

Under the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 (as amended by the Police (NI) Act 2003), the Secretary of State may set long term objectives for the policing of Northern Ireland. These objectives have recently been updated to reflect the changes seen in Policing in Northern Ireland in recent years:

SECRETARY OF STATE'S LONG TERM POLICING OBJECTIVES

- Contribute to increasing public safety through reducing crime and the fear of crime, preventing re-offending and bringing those to justice who break the law.
- Increase public confidence in the PSNI through effective, efficient, visible and accountable policing.
- Be an effective partner in working with criminal justice agencies, other partners and the whole community.

These objectives might be delivered through:

- Engaging effectively with the whole community
- Making an appropriate contribution to public protection
- Reducing incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour
- Reducing crime, especially Serious and Violent Crime and Organised Crime
- Increasing year-on-year the value of orders that realise criminal assets
- Delivering continuous improvement through effective and efficient policing in accordance with statutory and other accountability requirements, and within the resources allocated
- Contributing to creating a normalised policing environment
- Achieving the Government target of 30% Catholic officers by March 2011
- Developing a strategic vision for policing, and creating and maintaining a police service focused on modern policing
- Contributing to shortening the time taken to process criminal cases through the courts.