

NIO SR2004 PSA: Technical Notes

PSA Target	Technical Notes
<p>Target 1</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The level of the whole community's confidence in the criminal justice system will be measured annually via an independent and representative public survey, the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS).</p> <p>The NICS will be conducted annually from 2005 by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). It draws on a representative sample of persons aged 16 and over throughout Northern Ireland. Although the NICS is all encompassing, the Department will only report on those demographic sub-groups for which statistically robust data can be produced, e.g. religion, age and sex. All questions are properly piloted and tested. In addition to measuring confidence issues, it results in two National Statistics outputs, in the form of bulletins on crime victimisation and fear of crime. The bulletins incorporate descriptive commentary, tabular and graphical results, and technical notes relating to levels of statistical accuracy. They are available on the NIO website. Crime victimisation data are normally published to the nearest 0.1%, whereas those for fear of crime and confidence are published to the nearest 1%.</p> <p>The NICS will be used to measure progress against the target but we have had to construct a baseline from the information that is currently available. To do this four questions from the NICS and three questions from the Omnibus Survey* have been used. In future all seven questions will be asked in the NICS. Our judgement at this stage is that the baseline will not be affected by the change in survey method.</p> <p>Results from seven indicators, four from NICS 2003/04 and three from the April 2004 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey*, each of which measures a different aspect of confidence in the police or policing arrangements, have been used to produce a composite baseline figure of 73%. This consists of a weighted average rating for confidence in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ how good a job the police are doing ▪ whether they treat Catholics and Protestants equally ▪ whether they can provide an effective day-to-day policing service ▪ whether the Policing Board is part of the police or independent of the police ▪ whether the Policing Board helps ensure the police do a good job ▪ whether the Police Ombudsman is part of the police or independent of the police ▪ whether the Police Ombudsman helps ensure the police do a good job. <p>The aim is to increase the composite confidence figure to 76% by April 2008, the achievement of which will be determined using data from NICS fieldwork for the 12 months ending 31 March 2008. . The figures for all the PSA target 1 indicators exclude 'don't knows' and 'refusals'. Thus, the Omnibus Survey baseline results may differ slightly from those previously published by the Northern Ireland Policing Board.</p> <p>For the purposes of these surveys, the two main communities refer to those who have either declared themselves as Protestant or as Catholic.</p>

- * The Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey draws on a representative sample of persons aged 16 and over throughout Northern Ireland. It is conducted and validated by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and is designed to provide a snapshot of people's behaviour, lifestyle and views. The data are published to the nearest 1%.

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<p>Target 1 continued.</p> <p>In addition:</p> <p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The PSA target arises from those recommendations contained within the Report of the Independent Commission on Policing published in September 1999, which were concerned with the religious imbalance within the police service. At the time of the report, Catholic representation among regular officers was 8.3%. ▪ Targets on Catholic representation in the police relate to regular police officers only. ▪ The term “police service” relates to regular officers within the Police Service of Northern Ireland. ▪ The religious affiliation of new recruits will be determined from their own declarations based on guidance issued by the Equality Commission. ▪ The Oversight Commissioner will monitor, validate and report progress towards implementing these targets as part of his wider responsibility to monitor and report on the implementation of all of the accepted recommendations of the Independent Commission on Policing. ▪ Data used in the indicators originates from the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), who calculate the number of officers determined to be Community Background 2 (Catholic) as a percentage of the total number of PSNI regular officers. The NIO seek regular updates of the data to monitor performance against the PSA targets. Community background statistics are published in the annual report of the Northern Ireland Policing Board. The source of this data is the notification by existing officers of their primary school attendance. Data relating to new recruits originate from declarations of religious background by individual officers. ▪ The interim target for Catholic representation in the police service by March 2006 is 18.5%.

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<p>Target 2</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The level of the whole community's confidence in the criminal justice system will be measured annually via an independent and representative public survey, the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS).</p> <p>The NICS will be conducted annually from 2005 by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). It draws on a representative sample of persons aged 16 and over throughout Northern Ireland. Although the NICS is all encompassing, the Department will only report on those demographic sub-groups for which statistically robust data can be produced, e.g. religion, age and sex. All questions are properly piloted and tested. In addition to measuring confidence issues, it results in two National Statistics outputs, in the form of bulletins on crime victimisation and fear of crime. The bulletins incorporate descriptive commentary, tabular and graphical results, and technical notes relating to levels of statistical accuracy. They are available on the NIO website. Crime victimisation data are normally published to the nearest 0.1%, whereas those for fear of crime and confidence are published to the nearest 1%.</p> <p>Results from six NICS 2003/04 indicators, each of which measures a different aspect of confidence in criminal justice, have been used to produce a composite baseline figure of 39%. This consists of the unweighted average rating for confidence in the criminal justice system in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ respecting the rights of the accused; ▪ bringing people who commit crimes to justice; ▪ dealing with cases promptly and effectively; ▪ meeting the needs of victims; ▪ reducing crime; and ▪ dealing with young people. <p>The aim is to increase the composite confidence figure to 42% by April 2008, the achievement of which will be determined using data from NICS fieldwork for the 12 months ending 31 March 2008. Comparable results for the six indicators are published by the Home Office in respect of England and Wales. In common with the Home Office approach, the figures for all the PSA target 2 indicators exclude 'don't knows' and 'refusals'.</p> <p>In addition confidence will be supported by measuring the proportion of crimes which are brought to justice, and this will be reported annually in the Departmental Report.</p>

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<p>Target 3</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Office, working in conjunction with other agencies, will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 	<p>The recorded crime statistics for 2001/02, published by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) in June 2002, have provided the following baseline results for the crime reduction targets. During 2001/02, there were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 9,064 domestic burglaries (including 93 aggravated offences); ▪ 15,589 offences of theft from a vehicle (including attempts) or substantive theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle; <p>Achievement of the crime rate reductions for 2007 will be measured against 2006-07 data when available. Recorded crime is a National Statistics output, which is collated and validated by statisticians out-posted to PSNI from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. The data are collected in accordance with Home Office counting rules and relate to the principal notifiable offence committed (the most serious recordable offence). They are designed to count the number of victims of these offences. They do not include summary (non-recordable) offences, such as those relating to motoring offences. Nor do they include crimes not reported to nor recorded by the police. While the offences selected have been largely unaffected by the recording changes in recent years, they could be susceptible to fluctuations in reporting behaviour. The Home Office counting rules provide the most authoritative technical notes on recorded crime.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ by April 2008, reduce the rate of reconviction by 5% compared to the predicted rate. 	<p>The system for measuring reconviction rates has been developed by Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency statisticians outposted to NIO. A Reconviction Rate is defined as the percentage of offenders who were reconvicted, for any offence, within two years from the date of their non-custodial disposal or discharge from custody into the community. A database has been generated which provides baseline information on reconviction rates for the periods 1998 1999, and 2000,. A predictor model has been developed based on this information and the best practice evidence based approach originally developed by the Home Office but being refined to be Northern Ireland specific. This model will be available in the autumn of 2004 and will allow the generation of a predicted reconviction rate taking into account all those factors that affect the likelihood of reconviction for all offenders. Data for offenders released from custody or given a non-custodial sentence in 2005 will be used to calculate a predicted reconviction rate for that cohort. The observed two-year reconviction rate for this 2005 cohort should be available by April 2008. The predicted and observed rates will be used to measure the performance of this target.</p>

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<p>Target 4</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The cost per prisoner place (CPPP) target is calculated by dividing the operating costs, measured in resource terms by the average total available number of prisoner places (not the average number of prisoners) defined as Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA). This achieves consistency with the method of calculation used in Great Britain [as defined in HM Prison Service Order No: 1900].</p> <p>To maintain comparability with Great Britain, specific items of expenditure unique to the Northern Ireland Prison Service may be excluded from the cost per prisoner place calculation. These items will be agreed with HM Treasury.</p> <p>The method of determining Certified Normal Accommodation will also be based on the methodology used in Great Britain. Annual cost per prisoner place targets will be published in the Northern Ireland Prison Service Corporate and Business Plan and on the NIO web site.</p>