance and Development Review Reference Guide' was produced and distributed throughout the Force.

During 1998/99 appointments and promotions to the following ranks were effected.

Deputy Chief Constable	1
Assistant Chief Constable	2
Chief Superintendent	31
Superintendent	21
Chief Inspector	30
Inspector	57
Sergeant	92
TOTAL	234

We continue to provide personnel counselling, which helps officers returning to work after illness or injury, and provides advice on career development or selection board preparation and feedback.

During the year there were 594 transfers, 234 promotions, and 21 transfer appeals, of which 7 were upheld and 14 refused. During the same period 240 applications for extensions of service were received, of which 225 were granted and 15 refused.

Vacancies in ranks up to and including inspector, in headquarters, specialist branches and departments, led to 90 selection boards being held, with a total of 1,623 applicants applying for positions. Eight officers transferred to other forces.

Assessment centres are used to select personnel suitable for appointment to the ranks of chief inspector and superintendent. We use the knowledge and expertise of colleagues in Great Britain to supplement our 93 in-house

assessors. This year a total of 166 applications for promotion to chief inspector were received of which 120 were selected to participate at an assessment centre, with 47 successfully completing the process.

A total of 83 officers attended a variety of short courses at the Police Staff College, Bramshill. A further 68 recently promoted chief inspectors participated in the Police Management Programme, which aims to fully prepare them for the challenge and responsibility of their new role.

### Welfare Services

The core function of the Welfare Service is to provide personal assistance and support to officers, widows, widowers, their dependants and pensioners. A skilled team of welfare officers and administrative staff helped 1,548 clients during the year.

Through the Benevolent Fund 12 holidays were provided for 129 widows/mothers, 68 children, three serving officers and their families. There were 486 bookings of a fund apartment



REPORT of the CHIEF CONSTABLE



complex. We continue to work with the Police Dependants Trust in submitting and administering grants for injured officers and bereaved families. A total of £85,000 in grants was awarded in 130 cases.

### Civilianisation

We are fully committed to the principle of civilianisation, that is, replacing police officers with civilians in certain posts. Since 1985 over 490 posts have been civilianised under the auspices of the Civilianisation Working Group. This group co-ordinates the identification, examination and approval of police posts for civilianisation as well as recruitment of appropriate replacement staff. Interested parties, including the staff associations, are consulted in the process. During the year a further nine posts were civilianised.

The policy is currently being reviewed

	Establishment	Effective strength
Chief Constable	1	1
Deputy Chief Constable	2	1
Assistant Chief Constable	9	8
Chief Superintendent	-	39
Superintendent	161	121
Chief Inspector	168	168
Inspector	490	489
Sergeant	1,414	1,398
Constable	6,243	6,271
<b>Total Regulars</b>	<b>8,488</b>	<b>8,496</b>
Royal Ulster Constabulary Reserve Full-Time	3,202	2,862
Royal Ulster Constabulary Reserve Part-Time	1,765	1,217

and updated to take account of changes to the funding mechanism and the implications of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998.

### Police Staff Allocation Model

This model is being developed to identify the staffing levels required to meet policing needs and to ensure a fair distribution of available resources throughout the Force. A continuous programme of Force-wide incident logging and activity sampling, coupled with the measurement of other workload and social factors, forms the core of this modelling process.

### Establishment and Strength

The establishment and strength of the Royal Ulster Constabulary on 31st March 1999 was as follows:

### Equal Opportunities Unit

We are committed to a policy of equality of opportunity for all members and applicants.

Working in partnership with Opportunity 2000 and Habitat for Humanity, we provided a team of four female officers to assist in a cross-community project to build housing in west Belfast.

Our commitment to equality was emphasised by an extensive programme of anti-harassment training which was designed by consultants in liaison with the Equal Opportunities Unit and delivered to senior members of the Force. The programme was then cascaded down through the organisation at Divisional Schools of Instruction. The success of this programme prompted requests from government bodies to view the training for adaptation and implementation in their own organisations.

We also joined the North-West Diversity Forum which involves forces from north-west England and Wales and explores best practice in equality and human resource issues.

We completed and submitted the third tri-annual review to the Fair Employment Commission.

### Force Suggestion Scheme

The aim of this scheme is to encourage officers to suggest ways of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Force or the service it provides to the community. Awards, which are funded by the Police Authority for Northern Ireland, are given for ideas that can be

### Breakdown of Complaints Made to The Equal Opportunities Unit 1998/99

Sex Discrimination	22
Religious Discrimination	17
Sex and Religious Discrimination	5
Racial Discrimination	4
Sexual Harassment	16
Religious Harassment	1
Bullying	16
Victimisation	4
Board	6
Others	40

shown to improve our service and provide solutions to work related issues. The scheme, which has been renamed 'Ideas in Action', will be re-launched in the near future and will be open to civilian personnel as well as police officers.

### Policy Unit

In November 1998 a policy unit was established, staffed with one chief inspector. The unit will support the chief superintendent personnel in the development and implementation of personnel policies.

The Policy Unit is committed to a major Force initiative, which is to devise and implement a people management strategy.

### Replacement Personnel Computer System

To meet the requirements of millennium compliance the existing personnel computer system will be replaced. Following extensive research to establish user requirements a contract has been awarded and the project team and the provider are currently refining user requirements and technical specifications.



REPORT of the  
CHIEF CONSTABLE



## *Police Support Services*

*“To secure adequate resources, logistic and other support in order to provide a high quality service to the Force, and, in turn, the community.”*

### *Force Inspectorate Branch*

The branch carries out planned inspections and reviews throughout the organisation.

We successfully achieved all our targets, with one exception. This was to evaluate 10% of recommendations that had been implemented following reports by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and the branch. This remains a target for the forthcoming year and every effort will be made to achieve it.

The Police Act created the opportunity for closer co-operation with the Police Authority Audit Team. Both units have broadly similar functions within their respective areas of responsibility. We are now in close liaison with them and have set up a joint project to formalise working arrangements. Both units look forward to combining their skills to better assist service delivery.

During the year the Data Protection Unit was transferred to the branch. The unit needs to be assured of compliance with legal obligations, and we are well placed to undertake this task.

We carried out two thematic inspections during the year, the first concerning the Press and Media Department. As a result the Deputy Chief Constable commissioned a specialist consultancy to ensure that the aims and objectives of the organisation are communicated effectively to the public at local, national and international level.

The second report into 'restricted duties' was the most sensitive issue that the branch has had to research. Many officers have paid a high price in carrying out their duties, and their hopes and aspirations have to be balanced against overall organisational effectiveness. Recommendations have been made and are being considered.

During the year we also introduced a new style of inspecting operational subdivisions which was well received. It has proved a powerful communications medium between Headquarters and local command. The inspections

covered issues such as local policing plans, performance, management of complaints, sickness, devolved budgets and data protection. We are now developing an inspection model suited to identifying business excellence.

We are currently evaluating the findings of the well established self-inspection programme which runs annually from October to March. The programme covered financial management of budgets, data protection, the neutral working environment and harassment.

The branch is the liaison point for matters concerning HMIC. During the year Mr Dan Crompton took over from Mr Colin Smith as the Force's inspector and we facilitated his programme of visits.

We are also responsible for informing the Force of good practice and publish a guide annually.

Reports which will have an impact on our work in the future include the Police Act, the MacPherson Report and the findings of the Independent Commission on Policing, due in the summer.

### *Administration Buildings*

Buildings Branch have provided a comprehensive range of protected, serviceable accommodation for the Force. In recent years the priority was to concentrate work in the border and high threat areas of the Province. We are now focusing on areas such as Coleraine, Ballymoney, Donegall Pass and Downpatrick.



REPORT *of the*  
CHIEF CONSTABLE



As well as building programmes, a substantial amount of our resources are taken up by health and safety issues, for example, fire certification and maintenance related work.

To improve organisational effectiveness consultants were employed during the year to review the role of the Police Authority for Northern Ireland (PANI) and RUC Buildings Branches together with that of the current property service provider. The current property management and professional services have been competitively tendered with a view to improving upon service delivery and value for money.

The planned amalgamation of RUC and PANI buildings branches should ensure a more efficient delivery of support services in the years ahead.

### *Central Stores*

During the year Central Stores continued to implement changes including computerisation, review of staff structures and grades, plus the introduction of new transport and distribution arrangements. Stores accounting procedures were also redrafted to take account of the introduction, in April 1998, of resource accounting.

Now that many items used by the Force are delivered directly to stations, the value of stock held at Seapark has fallen by £1.34 million and there has been a 60% reduction in storage space required.



We also changed the procedures for supplying uniform and personal issue items to Force members. Following a successful three-month pilot scheme, new systems were implemented in December 1998 allowing officers to

obtain items by 'mail order', rather than visiting Central Stores. It is anticipated that this change will realise non-cash savings of £2.99 million per annum.

At the request of stores management, and to establish a base for future performance measurement, Force Research Branch carried out a customer survey which assessed the customer satisfaction level at 61.3%. Central Stores responded by setting up a Customer Services Section to ensure the needs of the Force are met. A target satisfaction level of 75% has been set for the 1999/2000 financial year. Central Store's performance against this target will be measured by another customer survey.

### *Chief Constable's Certificates*

Public disorder over the summer months, together with bomb explosions at Newtownhamilton, Banbridge and Omagh, resulted in a high level of requests for Chief Constable's Certificates, in respect of criminal injury/damage.

We dealt with 3,779 applications for Chief Constable's Certificates during the year. A total of 2,526 certificates were issued; 1,812 applications were refused and 136 were under consideration at the end of the year.

### *Firearms Licensing*

The branch had another busy year with 28,433 applications received for Firearm Certificates. Of these, 2,052 were new applications, while 6,442 applications sought to vary the existing holding. There were 19,939 renewal applications.

In all 327 applications were wholly refused, 120 partially refused and 133 revoked. During the year 143 persons whose applications were refused or revoked, made appeals to the secretary of state against the decision of the chief constable. Ten of these appeals were allowed, 73 refused, 3 had no right of appeal and 1 was not accepted. Decisions are awaited on the others.

At 31st March 1999 firearm certificates authorising possession of 139,588 firearms were on issue in Northern Ireland. There are 51 registered firearms clubs and 48 approved ranges.

It has also been a year of progress and change, with 28 improvement projects completed, including public information leaflet and guidance booklets for police stations and the 161 registered firearms dealers. This should reduce errors and improve the speed of processing applications.

In 1998 for the first time the use of estate rifles was permitted in Northern Ireland.

We continue to liaise with the Northern Ireland Office on its review of the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 1981, as amended.

### *Force Publications*

In the light of our objective of streamlining and improving administrative and support services, we continued the process of amending Force textbooks and issuing Force Orders. To complement this work we carried out a survey of the RUC Codes on issue for study purposes to sub-



REPORT *of the*  
CHIEF CONSTABLE



divisions. The survey identified some deficiencies which have now been rectified, reducing time spent by sub-divisional staff in administering their element of the system.

A substantial number of booklets, leaflets and posters in support of various strategies and campaigns by Community Affairs, Crime Prevention, Traffic Policy, Drugs Squad, and the Occupational Health Unit were also produced, as was display material for exhibitions such as the Ideal Home Exhibition.

However some of our most important work this year was in support of the local policing initiatives in Omagh and for the dedicated investigation team set up in the aftermath of the bombing. This work, while not overly complex in itself, required the effective deployment of our skills and resources. It ranged from producing a full colour murder poster within 36 hours, to more general tasks such as supplying forms and stationery.

### *Transport*

At 31st March 1999 the Force had 2,234 vehicles including temporary increases to provide liveried vehicles. The armoured Land Rover fleet was

increased to 450 vehicles by 1st July 1998, to assist in policing public order events. We increased the number of high visibility vehicles to enhance both the local station and traffic branch fleets. This type of vehicle boosts public confidence and aids road accident reduction.

Trials of a new hi-8mm camera mounted in a traffic vehicle started during the year. This equipment provides improved picture quality and will help in the detection of traffic offences.

There were 830 accidents involving police vehicles. Police were blameworthy in 191 of these accidents (23% of the total).

There was a total of 687 incidents of damage to police vehicles as a result of criminal activity; 127 police vehicles were damaged in incidents involving stolen vehicles.

In all 9,326 officers are authorised to drive police vehicles, which covered almost 33,000,000 miles in the year (equivalent to travelling more than 1,350 times round the equator).



## *Communicating with the Public*

### *Press and Media Department*

The RUC was once again making news in 1998/99, attracting unparalleled media interest from around the Province and around the world. Our 24-hour Press Office, with branches in Armagh and Londonderry, answered over 120,000 telephone enquiries and issued almost 8,000 news releases. Police and civilian staff provided over 700 briefings and facilities for local, national and international journalists to explain and promote the work of the Force.



In January a 'newline' service was introduced which allows reporters and journalists telephone access to a voicebank to receive the latest information from our press desk. A key objective of this development is to release staff from routine duties so that more resources can be directed to specific queries. The initial response to the service has been encouraging.

The Omagh bomb in August 1998 stretched the department to its limits. As well as setting up and running a casualty bureau, staff faced unprecedented demands from the media at home and abroad. As always, the professionalism and dedication of staff ensured those members of the

public and media who needed help, advice or guidance were dealt with promptly and sympathetically. The work of the department was not confined to responding to media inquiries. Staff were actively involved in numerous projects which ranged from liaison and planning for VIP visits by President Clinton and the Prince of Wales to organising publicity for the Rallentare Challenge Safe Driving Competition for young people. Officers also contributed to national television crime appeals and worked on local documentaries about the drugs menace.

During the year RUC officers worked as co-presenters on the UTV Crimecall programme; deputised as radio presenters on the weekly Crimestoppers slot on Downtown Radio; hosted a segment on Belfast Citybeat Radio for six months, giving advice and information on subjects linked to crime prevention, community affairs, drugs and traffic. Officers also worked on a regular programme 'On the Beat' for the commercial radio station, Goldbeat. Crime appeals were scripted and carried regularly on the ITV Teletext service.

We also actively developed the potential of our web site. As well as news releases and crime appeals, RUC pages carried statistical information and comments by senior officers on major events to a growing international audience. New ground is being broken in several areas: special pages have been set up to relay information about large public events such as the North West 200, and also to request



*REPORT of the*  
**CHIEF CONSTABLE**



information from the public about particular crimes.

The department is now in its third year of publishing *Callsign*, a quarterly staff magazine. The 12 page tabloid, which has been praised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), carried a special colour supplement in January 1999 about visits by the Duchess of Kent to RUC widows and orphans. We owe our thanks to the *Daily Telegraph* for its co-operation in this venture.

With external consultants we are continuing to run our successful media training courses for groups of officers, at the Video Production Unit at Lisnasharragh. Several graduates progressed to take part in interviews for a wide range of media outlets explaining the work and role of the RUC to an audience of millions.

The work of the Patten Commission, set up as part of the Belfast Agreement, increased media interest in, and public analysis of, the Force. This has prompted additional requests to the Press Office for interviews, filming and briefings.

Following a recommendation from HMIC, a wide-ranging review of the department was carried out to identify ways of delivering an enhanced service to the Force and to the community. A report was submitted to the deputy chief constable. Its implementation is under consideration.

## *Health Services*

### *First Aid Training Unit*

The First Aid Training Unit moved into new accommodation at RUC Sprucefield. We now have a classroom facility which allows us to run more courses.

Throughout the year 250 first aid courses of various types and durations were run. We want to increase the number of personnel trained in first aid and during the year 2,578 police and civilian staff attended training, representing an increase of 780 over the previous year. We continue to develop new courses to meet the changing needs of the organisation.

We also undertook a major reorganisation of first aid equipment. Contracts have been awarded for the provision of equipment throughout the

RUC and the Police Authority for Northern Ireland.

We enjoyed success at the Police National First Aid Competition, where a team made up of Sergeant E. McCallum, Part Time Reserve Constable, L. Heaney, and Reserve Constable, W. Houston, won the Metropolitan Police Trophy. In the year 2000 the RUC will, for the first time, host the Police National First Aid Competition.

### *Health and Safety Unit*

The Health and Safety at Work (NI) Order 1978 became fully applicable to the RUC on 1st July 1998 by the enactment of the Police Health and Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. Substantial progress had already been made towards compliance with this legislation before the commencement date and efforts were increased throughout the year.

Health and safety training has been extended throughout the Force. Almost 400 members of staff have now been trained as risk assessors and have achieved accreditation from the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH). A health and safety management course was introduced for inspectors to increase competence in the key areas of risk assessment and accident management. The programme is on target and all RUC inspectors will have received training by the end of 1999.

Other training developments included distribution of health and safety

awareness packages incorporating videos, guidance and information leaflets. Work also continued on the development of a display screen assessment and training package. Health and safety formed an integral part of new training courses for premises officers and a programme of manual handling training for civilian staff was introduced by the Police Authority for Northern Ireland Training and Development Branch. We are making progress in developing manual handling training for police officers which should start within the year.

We also addressed the issue of improved control of building contractors on RUC sites. Special emphasis was placed on ensuring effective management of asbestos materials throughout the RUC estate and a new policy on the control of asbestos at work was introduced. We have developed a new accident reporting system to improve and simplify procedures. Other measures to improve local accident investigation and prevention included follow-up telephone support from the Health and Safety Unit and on-site investigations where necessary.

During the year we continued to have an input into issues such as buildings, protective clothing and equipment, police vehicles and staff training. We strive to ensure the RUC health and safety policy reflects best practice and has support from the Northern Ireland Health and Safety Inspectorate, RUC staff associations and trade unions.



**REPORT of the  
CHIEF CONSTABLE**



### *Occupational Health Unit*

The year has been a particularly busy and difficult period for the unit with increasing demand for our services, both from management and individual officers. Managers have been seeking advice in their efforts to increase the efficiency and quality of their service. Individuals have presented many health problems relating both to their current circumstances and to the problems experienced over the year.

The Omagh bomb resulted in a significant and ongoing workload providing support to RUC officers and civilian staff involved in the tragedy and its aftermath.

This additional work meant that we had to reduce activity in our health screening/education programme. However the Hepatitis B Programme has progressed with most of the higher risk groups now vaccinated.

We have been in closer contact with local commanders particularly about sickness absence and restricted duties. Local case conferences have been established to consider difficult cases and the initiative is currently being evaluated with a view to extending this contact.

We have also established additional clinics to improve access to our facilities and re-located staff into more formalised regional teams.

### *Physical Education Unit*

The Physical Education Unit continues to focus on the occupational fitness needs of the Force. Our major priorities in the last year have been the design of a new physical education programme for foundation training and the introduction of job-related physical competence testing into selected specialist units.



The unit has also launched a new health promotion campaign called 'Life Force', which aims "to promote the concept of healthy living, in order to educate officers and civilian support staff to adopt and manage positive lifestyle changes".

Officers who have been injured in the course of duty continue to benefit from our Physical Rehabilitation Programme.

### *Management Support*

#### *Central Statistics Unit*

The Central Statistics Unit provides statistical information, analysis and advice to the RUC and a wide range of external customers, including government departments and agencies, politicians, the media, universities, schools, voluntary sector organisations, private sector companies and members of the public.

The statistical information covers areas such as:

- Recorded crime
- Road traffic injury accidents
- Security and public order
- Complaints against the police
- Drugs
- Domestic violence
- The operation of the Police and Criminal Evidence Order (PACE)

Every effort is made to ensure that the statistics are objective, timely and accurate and all information is prepared in accordance with the Government Statistical Service (GSS) Code of Practice.

The unit produces regular internal management information reports and statistical downloads for the RUC's computerised management information system. The unit is also responsible for the production of the Road Traffic Accident Statistics Annual Report, the quarterly Road Traffic Accidents Bulletin and the annual statistical bulletin on recorded crime. The Road Traffic Accident Statistics Annual Report and the various statistical bulletins are available free of charge.

For further information about the statistics produced by the Central Statistics Unit, please telephone (01232) 650222, Ext 24348 or Fax (01232) 700998.

### *Computers and Communications*

During the year we delivered the following services:

- Implementation of the intelligence module of the integrated crime system. Later this year the Central Process Office and criminal records systems will be re-written. We are researching further modules and ways of exchanging information with other criminal justice agencies
- The contract for a new personnel system has been awarded, with implementation scheduled for the autumn of 1999
- Minor enhancements were made to networked office automation systems. A strategic review of these systems is currently being undertaken
- A new crime prevention alarms system was installed as an ancillary



*REPORT of the*  
**CHIEF CONSTABLE**



module of the command & control system

- We have spent a considerable amount of time researching the readiness of systems for the millennium
- Various non-strategic systems were procured to meet the needs of individual offices

### *Force Research Branch*

Force Research Branch aims to provide the Force with a high quality research capability which assists in the achievement of Force strategic goals. Our work is prioritised annually by the chief constable's policy executive which sets a list of projects to be undertaken during the forthcoming year.

Current projects include a review of the Force's approach to crime which, as well as considering internal structures and procedures, has a community focus. An integral element of the research is to identify the best method of involving every section of the community in Northern Ireland in the fight against crime. In this context initiatives with business groups, community forums and youth organisations are seen as crucially important.

We are also involved in a venture with the Department of Environment and the RUC Traffic Branch to assess the most appropriate method of enforcing the proposed bus lanes on major routes into Belfast.

We have conducted a number of surveys to assess the level of public

satisfaction with the RUC and to help in the setting of policing priorities. We also provide advice and assistance to local police who are conducting surveys within their own sub-divisions aimed at improving specific services to local residents. Survey work will become a greater priority for the branch as the RUC evolves to meet new policing challenges.

### *Management Information Development Branch*

This branch is responsible for the computerised management information system which provides operational commanders with timely and accurate management information, particularly performance measurement and operational data. The system known as 'Saturn' is used throughout the Force.

During the year we continued to research and implement additional areas of information for inclusion on 'Saturn'. Web site technology such as HTML has been developed allowing wider access to the system and making it quicker and more user friendly.

### *Policy and Planning Branch*

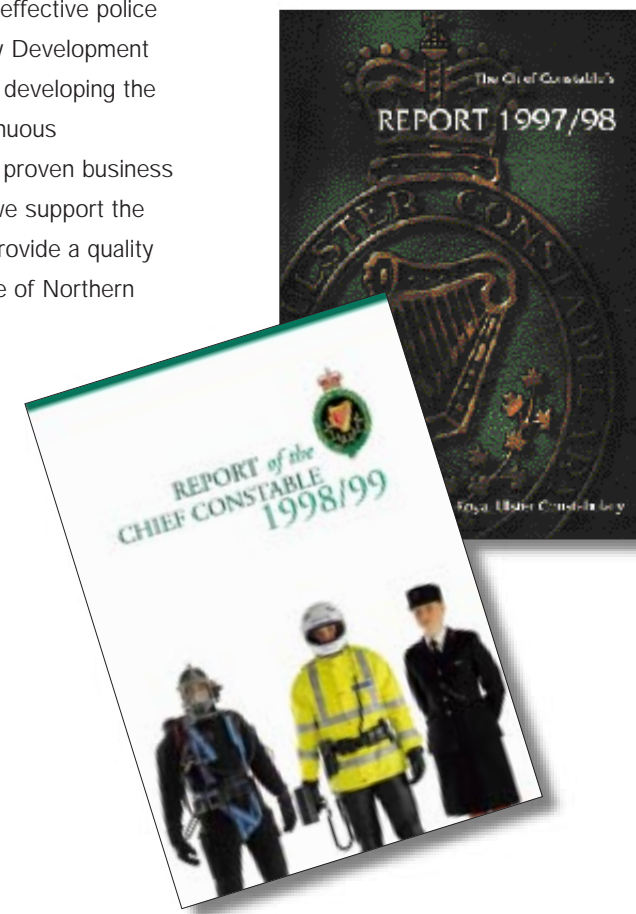
The Policy and Planning Branch exists to support planning and performance review within the Force; and to co-ordinate policy and management issues. During the last year this role included:

- Working on the production of the Strategic Plan; the Annual Policing Plan; the Chief Constable's Report: Quarterly Performance Reviews; and Local Policing Information Packs

- Scrutinising policy papers and force orders
- Responding to parliamentary questions
- Giving presentations on planning and performance management
- Developing the constabulary's internet site
- Consulting with the public, operational and support units, and with bodies such as Police Authority for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Office

### *Service Quality Development Branch*

Both the government and the public expect an efficient and effective police service. Service Quality Development Branch is to the fore in developing the RUC strategy for continuous improvement. By using proven business tools and techniques, we support the Force in its efforts to provide a quality service to all the people of Northern Ireland.



REPORT *of the*  
CHIEF CONSTABLE





# Complaints and Discipline

## Introduction

RUC 'G' Department, complaints and discipline, are based at three locations in the province; Belfast, Armagh and Limavady. The officers of the department deal with all aspects of complaints from members of the public about the actions of the Force or its officers and are also responsible for internal disciplinary matters.

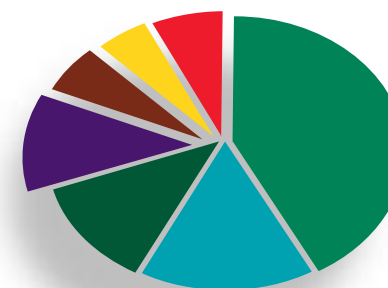
The statutory complaints system is overseen by the Independent Commission for Police Complaints for Northern Ireland.

A complaint case can include one or more complaints made by one individual at the same time or, where they are related to the same incident, complaints made by more than one person. The number of complaint cases initially recorded against police officers decreased by 16.9% to 3,355 from a total of 4,037 in 1997/98. These 3,355 cases related to 4,222 complaints made by 3,045 different complainants (Table 1, Appendix 4).

The 4,222 complaints recorded represented a decrease of 23.9% compared with 1997/98 (5,545). Within the 1998/99 total there were substantial decreases in five of the major categories of complaint; unlawful arrest and detention more than halved from 504 to 224, irregularity in procedure fell by 42.7% to 239, incivility fell by 38.1% to 646, harassment fell by 30.7% to 498 and assault fell by 16.1% to 1,778. Complaints of neglect of duty increased by 21.5% from 418 to 508.

Assault was the most common class of complaint, (42.1% of the total recorded), followed by incivility (15.3%), neglect of duty (12.0%) and harassment (11.8%).

Complaints Recorded in 1998/99



- Assault 42.1%
- Incivility 15.3%
- Neglect of Duty 12.0%
- Oppressive Conduct/Harassment 11.8%
- Irregularity in procedure 5.7%
- Unlawful arrest/detention 5.3%
- Other 7.8%

## Referrals to the Independent Commission for Police Complaints

Except for complaints which are either withdrawn before an investigating officer has been appointed or are informally resolved, the RUC must refer all complaints made by members of the public to the Independent Commission for Police Complaints (ICPC). During the year 2,494 complaint cases were referred, 279 of which were supervised by members of the commission.

In respect of 104 of these 279 cases (mainly cases of a serious nature), there was a mandatory requirement upon the commission to supervise the investigation. In addition, the commission exercised its discretionary power to supervise a further 175 cases (Table 2, Appendix 4). Complaints supervised by the ICPC included one non-complaint matter in respect of which the chief constable exercised his discretion, under Article 8 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Order 1987, to refer that case to the commission on the grounds of public interest. This case relates to three '999' calls made from different addresses in the same street in Belfast, and the subsequent discovery of a deceased person, by a relative, at one of those addresses, some two days later.



REPORT of the CHIEF CONSTABLE

### Complaints Dealt With

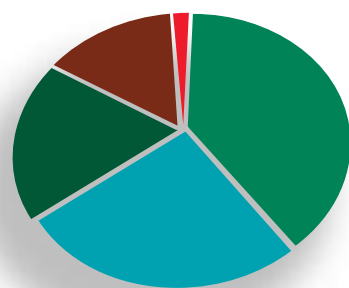
A total of 3,671 complaint cases (representing 5,293 complaints) were completed. This compares with a total of 3,641 cases (representing 5,781 complaints) completed during 1997/98. Of the cases completed during the year, 1,819 were recorded in 1998/99 and 1,852 were recorded in previous years. (Table 3, Appendix 4)

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

- After a full investigation it may be found to be substantiated or unsubstantiated
- The complainant may withdraw the complaint or decide not to proceed with it
- It may be informally resolved
- It may be deemed incapable of investigation within the terms of Regulation 17 of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (Complaints Etc) Regulations 1988 (as amended), in which case the chief constable may ask the independent commission to dispense with further action because the complaint is anonymous, repetitious, vexatious, oppressive or otherwise an abuse of the procedures for dealing with complaints and is therefore incapable of investigation

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

Complaints Completed in 1998/99



### Outcome of Complaints

Of the 5,293 complaints completed 2,150 (40.6%) were fully investigated, representing an increase on the 31.8% fully investigated in 1997/98. The proportion of complaints substantiated was unchanged at 1.2% of the total completed (Table 3, Appendix 4).

Complainants withdrew 1,155 complaints during 1998/99, an increase of 12.4% on the figure for 1997/98 (1,028). As a proportion of complaints completed, the number withdrawn increased from 17.8% of the total in 1997/98 to 21.8%. A further 1,006 complaints were resolved informally during 1998/99, an increase of 1.5% on the figure for 1997/98 (991). The proportion of complaints informally resolved increased from 17.1% to 19.0%.

Upon request from the chief constable the ICPC granted dispensations in respect of 982 complaints deemed incapable of being investigated, a fall of 48.9% compared with 1997/98 (1,923). It should be noted that approximately 669 of the complaints deemed incapable of investigation during 1997/98 related to one incident on the Ormeau Road on 11/12 July 1996. Between 1997/98 and 1998/99 the proportion of complaints deemed incapable of investigation decreased from 33% to 19%. If the figures for Ormeau Road are excluded from the 1997/98 total the proportion deemed incapable of investigation during the year falls to 25%.

Outcome of Formal Disciplinary Proceedings Heard during 1998/99

Outcome*	Reported by Supervising Officers	Complaints made by the Public
Dismissal	2	0
Required to Resign	3	0
Reduction in Rank	1	0
Reduction in Pay	6	2
Fine	14	1
Reprimand	23	2
Caution	7	0
Found Not Guilty	0	0
Total	56	5

\* Most serious penalty shown

### Discipline

Disciplinary proceedings against officers may be formal or informal, and may arise either from complaints made by members of the public (whether substantiated or unsubstantiated) or through indiscipline reported by supervisory officers. Examples of informal disciplinary action include, constructive discussion, advice or admonishment. Advice or admonishment was given in respect of 65 cases of complaint from members of the public and in respect of 86 cases of indiscipline reported by supervisory officers.

A total of 140 disciplinary charges against 61 officers were heard and completed at formal disciplinary hearings. Of the 140 charges, 118 arose from cases reported by supervisory officers and 22 from complaints made by members of the public. The results of the completed proceedings are detailed in the table above.

### Appeals to the Chief Constable

During 1998/99, seven officers lodged appeals to the chief constable. Of these appeals, one was withdrawn, one was dismissed and the remaining five are scheduled for hearing in 1999/2000.

Of the eight appeals outstanding at the 31st March 1998, two were withdrawn, four were dismissed and two were upheld. Three officers subsequently lodged appeals with the secretary of state.

### Appeals to the Secretary of State

The three appeals lodged with the secretary of state during 1998/99 have yet to be adjudicated. An outstanding appeal to the secretary of state was heard during the year and was dismissed.



REPORT of the CHIEF CONSTABLE





# 1. Crime Statistics

Table 1: Notifiable Offences Recorded and Cleared 1997/98 and 1998/99

	Total offences recorded in 1998/99	Total offences recorded in 1997/98	Total offences cleared in 1998/99	Total offences cleared in 1997/98
<b>Offences against the person</b>				
Murder	71	47	31	29
Manslaughter	4	2	2	0
Infanticide	0	0	0	0
Attempted murder	85	113	46	46
Threat or conspiracy to murder	415	303	332	251
Causing death by reckless driving	44	31	39	14
Wounding with intent/GBH with intent	564	169	130	116
Wounding/GBH/AOABH	4,657	3,720	2,125	2,351
Explosives offences endangering life	45	28	11	7
Firearms offences endangering life	124	66	72	47
Intimidation	491	349	156	77
Other offences against the person	116	139	88	134
Totals	6,616	4,967	3,032	3,072
<b>Sexual offences</b>				
Rape	284	242	215	221
Attempted rape	40	29	26	27
Buggery	43	57	28	54
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14 years	18	11	10	16
Unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl 14 years and under 17 years	149	143	139	139
Indecent assault on a female	693	598	534	513
Indecent assault on a male	185	134	151	123
Indecency between males	18	20	20	49
Indecent conduct towards a child	32	41	33	37
Incest	7	6	4	4
Other sexual offences	16	16	15	11
Totals	1,485	1,297	1,175	1,194



## Appendices

1. *Crime Statistics* Tables 1-6
2. *Security Situation Statistics* Tables 1-5
3. *Road Traffic Injury Accident Statistics* Tables 1-6
4. *Complaint Statistics* Tables 1-3

## 1. Crime Statistics

Table 1: Notifiable Offences Recorded and Cleared 1997/98 and 1998/99 (continued)

	Total offences recorded in 1998/99	Total offences recorded in 1997/98	Total offences cleared in 1998/99	Total offences cleared in 1997/98
<b>Burglary</b>				
Burglary in a dwelling	7,623	7,014	1,398	1,162
Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	102	141	33	49
Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	7,576	6,420	1,050	1,057
Aggravated burglary other than in a dwelling	1	6	1	4
Going equipped for stealing	178	143	168	142
Totals	15,480	13,724	2,650	2,414
<b>Robbery</b>				
Robbery	514	437	129	96
Armed robbery	632	594	111	139
Hijacking	249	542	29	21
Totals	1,395	1,573	269	256
<b>Theft</b>				
Theft, one person from another	234	209	48	29
Theft in a dwelling	615	580	309	251
Theft by an employee	373	323	288	278
Theft of pedal cycles	1,220	1,273	101	105
Theft from motor vehicles	6,055	4,958	358	318
'Shoplifting'	5,645	4,702	3,640	3,307
Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicles	9,705	8,090	1,298	1,122
Handling of stolen goods	435	425	399	447
Other thefts	10,322	7,758	1,785	1,501
Totals	34,604	28,318	8,226	7,358
<b>Fraud and forgery</b>				
Deception	2,915	1,951	1,449	1,326
Forgery and counterfeiting	427	353	207	157
Making off without payment	1,884	1,276	624	553
Other frauds	54	40	37	38
Totals	5,280	3,620	2,317	2,074

## 1. Crime Statistics

Table 1: Notifiable Offences Recorded and Cleared 1997/98 and 1998/99 (continued)

	Total offences recorded in 1998/99	Total offences recorded in 1997/98	Total offences cleared in 1998/99	Total offences cleared in 1997/98
<b>Criminal damage</b>				
Arson	1,997	1,186	175	161
Petrol bombing offences	194	161	41	51
Explosives offences	33	29	6	5
Criminal damage offences	7,487	3,338	1,058	1,052
Threats/intent to damage property/endanger life	83	59	71	49
Totals	9,794	4,773	1,351	1,318
<b>Offences against the state</b>				
Offences under the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act	32	31	36	29
Firearms offences	89	49	71	24
Offences under the Public Order (NI) Order	239	208	219	210
Other offences against the public order	99	169	33	102
Totals	459	457	359	365
<b>Other notifiable offences</b>				
Blackmail	41	30	16	15
Kidnapping and false imprisonment	71	50	44	27
Drug offences (Total)	1,399	1,105	1,256	1,069
Trafficking offences	193	176	179	175
Non-Trafficking offences	1,206	929	1,077	894
Other notifiable offences	20	8	16	12
Totals	1,531	1,193	1,332	1,123
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>76,644</b>	<b>59,922</b>	<b>20,711</b>	<b>19,174</b>

# 1. Crime Statistics

*Table 2: Notifiable Offences Recorded and Cleared by Division 1998/99*

		Offences against the person	Sexual offences	Burglary	Robbery	Theft		Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Offences against the state	Other notifiable offences	Totals
A	Recorded	783	121	2,206	239	7,056		879	1,231	77	177	12,769
	Cleared	349	95	456	56	1,811		350	153	66	156	3,492
B	Recorded	786	193	1,046	158	3,998		712	1,613	45	186	8,737
	Cleared	376	174	197	22	767		219	102	38	167	2,062
D	Recorded	985	195	2,649	293	5,450		829	1,470	86	305	12,262
	Cleared	412	135	481	47	999		328	170	51	249	2,872
E	Recorded	334	168	1,840	133	3,684		579	815	33	141	7,727
	Cleared	177	141	268	32	676		238	84	27	128	1,771
G	Recorded	412	132	1,401	55	2,319		278	748	23	49	5,417
	Cleared	262	107	180	11	567		118	130	21	44	1,440
H	Recorded	313	120	774	97	1,712		332	596	15	44	4,003
	Cleared	175	87	178	12	390		177	101	11	47	1,178
J	Recorded	534	63	822	95	1,970		304	656	62	84	4,590
	Cleared	278	60	161	8	505		180	106	43	78	1,419
K	Recorded	278	52	540	18	885		212	376	13	73	2,447
	Cleared	163	57	89	2	251		113	85	13	65	838
L	Recorded	846	133	1,050	20	1,255		207	383	21	74	3,989
	Cleared	214	118	157	6	395		116	91	15	64	1,176
N	Recorded	678	144	1,070	119	2,038		247	705	29	107	5,137
	Cleared	232	76	195	33	663		100	110	23	93	1,525
O	Recorded	313	61	913	58	2,034		316	621	22	99	4,437
	Cleared	193	41	146	9	597		174	114	20	84	1,378
P	Recorded	354	103	1,169	110	2,203		385	580	33	192	5,129
	Cleared	201	84	142	31	605		204	105	31	157	1,560
Totals Recorded		6,616	1,485	15,480	1,395	34,604		5,280	9,794	459	1,531	76,644
Cleared		3,032	1,175	2,650	269	8,226		2,317	1,351	359	1,332	20,711



# 1. Crime Statistics

*Table 3: Notifiable Offences Recorded and Cleared by Method of Clearance and Division 1998/99*

Division	Method of Clearance				Complainant declined to prosecute	Otherwise disposed of	Total offences cleared (all methods)	Total recorded offences
	Charge/summons	Cautions*	Taken into consideration	Offender under age**				
A	1,975	627	117	14	610	149	3,492	12,769
B	970	299	60	10	547	176	2,062	8,737
D	1,388	436	188	29	627	204	2,872	12,262
E	896	243	107	10	439	76	1,771	7,727
G	646	202	37	15	427	113	1,440	5,417
H	584	149	18	6	348	73	1,178	4,003
J	688	190	33	7	396	105	1,419	4,590
K	353	92	18	8	274	93	838	2,447
L	563	140	10	3	329	131	1,176	3,989
N	624	338	25	2	469	67	1,525	5,137
O	680	235	29	12	307	115	1,378	4,437
P	815	215	68	9	355	98	1,560	5,129
Totals	10,182	3,166	710	125	5,128	1,400	20,711	76,644

\* Includes juvenile advice and warning

\*\* Under 10 years old

# 1. Crime Statistics

*Table 4: Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE)  
Order: Persons and Vehicles  
Searched 1998/99*

	Stolen Property		Firearms		Offensive Weapon		Going Equipped		Others		Totals	
April	72	20	7	0	3	3	8	1	6	2	96	26
May	82	12	5	0	8	0	13	2	17	8	125	22
June	51	13	4	3	3	1	19	8	17	5	94	30
July	43	0	1	0	14	1	13	5	7	1	78	7
August	49	3	4	1	4	1	3	0	6	0	66	5
September	58	11	3	1	5	1	16	2	10	0	92	15
October	179	13	3	0	28	5	14	6	22	0	246	24
November	68	28	1	0	9	0	16	2	24	5	118	35
December	67	10	1	0	19	3	21	3	13	1	121	17
January	69	25	1	0	17	2	17	4	47	0	151	31
February	73	9	7	0	23	5	38	12	25	5	166	31
March	73	15	9	1	35	10	39	7	23	4	179	37
Totals	884	159	46	6	168	32	217	52	217	31	1,532	280

- Searched
- Arrested as a result of search

## Intimate Searches

Three intimate searches were carried out during 1998/99.

## Extended Detention

During 1998/99, 14 persons were detained in police custody for more than 24 hours and released without charge. There were 19 applications to Magistrates' Courts for warrants of further detention, all of which were granted. Sixteen persons were subsequently charged.

# 1. Crime Statistics

*Table 5: PACE Detention Statistics 1998/99*

	Arrests under PACE				Requests/Delays			
	Total	Gender		Arrests For Notifiable Offences	Friend/Relative etc		Solicitor	
		Male	Female		Requests	Delayed on Superintendent's Authority	Requests	Delayed on Superintendent's Authority
April	2,076	1,805	271	1,468	384	3	889	1
May	2,381	2,082	299	1,622	488	3	1,005	0
June	2,059	1,772	287	1,568	448	0	867	0
July	2,124	1,897	227	1,573	513	0	953	0
August	2,105	1,859	246	1,473	451	0	970	0
September	2,128	1,883	245	1,581	361	0	1,030	0
October	2,335	2,063	272	1,740	366	0	964	4
November	2,289	1,945	344	1,730	362	4	942	3
December	2,302	2,017	285	1,762	475	3	858	0
January	2,123	1,879	244	1,725	513	1	928	0
February	2,033	1,754	279	1,611	444	0	923	0
March	2,342	2,020	322	1,783	565	0	1,096	0
Totals	26,297	22,976	3,321	19,636	5,370	14	11,425	8

## 1. Crime Statistics

Table 6: Drugs Seizures and Arrests  
1997/98 and 1998/99

Drugs seized		1997/98	1998/99
Class A	Cocaine	470.5 gms powder 4 wraps	4,923.3 gms powder -
	'Crack' Cocaine	62.5 gms powder	31.5 gms powder
	MDMA (Ecstasy)	85,600 tablets	163,023 tablets
		26.25 gms powder 169 capsules	112.0 gms powder 122 capsules
	LSD	111,676 doses	699 doses
		-	1 microdot
	Opiates (inc Heroin)	144.3 gms	230.5 gms
		1,104 tablets	1,168 tablets
		20 ampoules	-
		-	126.0 mls 6 wraps
Class B	Cannabis	413.7 kgs (resin)	432.8 kgs (resin)
		38.4 kgs (herbal)	1.5 kgs (herbal)
		167 plants	110 plants
		1.0 gm oil	-
		186 joints	163 joints
Amphetamines	25.1 kgs powder	5.0 kgs powder	
	46 wraps (powder)	157 wraps (powder)	
	53 tablets	541 tablets	
Barbiturates	-	2 tablets	
Arrests		1,051	1,264

## 2. Security Situation Statistics

Table 1: Number of Deaths due to the Security  
Situation 1989/90 - 1998/99

Year	RUC	RUCR	Army	UDR/RIR*	Civilian	Totals
1989/90	5	3	8	3	32	51
1990/91	6	4	7	8	53	78
1991/92	6	1	5	6	97	115
1992/93	3	2	6	3	59	73
1993/94	3	2	4	1	58	68
1994/95	2	-	1	2	49	54
1995/96	-	-	-	-	12	12
1996/97	-	-	2	-	12	14
1997/98	3	1	-	-	29	33
1998/99	1	-	1	--	42	44

\*Figures include Royal Irish Regiment (Home Service Battalions).

Table 2: Security-Related Incidents  
1990/91 - 1998/99\*

Year	Shooting Incidents	Bombings**		Incendiarities**	
		Incidents	Devices Used	Incidents	Devices Used
1990/91	559	235	294	63	104
1991/92	489	348	396	138	210
1992/93	518	275	325	67	104
1993/94	426	278	303	104	135
1994/95	272	132	146	20	24
1995/96	65	-	-	7	7
1996/97	140	50	65	7	7
1997/98	245	73	91	6	6
1998/99	187	123	229	20	20

\* Financial year figures not available prior to 1990/91.

\*\*Includes explosions / ignitions and defusings.



## 2. Security Situation Statistics

*Table 3: Firearms and Explosives Finds  
1989/90 - 1998/99*

Year	Firearms	Explosives (kgs)
1989/90	199	2,796.6
1990/91	161	477.1
1991/92	175	5,470.0
1992/93	205	1,044.1
1993/94	194	4,554.6
1994/95	139	448.4
1995/96	116	6.4
1996/97	103	2,462.5
1997/98	97	661.7
1998/99	104	778.4

*Table 4: Casualties as a Result of Paramilitary-  
Style Attacks 1989/90 - 1998/99*

	Shootings			Assaults*			Total Casualties (Shootings and Assaults)
	Total	By Loyalist Groups	By Republican Groups	Total	By Loyalist Groups	By Republican Groups	
1989/90	154	67	87	68	27	41	222
1990/91	112	61	51	53	18	35	165
1991/92	64	44	20	79	27	52	143
1992/93	139	69	70	56	33	23	195
1993/94	83	59	24	42	37	5	125
1994/95	98	55	43	105	46	59	203
1995/96	6	6	-	246	90	156	252
1996/97	41	37	4	291	125	166	332
1997/98	73	33	40	125	70	55	198
1998/99	73	40	33	172	112	60	245

\* Beatings

## 2. Security Situation Statistics

*Table 5: Number of Persons Charged with  
Terrorist and Serious Public Order  
Offences 1990/91 - 1998/99\**

Year	Persons charged
1990/91	351
1991/92	433
1992/93	417
1993/94	374
1994/95	262
1995/96	476
1996/97	591
1997/98	423
1998/99	441

\*Financial year figures not available prior to 1990/91.

### 3. Road Traffic Injury Accident Statistics

Table 1: Road Traffic Injury Accidents and Casualties 1989/90 - 1998/99

Year	Number of Accidents	Casualties			Total Casualties
		Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured	
1989/90	7,237	187	2,036	9,481	11,704
1990/91	6,765	167	1,877	9,145	11,189
1991/92	6,274	200	1,672	8,654	10,526
1992/93	6,699	140	1,868	9,361	11,369
1993/94	6,604	149	1,713	9,553	11,415
1994/95	6,797	148	1,588	10,224	11,960
1995/96	6,690	139	1,543	9,910	11,592
1996/97	7,325	153	1,645	11,237	13,035
1997/98	7,081	143	1,526	10,912	12,581
1998/99	7,460	150	1,462	11,682	13,294

### 3. Road Traffic Injury Accident Statistics

Table 2: Road Traffic Accident Casualties by Severity of Injury and Type of Road User 1995/96 - 1998/99

Type of Road User*	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
<b>Fatalities:</b>				
Pedestrians	42	44	32	40
Drivers of motor vehicles	50	62	51	53
Motor cyclists	6	8	16	9
Pedal cyclists	3	5	7	5
Passengers	37	33	34	42
Pillion passengers	1	-	2	-
Other road users	-	1	1	1
Totals	139	153	143	150
<b>Serious Injuries:</b>				
Pedestrians	327	313	292	285
Drivers of motor vehicles	596	717	619	587
Motor cyclists	104	64	89	82
Pedal cyclists	66	51	59	53
Passengers	432	481	449	438
Pillion passengers	8	11	9	4
Other road users	10	8	9	13
Totals	1,543	1,645	1,526	1,462
<b>Slight Injuries:</b>				
Pedestrians	892	885	870	839
Drivers of motor vehicles	4,704	5,396	5,174	5,702
Motor cyclists	139	149	177	206
Pedal cyclists	305	292	277	244
Passengers	3,810	4,427	4,334	4,598
Pillion passengers	19	12	17	12
Other road users	41	76	63	81
Totals	9,910	11,237	10,912	11,682
<b>All Casualties:</b>				
Pedestrians	1,261	1,242	1,194	1,164
Drivers of motor vehicles	5,350	6,175	5,844	6,342
Motor cyclists	249	221	282	297
Pedal cyclists	374	348	343	302
Passengers	4,279	4,941	4,817	5,078
Pillion passengers	28	23	28	16
Other road users	51	85	73	95
Totals	11,592	13,035	12,581	13,294

\* 'Passengers' include pedal cycle passengers. 'Other road users' include drivers/riders and passengers of 'other vehicles' (e.g. tractors, invalid carriages and horse-drawn vehicles, etc).

### 3. Road Traffic Injury Accident Statistics

Table 3: Road Traffic Injury Accidents Involving Child Casualties (under 16) 1989/90 - 1998/99

Year	Number of Accidents	Child Casualties			Total Casualties
		Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured	
1989/90	1,461	20	361	1,348	1,729
1990/91	1,409	26	333	1,347	1,706
1991/92	1,305	22	289	1,269	1,580
1992/93	1,416	13	329	1,329	1,671
1993/94	1,300	20	278	1,288	1,586
1994/95	1,400	21	282	1,430	1,733
1995/96	1,385	18	248	1,448	1,714
1996/97	1,419	14	273	1,578	1,865
1997/98	1,398	16	248	1,488	1,752
1998/99	1,472	15	218	1,641	1,874

### 3. Road Traffic Injury Accident Statistics

Table 4: Child Casualties (under 16) in Road Traffic Accidents by Severity of Injury and Age Group 1997/98 and 1998/99\*

	1997/98				1998/99			
	Under 5	5 - 10	11 - 15	Totals	Under 5	5 - 10	11 - 15	Totals
<b>Fatalities:</b>								
Pedestrians	3	3	2	8	1	6	3	10
Pedal cyclists	-	4	1	5	-	1	-	1
Passengers	2	-	1	3	-	-	4	4
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	5	7	4	16	1	7	7	15
<b>Serious Injuries</b>								
Pedestrians	31	64	46	141	21	53	45	119
Pedal cyclists	2	20	16	38	2	12	8	22
Passengers	12	15	37	64	12	23	37	72
Others	-	-	5	5	-	1	4	5
Totals	45	99	104	248	35	89	94	218
<b>Slight Injuries</b>								
Pedestrians	70	201	144	415	55	213	142	410
Pedal cyclists	7	74	68	149	9	68	63	140
Passengers	142	380	395	917	247	400	423	1,070
Others	-	1	6	7	-	5	16	21
Totals	219	656	613	1,488	311	686	644	1,641
<b>All Child Casualties</b>								
Pedestrians	104	268	192	564	77	272	190	539
Pedal cyclists	9	98	85	192	11	81	71	163
Passengers	156	395	433	984	259	423	464	1,146
Others	-	1	11	12	-	6	20	26
Totals	269	762	721	1,752	347	782	745	1,874

\* 'Passengers' include pedal cycle passengers.  
'Others' include drivers of motor vehicles, riders and pillion passengers on motor cycles and drivers/riders and passengers of 'other vehicles' (e.g. tractors, invalid carriages and horse-drawn vehicles etc.).



### 3. Road Traffic Injury Accident Statistics

*Table 5: Most Common Principal Factors in Road Traffic Injury Accidents 1998/99*

Principal Factor	Number of Accidents	Casualties			Total Casualties
		Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured	
Inattention	1,607	9	141	2,634	2,784
Excessive speed having regard to the conditions	1,042	41	313	1,755	2,109
Emerging from minor road/driveway without care	968	11	136	1,650	1,797
Alcohol or drugs (all road users)	494	37	197	693	927
Turning right without care	387	2	103	699	804
Overtaking without care	356	7	94	601	702
Pedestrian heedless of traffic	334	12	89	261	362
Driving too close	260	-	17	489	506

*Table 6: Most Common Principal Factors in Road Traffic Injury Accidents Involving Child Casualties 1998/99*

Principal Factor	Number of Accidents	Child Casualties			Total Casualties
		Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured	
Inattention	251	1	13	319	333
Pedestrian heedless of traffic	181	4	48	136	188
Walk/run movement masked	170	2	30	140	172
Excessive speed having regard to the conditions	160	2	25	219	246
Emerging from minor road/driveway without care	149	1	14	200	215

### 4. Complaint Statistics

*Table 1: Complaints against the Police Initially Recorded 1997/98 and 1998/99*

Type of Complaint	1997/98	1998/99
Assault	2,119	1,778
Incivility	1,044	646
Neglect of duty	418	508
Oppressive conduct/harassment	719	498
Irregularity in procedure	417	239
Unlawful arrest/detention	504	224
Irregularity in search of premises	108	85
Mishandling of property	31	30
Irregularity re evidence/perjury	22	30
Traffic offence	27	26
Corrupt practice	4	6
Discriminatory behaviour	10	6
Other	122	146
Totals	5,545	4,222

*Table 2: Referral of Complaint Cases to the Independent Commission for Police Complaints 1997/98 and 1998/99*

	1997/98	1998/99
Cases Referred	3,152	2,494
Cases Supervised	464	279
Mandatory	110	104
Discretionary	354	175
Cases of Dispensation Granted	938	688

## 4. Complaint Statistics

*Table 3: Outcome of Complaints against the Police Completed During 1998/99*

Type of Complaint	Substantiated	Not Substantiated	Informally Resolved	Withdrawn	Incapable of Investigation	Total Completed
Assault	6	895	50	772	274	1,997
Incivility	11	417	322	98	145	993
Neglect of duty	25	213	305	60	67	670
Oppressive conduct/harassment	0	169	168	73	134	544
Unlawful arrest/detention	1	84	9	39	183	316
Irregularity in procedure	7	101	55	43	48	254
Irregularity in search of premises	1	25	16	10	30	82
Irregularity re evidence/perjury	2	33	10	4	10	59
Mishandling of property	2	17	0	12	4	35
Traffic offence	0	15	14	4	1	34
Corrupt practice	0	8	1	3	2	14
Discriminatory behaviour	0	3	3	4	1	11
Other	6	109	53	33	83	284
Totals	61	2,089	1,006	1,155	982	5,293

