

SR2004 PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT

Aim

To secure a lasting peace in Northern Ireland, based on the Good Friday Agreement, in which the rights and identities of all traditions in Northern Ireland are fully respected and safeguarded and in which a safe, stable, just, open and tolerant society can thrive and prosper.

Objective I

To support the devolved institutions, in Northern Ireland when devolution returns and encourage further political development through positive and constructive relations with the Assembly and Executive and the Irish Government and effective contributions to the British-Irish Council and British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference.

Objective II

To build and sustain confidence in the effectiveness and efficiency of the police service and police oversight and accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland.

Target 1

Increase confidence in the police throughout all parts of the community in Northern Ireland by 3% by April 2008, to be measured by a composite suite of measures on public views on the fairness and effectiveness of the police and policing arrangements..

In addition

Increase the Catholic representation in the police service to 30% by December 2010 as proposed by Patten with an interim target of 18.5% by March 2006.

Objective III

To promote and build confidence in a criminal justice system in Northern Ireland that is efficient, effective and responsive through implementing the published plan of agreed changes deriving from the accepted recommendations of the review of the criminal justice system established under the Good Friday Agreement.

Target 2

Increase confidence in the criminal justice system throughout all parts of the community in Northern Ireland by 3% by April 2008 to be measured by a composite suite of measures on public views on the fairness and effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

Objective IV

To uphold and maintain the rule of law by developing and maintaining a policy, legislative and strategic framework, that takes account of the need to secure justice and the rights of the individual, that provides for a sufficient counter-terrorist capability and seeks to minimise the potential for, and causes and effects of, public order disturbances and community strife.

Objective V

To lessen the impact of crime by working in partnership with other criminal justice agencies to maintain and develop policies aimed at preventing or reducing the threat of crime, the fear of crime and the incidence of crime and to provide support for the victims of crime.

Target 3

The Northern Ireland Office, working in conjunction with other agencies, will:

- *reduce domestic burglary by 2% by April 2005 and by 15% by April 2007;*
- *reduce theft of and from vehicles by 6% by April 2005 and by 10% by April 2007 ; and*
- *by April 2008, reduce the rate of reconviction by 5% compared to the predicted rate.*

Objective VI

To ensure that the supervisory and custodial sentences imposed on offenders by the courts are delivered appropriately to protect the people of Northern Ireland and help reduce the risk of re-offending

Objective VII

To ensure a cost effective prison service..

Target 4

Ensure that the annual cost per prisoner place in Northern Ireland falls to £82,500 by 2007-08 with interim targets of £86,290 for 2005-06 and £85,250 for 2006-07.