



Northern
Ireland
Office

Statistics and Research Branch

**Views on
Organised Crime in
Northern Ireland:
Findings from the
January 2006
Northern Ireland
Omnibus Survey**

Research and Statistical Bulletin 5/2006

M Wilson

Produced by the Statistics and Research Branch of the Northern Ireland Office.

**Statistics and Research Branch,
Massey House,
Stormont Estate,
Belfast BT4 3SX**

Telephone: 028 9052 7534

Fax: 028 9052 7532

Email: statistics.nio@nics.gov.uk

This bulletin and other research and statistical publications
are also available on the Internet at:

www.nio.gov.uk

This bulletin describes public awareness and knowledge of organised crime in Northern Ireland. The findings are based on an analysis of fifteen questions that were included in the January 2006 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey, and makes comparisons with survey findings from January 2005.

KEY FINDINGS

- ◆ Of those surveyed, almost all (96%) thought that there was a problem with organised crime in Northern Ireland. Of this proportion, three fifths (60%) thought that this problem was very serious.
- ◆ Over three quarters (77%) of those surveyed thought that paramilitary organisations were mainly responsible for committing offences related to organised crime in Northern Ireland.
- ◆ Over four fifths (81%) of those surveyed said that they associated drug dealing with organised crime in Northern Ireland, 52% said armed robbery and 42% said money laundering.
- ◆ Over two thirds (70%) of respondents thought that the individual victim suffered as a result of organised crime.
- ◆ Almost three quarters (73%) of those taking part in the survey thought that organised crime could lead to fear in the community.
- ◆ Over half (53%) of those surveyed said that they would report someone if they knew they were associated with organised crime. Two thirds of respondents (67%) said they would report this information to the police.
- ◆ The majority of people surveyed (91%) thought that the police had the main role in tackling organised crime while 66% of people surveyed thought that the government had a role in managing organised crime.
- ◆ Almost half (45%) of those surveyed thought that they had a role in tackling organised crime themselves. Of this proportion, 74% thought that they should report this information to the police or customs, 56% were of the opinion that they should refuse to buy counterfeit or illicit goods while 55% would contact Crimestoppers.
- ◆ Almost one third (30%) of those surveyed had heard of the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF). Television was the main means of communicating the role of this organisation (77%).
- ◆ Over one half of these respondents (52%) thought that the OCTF was fairly effective or very effective in raising awareness about organised crime.
- ◆ Three fifths (60%) of those surveyed thought that the partner agencies of the OCTF were fairly effective or very effective in tackling organised crime.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Northern Ireland Organised Crime Task Force was established in September 2000 to provide strategic direction for a multi agency approach to tackling organised crime. Chaired by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Paul Goggins, the Task Force brings together representatives from Government, law enforcement and a wide range of other agencies. It is a forum where partner agencies can discuss problems, share information and agree priorities.

2. The Task Force published its 6th Annual Threat Assessment of the scale and nature of the problem of organised crime in Northern Ireland together with its strategy to tackle it in June 2006. The Threat Assessment identifies that the level of organised criminality remains high within Northern Ireland.

3. In order to gain an understanding of the level of public awareness and knowledge of organised crime, the Northern Ireland Office Statistics and Research Branch, on behalf of the Organised Crime Task Force, commissioned a number of questions in both the January 2005 and January 2006 Northern Ireland Omnibus Surveys.

4. The Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey is conducted several times each year by the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and is designed to provide a snapshot of the behaviour, lifestyle and views of a representative sample of people in Northern Ireland.

5. The survey comprises two distinct parts: core questions about the respondents and their individual circumstances, and a variety of mainly attitudinal questions commissioned by clients. The following questions were asked in the January 2006 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey:

- ◆ ‘Do you think there is a problem with organised crime in Northern Ireland?’
- ◆ ‘How serious do you think the problem with organised crime is in Northern Ireland?’
- ◆ ‘Who do you think is mainly responsible for committing offences related to organised crime in Northern Ireland?’
- ◆ ‘What types of crime would you associate with organised crime in Northern Ireland?’
- ◆ ‘Who do you think suffers as a result of organised crime?’
- ◆ ‘What do you think is the impact of organised crime?’
- ◆ ‘How likely is it that you would report someone if you knew that they were associated with organised crime?’

- ◆ ‘If you were to report someone, who would you report them to?’
- ◆ ‘Who do you think has a role in tackling organised crime?’
- ◆ ‘Do you think that you have a role in tackling organised crime yourself?’
- ◆ ‘What do you think your role is?’
- ◆ ‘Have you heard of the Organised Crime Task Force?’
- ◆ ‘How did you find out about the Organised Crime Task Force?’
- ◆ ‘How effective do you think the Organised Crime Task Force has been so far in raising awareness about organised crime?’
- ◆ ‘How effective do you think the partner agencies of the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) have been in tackling organised crime?’

6. This bulletin is based on the findings from the January 2006 Omnibus Survey and focuses on analysis by:

- ◆ gender
- ◆ area of residence
- ◆ religion

7. The bulletin also documents changes in respondents’ views between the January 2005 and January 2006 Omnibus Surveys. A summary of the main findings of both surveys is tabulated as Annex 1.

8. The survey sample was drawn from the Valuation and Lands Agency list, the most up-to-date listing of private households in Northern Ireland. At each address one person aged 16 or over was selected to participate. From an eligible sample of 1,984 individuals, 1,122 interviews were achieved, giving a response rate of 57%. The sample was designed to be representative of the population of Northern Ireland. Further information relating to the sample can be found in the Technical Notes section.

9. Analysis by religion is based only on those respondents who said that they were either Catholic or Protestant. Respondents who refused to answer the religion question or those who said they were a religion other than Catholic or Protestant were excluded from this analysis.

10. Analysis by area is based on three areas in Northern Ireland: Belfast; East of Northern Ireland and West of Northern Ireland. These areas are formed using the 26 District Councils in Northern Ireland. Further information relating to area breakdown can be found in the Technical Notes section.

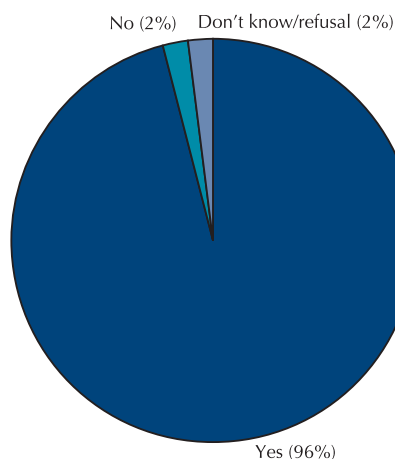
SURVEY FINDINGS

Question 1: Do you think that there is a problem with organised crime in Northern Ireland?

11. Of those surveyed, almost all (96%) thought that there was a problem with organised crime in Northern Ireland (Figure 1).

12. This can be compared to the results of the January 2005 Omnibus Survey where 95% of respondents thought that there was a problem with organised crime in Northern Ireland.

Figure 1: Respondents' view on whether there is a problem with organised crime in Northern Ireland



Gender

13. Similar proportions of males (96%) and females (95%) thought that there was a problem with organised crime in Northern Ireland (Table 1).

Table 1: Respondents' views on whether there is a problem with organised crime in Northern Ireland: by gender

	GENDER		
	Male %	Female %	Total %
Yes	96	95	96
No	2	3	2
Don't know/refusal	1	2	2
Base	500	622	1,122

Area

14. A slightly higher proportion of respondents living in the East of Northern Ireland (98%) thought that there was a problem with organised crime in Northern Ireland, compared to 95% in Belfast and 93% in the West of Northern Ireland (Table 2).

Table 2: Respondents' views on whether there is a problem with organised crime in Northern Ireland: by area

	AREA			
	Belfast %	East %	West %	Total %
Yes	95	98	93	96
No	3	1	4	2
Don't know/refusal	3	1	3	2
Base	174	549	399	1,122

Religion

15. A marginally higher proportion of Protestants (98%) compared to Catholics (94%) thought that there was a problem with organised crime in Northern Ireland (Table 3).

Table 3: Respondents' views on whether there is a problem with organised crime in Northern Ireland: by religion

	RELIGION		
	Catholic %	Protestant %	Total %
Yes	94	98	96
No	4	1	2
Don't know/refusal	2	1	2
Base	440	620	1,060

Question 2: How serious do you think the problem with organised crime is in Northern Ireland?

16. Of those who were of the opinion that there was a problem with organised crime in Northern Ireland, almost all of these respondents thought that the problem of organised crime was at least fairly serious. Three fifths (60%) thought that the problem was very serious while a further 32% and 8% respectively thought that the problem was serious or fairly serious (Table 4).

17. In January 2005, 68% of respondents thought that there was a serious organised crime problem in Northern Ireland.

Gender

18. Similar proportions of males (61%) and females (59%) thought that there was a very serious problem with organised crime in Northern Ireland while identical proportions of males and females (32%) thought that the problem was serious (Table 4).

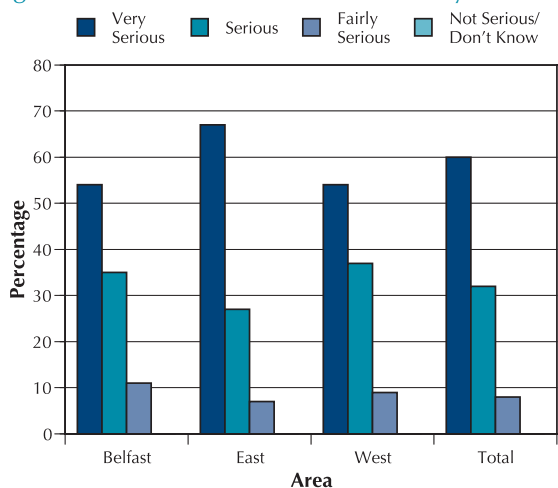
Table 4: Respondents' views on how serious the problem of organised crime is in Northern Ireland: by gender

	GENDER		
	Male %	Female %	Total %
Very Serious	61	59	60
Serious	32	32	32
Fairly serious	7	9	8
Not serious	0	0	0
Don't know/refusal	0	0	0
Base	481	588	1,069

Area

19. A higher proportion of respondents living in the East of Northern Ireland (67%) compared to the West of Northern Ireland and Belfast (both 54%) thought that there was a very serious problem with organised crime in Northern Ireland (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Respondents' views on how serious the problem of organised crime is in Northern Ireland: by area



Religion

20. A higher proportion of Protestants (65%) than Catholics (54%) thought that the problem of organised crime was very serious (Table 5).

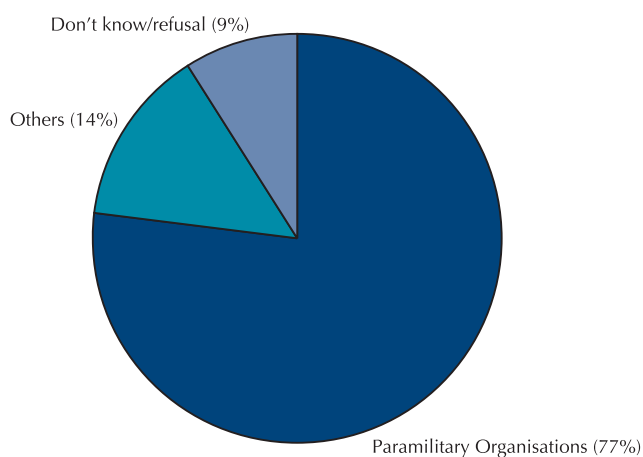
Table 5: Respondents' views on how serious the problem of organised crime is in Northern Ireland: by religion

	RELIGION		
	Catholic %	Protestant %	Total %
Very Serious	54	65	60
Serious	37	27	32
Fairly serious	8	8	8
Not serious	0	0	0
Don't know/refusal	0	0	0
Base	410	602	1,012

Question 3: Who do you think is mainly responsible for committing offences related to organised crime in Northern Ireland?

21. Over three quarters (77%) of those surveyed thought that paramilitary organisations were mainly responsible for committing offences related to organised crime in Northern Ireland; 14% thought that a variety of 'others' were mainly responsible while 9% said they didn't know (Figure 3). The category 'others' consisted mainly of 'young people', 'criminal gangs' and 'people involved in drug dealing'.

Figure 3: Respondents' views on who is mainly responsible for committing offences related to organised crime in Northern Ireland

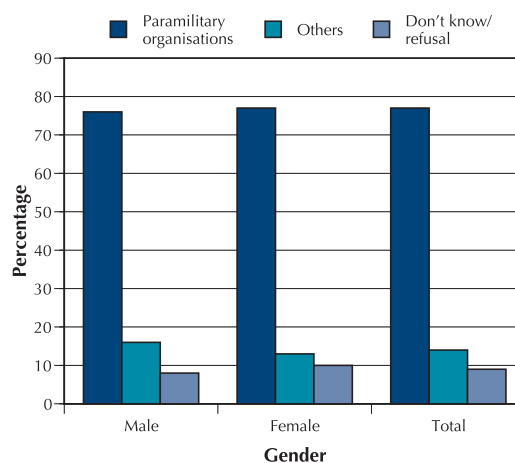


22. The same proportion (77%) of those surveyed in the January 2005 Omnibus Survey thought that paramilitary organisations were responsible for committing offences related to organised crime in Northern Ireland, while 12% thought that a variety of others were mainly responsible for committing offences related to organised crime.

Gender

23. Similar proportions of males (76%) and females (77%) thought that paramilitary organisations were mainly responsible for committing offences related to organised crime in Northern Ireland (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Respondents' views on who is mainly responsible for committing offences related to organised crime in Northern Ireland: by gender

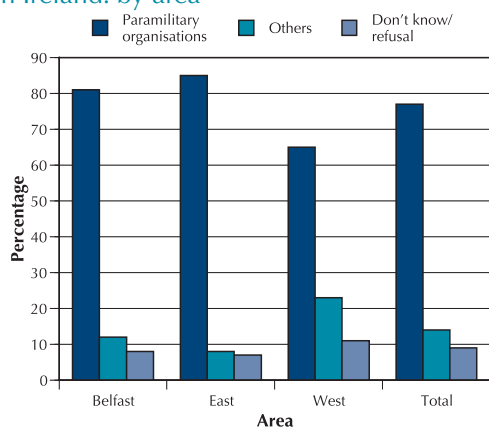


Area

24. Respondents from the East of Northern Ireland (85%) and Belfast (81%) were more likely to think that paramilitary organisations were mainly responsible for committing offences related to organised crime in Northern Ireland than those resident in the West of Northern Ireland (65%) (Figure 5).

25. Conversely, respondents from the West of Northern Ireland (23%) were more likely to think that 'others' were mainly responsible for committing offences related to organised crime in Northern Ireland, whereas those from the East of Northern Ireland (8%) were least likely to say that this was the case.

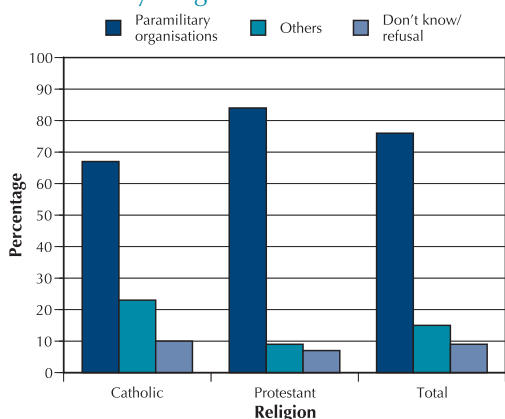
Figure 5: Respondents' views on who is mainly responsible for committing offences related to organised crime in Northern Ireland: by area



Religion

26. Proportionately more Protestants (84%) than Catholics (67%) thought that paramilitary organisations were mainly responsible for committing offences related to organised crime in Northern Ireland (Figure 6). Catholics (23%) were more likely than Protestants (9%) to think that 'others' were mainly responsible for committing offences related to organised crime.

Figure 6: Respondents' views on who is mainly responsible for committing offences related to organised crime in Northern Ireland: by religion



Question 4: What types of crime would you associate with organised crime in Northern Ireland¹?

27. Over four fifths (81%) of those surveyed associated drug dealing with organised crime in Northern Ireland. Over half (52%) of the respondents connected armed robbery, while over two fifths (42%) associated money laundering with organised crime in Northern Ireland.

28. Smaller proportions of respondents associated illegal immigration (6%) and prostitution (15%) with organised crime in Northern Ireland (Table 6).

29. These proportions are similar to those cited in the January 2005 Omnibus Survey where 78% said that they associated drug dealing with organised crime in Northern Ireland, while 59% said armed robbery, and 30% said money laundering.

¹ Respondents were probed by the interviewer to think of crimes they would associate with organised crime. Respondents' could offer up to 6 types of crime when answering this question.

Gender

30. Similar proportions of males and females said that they associated drug dealing (80% compared to 82%), armed robbery (50% compared to 53%) and money laundering (44% compared to 41%) with organised crime in Northern Ireland (Table 6).

Table 6: Respondents' views on the types of crime they associate with organised crime: by gender

	GENDER		
	Male %	Female %	Total %
Drug dealing	80	82	81
Armed robbery	50	53	52
Money laundering	44	41	42
Fuel smuggling/laundrying	42	36	39
Protection/extortion racketeering	44	35	39
Trading in counterfeit goods	32	31	32
Cigarette smuggling	31	28	29
Domestic burglary	24	25	25
Counterfeit money production	21	14	18
Prostitution	18	14	15
Illegal immigration	7	6	6
Other	10	10	10
None	0	0	0
Don't know/refusal	1	2	2
Base	500	622	1,122

Area

31. Respondents in Belfast were more likely to associate drug dealing with organised crime than those living in either the East or West of the Province (Table 7). Small percentage point differences occurred between regions of Northern Ireland in relation to armed robbery and money laundering.

Table 7: Respondents' views on the types of crime they associate with organised crime: by area

	AREA			
	Belfast %	East %	West %	Total %
Drug dealing	87	80	81	81
Armed robbery	52	54	49	52
Money laundering	41	44	41	42
Fuel smuggling/laundrying	33	36	44	39
Protection/extortion racketeering	47	44	30	39
Trading in counterfeit goods	35	33	29	32
Cigarette smuggling	35	27	30	29
Domestic burglary	26	20	30	25
Counterfeit money production	18	20	15	18
Prostitution	22	15	13	15
Illegal immigration	7	4	9	6
Other	7	12	9	10
None	0	0	0	0
Don't know/refusal	1	2	1	2
Base	174	549	399	1,122

Religion

32. There was a difference of six or more percentage points between Catholics and Protestants in relation to the following types of organised crime: money laundering, fuel smuggling/laundrying and protection/extortion racketeering (Table 8).

Table 8: Respondents' views on the types of crime they associate with organised crime: by religion

	RELIGION		
	Catholic %	Protestant %	Total %
Drug dealing	81	82	82
Armed robbery	52	51	52
Money laundering	37	47	43
Fuel smuggling/laundrying	35	41	38
Protection/extortion racketeering	35	41	38
Trading in counterfeit goods	29	34	32
Cigarette smuggling	29	29	29
Domestic burglary	28	23	25
Counterfeit money production	18	17	17
Prostitution	14	16	15
Illegal immigration	9	5	7
Other	8	12	10
None	0	0	0
Don't know/refusal	2	1	2
Base	440	620	1,060

Question 5: Who do you think suffers as a result of organised crime?

33. Over two thirds (70%) of respondents were of the opinion that individual victims suffered as a result of organised crime, while 65% of respondents thought that organised crime had impacts on the general public and 64% thought that it affected local communities (Table 9).

34. These results are similar to those documented in January 2005. In this Omnibus survey, three quarters of respondents (75%) were of the opinion that individual victims suffered as a result of organised crime, while 67% and 61% of respondents thought that organised crime has impacts on the general public and local communities respectively.

Gender

35. With the exception of the 'taxman', both males and females had similar opinions, on who suffered as a result of organised crime (Table 9).

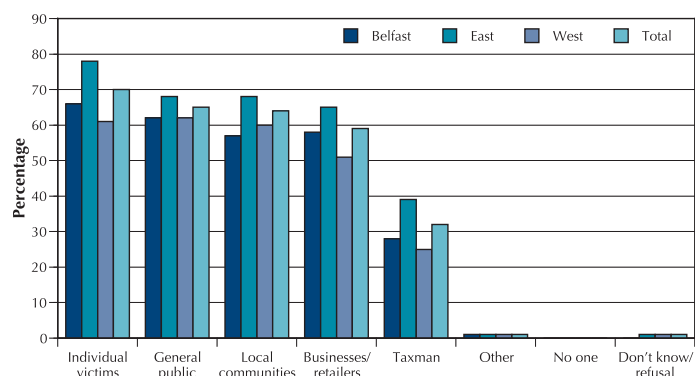
Table 9: Respondents' views on who they think suffers as a result of organised crime: by gender

	GENDER		
	Male %	Female %	Total %
Individual victims	70	70	70
General public	63	66	65
Local communities	64	63	64
Legitimate business/retailers	60	58	59
Taxman	36	28	32
Other	1	1	1
No one	0	0	0
Don't know/refusal	1	1	1
Base	500	622	1,122

Area

36. Respondents living in the East of Northern Ireland were more likely to identify the potential sufferers of organised crime than any other area of Northern Ireland (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Respondents' views on who they think suffers as a result of organised crime: by area



Religion

37. Higher proportions of Protestants than Catholics, identified people who were affected by organised crime (Table 10).

Table 10: Respondents' views on who they think suffers as a result of organised crime: by religion

	RELIGION		
	Catholic %	Protestant %	Total %
Individual victims	61	75	69
General public	59	68	64
Local communities	58	68	63
Legitimate business/retailers	49	66	58
Taxman	24	36	31
Other	1	1	1
No one	0	0	0
Don't know/refusal	1	1	1
Base	440	620	1,060

Question 6: What do you think is the impact of organised crime?

38. Respondents thought that organised crime could lead to fear in the community (73%), violence in the community (57%), damage to a victim’s health (54%) and legitimate businesses and retailers losing trade (54%) (Table 11).

39. Similar survey results were found in January 2005, when 76% of respondents thought that organised crime could lead to fear in the community, 63% cited damage to a victim’s health, 62% violence in the community and 51% thought that legitimate businesses and retailers could lose trade.

Gender

40. There was an obvious difference between male and female opinions in relation to ‘fear in the community’ (76% compared to 69%) as being an impact of organised crime. In all the other listed crime activities, male and female opinions were either identical or similar (Table 11).

Table 11: Respondents’ views on the impact of organised crime: by gender

	GENDER		
	Male %	Female %	Total %
Fear in the community	69	76	73
Violence in the community	55	59	57
Damage to victim’s health	53	55	54
Legitimate businesses/retailers lose trade	52	55	54
Small business/retailers forced to close	53	50	51
Loss of jobs	47	45	46
Loss of confidence in law enforcement agencies	46	40	43
Market flooded with inferior goods	38	38	38
Less money available for public services	36	37	36
Reduction in investment by legitimate business/retailers	36	32	34
Other	0	0	0
None	0	0	0
Don’t know/refusal	1	1	1
Base	500	622	1,122

Area

41. A higher proportion of respondents in the East of Northern Ireland, compared to the West of Northern Ireland and Belfast, thought that organised crime had an impact on all the listed organised crime traits (Table 12).

Table 12: Respondents’ views on the impact of organised crime: by area

	AREA			
	Belfast %	East %	West %	Total %
Fear in the community	72	77	68	73
Violence in the community	52	64	50	57
Damage to victim’s health	54	60	47	54
Legitimate businesses/retailers lose trade	48	62	45	54
Small business/retailers forced to close	51	59	42	51
Loss of jobs	46	51	40	46
Loss of confidence in law enforcement agencies	36	49	38	43
Market flooded with inferior goods	26	44	34	38
Less money available for public services	37	43	28	36
Reduction in investment by legitimate business/retailers	35	40	26	34
Other	0	0	0	0
None	0	0	0	0
Don’t know/refusal	0	1	1	1
Base	174	549	399	1,122

Religion

42. A higher proportion of Protestants than Catholics thought that organised crime could have an impact on all the listed categories (Table 13).

Table 13: Respondents' views on the impact of organised crime: by religion

	RELIGION		
	Catholic %	Protestant %	Total %
Fear in the community	70	75	73
Violence in the community	54	59	56
Damage to victim's health	48	58	54
Legitimate businesses/retailers lose trade	45	59	53
Small business/retailers forced to close	42	57	51
Loss of jobs	40	50	45
Loss of confidence in law enforcement agencies	39	45	42
Market flooded with inferior goods	29	43	37
Less money available for public services	32	39	36
Reduction in investment by legitimate business/retailers	27	38	33
Other	0	0	0
None	0	0	0
Don't know/refusal	2	1	1
Base	440	620	1,060

Question 7: How likely is it that you would report someone if you knew that they were associated with organised crime?

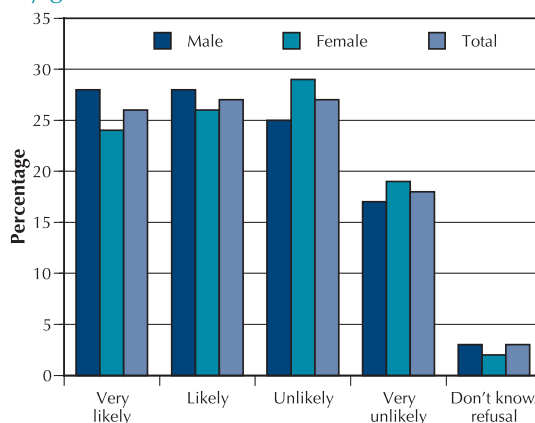
43. Over half (53%) of those surveyed said that they would report someone (responded either 'likely' or 'very likely') if they knew they were associated with organised crime (Figure 7). Almost one half (45%) of respondents said that they would not report someone (responded either 'unlikely' or 'very unlikely') if they knew they were associated with organised crime.

44. This compares to 56% of respondents in the January 2005 Omnibus Survey who said that they would report someone if they knew they were associated with organised crime.

Gender

45. A higher proportion of male (56%) compared to female (50%) respondents said that they were likely to report someone if they knew they were associated with organised crime (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Respondents' views on whether they would report someone if they knew they were associated with organised crime: by gender



Area

46. Almost three fifths of respondents (58%) from the East of Northern Ireland said that they would report someone if they knew they were involved in organised crime, compared to 46% living in Belfast and 48% living in the West of Northern Ireland (Table 14).

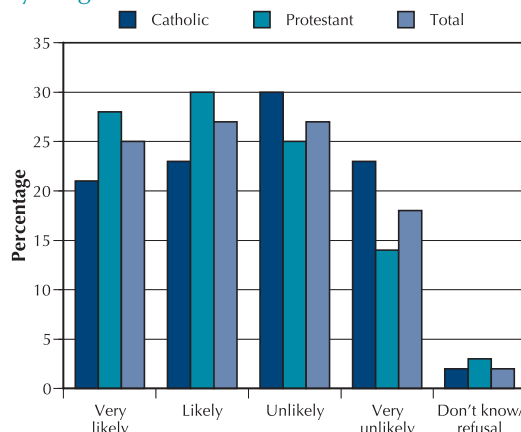
Table 14: Respondents' views on whether they would report someone if they knew they were associated with organised crime: by area

	AREA			
	Belfast %	East %	West %	Total %
Very likely	28	28	22	26
Likely	18	30	26	27
Unlikely	27	25	30	27
Very unlikely	25	14	20	18
Don't know/refusal	2	3	2	3
Base	174	549	399	1,122

Religion

47. Proportionately more Protestants (58%) than Catholics (44%) said that they would report someone if they knew that they were associated with organised crime (Figure 9). Alternatively, over half (53%) of Catholics compared to 39% of Protestants said that they would not report someone to the authorities if they were involved with organised crime.

Figure 9: Respondents' views on whether they would report someone if they knew they were associated with organised crime: by religion



Question 8: If you were to report someone, who would you report them to?

48. Two-thirds (67%) of those surveyed said they would report suspects to the police whereas 24% said they would call the confidential telephone line – Crimestoppers (Table 15). The ‘other’ category includes: Northern Ireland Housing executive, local councilors, MLAs, youth workers and the Public Prosecution Service (NI).

49. In the January 2005 Omnibus Survey 69% of respondents said they would report suspects to the police, while 23% said that they would contact Crimestoppers.

Gender

50. Similar proportion of males and females said that they would report suspects to the police or that they would contact Crimestoppers (Table 15).

Table 15: Respondents’ views on who they would report someone to: by gender

	GENDER		
	Male %	Female %	Total %
Police	67	66	67
Crimestoppers/confidential telephone line	25	24	24
Lawyer	4	4	4
Family/friend	3	4	3
Religious authority figure	2	2	2
Community group	2	3	2
Other	6	3	4
Don't know/refusal	4	4	4
Base	500	622	1,122

Area

51. Respondents from the East of Northern Ireland (68%) were the most likely to say that they would report someone to the police whilst respondents from Belfast (62%) were the least likely to say this (Table 16). A smaller proportion of those living in the West of Northern Ireland (18%) would report someone via Crimestoppers compared to those living in either Belfast or the East of the Province (both 29%).

Table 16: Respondents’ views on who they would report someone to: by area

	AREA			
	Belfast %	East %	West %	Total %
Police	62	68	66	67
Crimestoppers/confidential telephone line	29	29	18	24
Lawyer	4	3	6	4
Family/friend	5	3	4	3
Religious authority figure	2	1	3	2
Community group	5	2	2	2
Other	9	3	4	4
Don't know/refusal	1	3	6	4
Base	174	549	399	1,122

Religion

52. Proportionately more Protestants (73%) than Catholics (58%) said that they would report someone to the police (Table 17), whereas similar proportions of Protestants (26%) and Catholics (23%) said they would contact Crimestoppers.

Table 17: Respondents’ views on who they would report someone to: by religion

	RELIGION		
	Catholic %	Protestant %	Total %
Police	58	73	66
Crimestoppers/confidential telephone line	23	26	25
Lawyer	7	2	4
Family/friend	4	3	3
Religious authority figure	4	1	2
Community group	5	1	2
Other	7	2	4
Don't know/refusal	6	3	4
Base	440	620	1,060

Question 9: Who do you think has a role in tackling organised crime?

53. The majority of people surveyed (91%) thought that the police had the main role in tackling organised crime (Table 18). Two thirds (66%) of those questioned also thought that the Government had a role in tackling organised crime, whereas over half (54%) of those surveyed thought that the Assets Recovery Agency had a role in tackling crime.

54. This can be compared to the January 2005 Omnibus Survey when 93% thought that the police had a role in tackling organised crime, while 62% thought that the government and 39% thought that the Assets Recovery Agency had a duty to combat organised crime.

Gender

55. The same proportion (91%) of males and females thought that the police had a role in tackling crime (Table 18). Larger proportions of males compared to females thought that the Government and the Assets Recovery Agency had roles in tackling organised crime.

Table 18: Respondents' views on who has a role in tackling organised crime: by gender

	GENDER		
	Male %	Female %	Total %
Police	91	91	91
Government	68	64	66
Assets Recovery Agency	56	51	54
Revenue and Customs	48	42	45
Your community	35	37	36
Elected Representatives	31	33	32
District Policing Partnerships	28	29	29
Individuals	25	23	24
The media	25	20	23
Community Safety Partnerships	15	17	16
Retailers	15	12	14
Manufacturers	13	10	11
Other	0	0	0
Don't know/refusal	1	2	1
Base	500	622	1,122

Area

56. Respondents from the East of Northern Ireland thought that all listed organisations had a greater role in tackling crime than those from either Belfast or the West of Northern Ireland (Table 19).

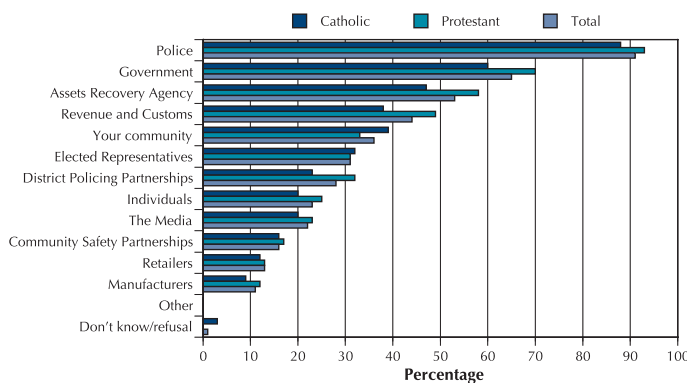
Table 19: Respondents' views on who has a role in tackling organised crime: by area

	AREA			
	Belfast %	East %	West %	Total %
Police	89	93	89	91
Government	68	72	58	66
Assets Recovery Agency	42	63	46	54
Revenue and Customs	39	51	40	45
Your community	36	38	34	36
Elected Representatives	32	34	29	32
District Policing Partnerships	27	34	23	29
Individuals	26	29	17	24
The media	23	26	18	23
Community Safety Partnerships	17	19	12	16
Retailers	14	15	12	14
Manufacturers	9	13	10	11
Other	1	0	0	0
Don't know/refusal	1	1	3	1
Base	174	549	399	1,122

Religion

57. A higher proportion of Catholics than Protestants thought that elected representatives and members of their local community had roles in tackling organised crime (Figure 10). A greater proportion of Protestants than Catholics thought that all other listed organisations had roles in tackling organised crime.

Figure 10: Respondents' views on who has a role in tackling organised crime: by religion



Question 10: Do you think that you have a role in tackling organised crime yourself?

58. Almost half of the respondents (45%), were of the opinion that they had a role in tackling organised crime (Table 20).

59. This proportion (45%) was identical to that found in the January 2005 Omnibus Survey.

Gender

60. A marginally higher proportion of males (47%) than females (42%) thought that they had roles in tackling organised crime (Table 20).

Table 20: Respondents' views on whether they have a role in tackling organised crime: by gender

	GENDER		
	Male %	Female %	Total %
Yes	47	42	45
No	52	57	54
Don't know/refusal	1	1	1
Base	500	622	1,122

Area

61. A higher proportion of respondents in the East of Northern Ireland (52%) thought that they had a role in tackling organised crime, than those respondents from Belfast or the West of Northern Ireland (both 38%) (Table 21).

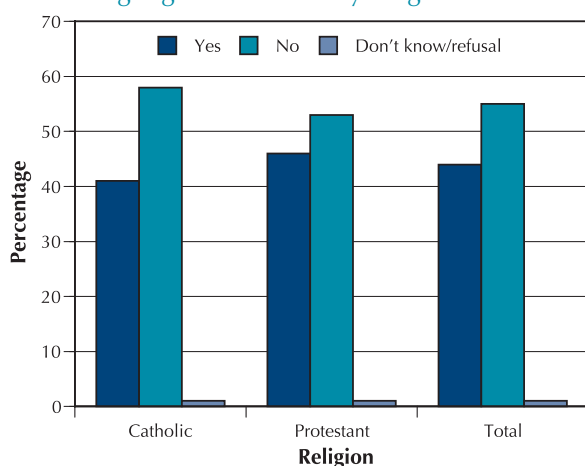
Table 21: Respondents' views on whether they have a role in tackling organised crime: by area

	AREA			
	Belfast %	East %	West %	Total %
Yes	38	52	38	45
No	61	47	61	54
Don't know/refusal	1	1	1	1
Base	174	549	399	1,122

Religion

62. There was a difference of 5 percentage points between the proportion of Protestant respondents (46%) and Catholic respondents (41%) who thought that they had a role in tackling organised crime (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Respondents' opinions on whether they have a role in tackling organised crime: by religion



Question 11: What do you think your role is?

63. Almost three quarters of respondents (74%) thought that their role was to report criminal activity to police or Revenue and Customs (Table 22). Over half of respondents (56%) thought that they should refuse to purchase counterfeit or illicit goods, whereas 55% of respondents said they would contact Crimestoppers.

64. The January 2005 Omnibus Survey, reported that 72% of respondents thought that their role was to report criminal activity to police or Revenue and Customs, while 61% would refuse to buy purchase counterfeit or illicit goods and 54% would contact Crimestoppers.

Gender

65. A higher proportion of males (77%) compared to females (72%) thought that they should report criminal activity to police or Revenue and Customs (Table 22). Higher proportions of females than males (59% compared to 53%) thought that their refusal to purchase counterfeit or illicit goods could help combat organised crime, while similar proportions of females (56%) and males (54%) said they would contact Crimestoppers.

Table 22: Respondents' views on their roles in tackling organised crime: by gender

	GENDER		
	Male %	Female %	Total %
To report criminal activity to police or Revenue and Customs	77	72	74
Refuse to purchase counterfeit or illicit goods	53	59	56
To contact Crimestoppers	54	56	55
Dissuade others, from purchasing counterfeit or illicit goods	40	50	45
Speak to elected representatives/ community groups	27	29	28
To give evidence in court about organised criminals	26	24	25
Other	1	1	1
Don't know/refusal	0	0	0
Base	236	268	504

Area

66. There were marked differences between the East and West of the Province in relation to contacting Crimestoppers (60% compared to 47%) and giving evidence in court about organised crime criminals (28% compared to 19%) (Table 23).

Table 23: Respondents' views on their roles in tackling organised crime: by area

	AREA			
	Belfast ¹ %	East %	West %	Total %
To report criminal activity to police or Revenue and Customs	-	74	75	74
Refuse to purchase counterfeit or illicit goods	-	56	56	56
To contact Crimestoppers	-	60	47	55
Dissuade others, from purchasing counterfeit or illicit goods	-	46	40	45
Speak to elected representatives/community groups	-	28	31	28
To give evidence in court about organised criminals	-	28	19	25
Other	-	1	2	1
Don't know/refusal	-	0	0	0
Base	69	281	154	504

Religion

67. Higher proportions of Protestants than Catholics thought that they had roles in tackling organised crime (Table 24).

Table 24: Respondents' views on their roles in tackling organised crime: by religion

	RELIGION		
	Catholic %	Protestant %	Total %
To report criminal activity to police or Revenue and Customs	66	80	74
Refuse to purchase counterfeit or illicit goods	44	63	55
To contact Crimestoppers	17	30	24
Dissuade others, from purchasing counterfeit or illicit goods	48	59	54
Speak to elected representatives/community groups	34	52	44
To give evidence in court about organised criminals	25	29	27
Other	1	1	1
Don't know/refusal	0	0	0
Base	182	285	467

¹The number of respondents in this category was too small to allow valid comparisons.

Question 12: Have you heard of the Organised Crime Task Force?

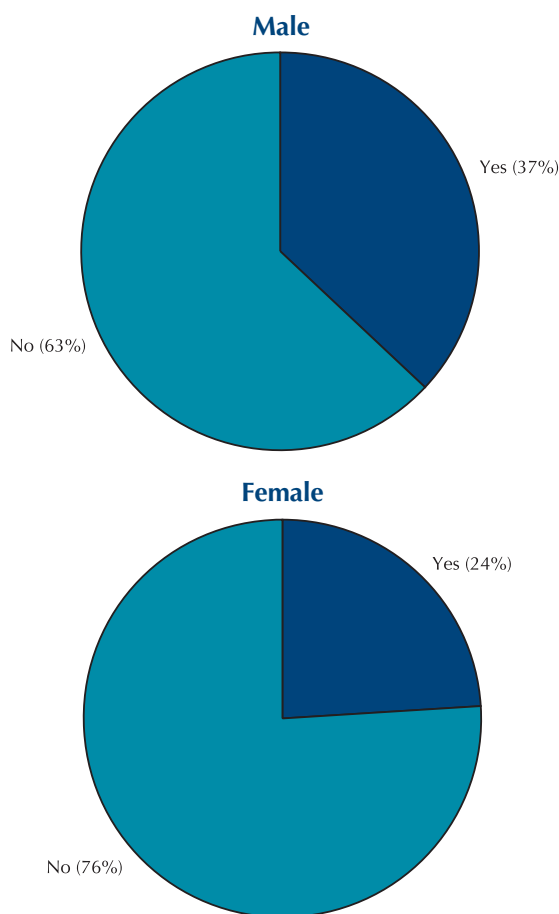
68. Almost one third (30%) of those surveyed had heard of the OCTF (Table 25).

69. In the January 2005 Omnibus Survey, 40% claimed to have heard of the OCTF.

Gender

70. Proportionately more males (37%) than females (24%) had heard of the OCTF (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Respondents' knowledge of the Organised Crime Task Force: by gender



Area

71. Respondents from the East of Northern Ireland (34%) were most likely to have heard of the OCTF whilst respondents from the West of Northern Ireland (25%) were least likely (Table 25).

Table 25: Respondents' knowledge of the Organised Crime Task Force: by area

	AREA			
	Belfast %	East %	West %	Total %
Yes	30	34	25	30
No	70	66	75	70
Don't know/refusal	0	0	0	0
Base	174	549	399	1,122

Religion

72. A marginally higher proportion of Protestants (32%) compared to Catholics (27%) had heard of the OCTF (Table 26).

Table 26: Respondents' knowledge of the Organised Crime Task Force: by religion

	RELIGION		
	Catholic %	Protestant %	Total %
Yes	27	32	30
No	73	67	70
Don't know/refusal	0	0	0
Base	440	620	1,060

Question 13: How did you find out about the Organised Crime Task Force?

73. In the mainstay, respondents were made aware of the OCTF from the media – TV (77%), Press (49%) and newspaper supplements (20%) (Table 27).

74. In the January 2005 Omnibus Survey 77% had heard of the OCTF from the TV, while 49% had heard of it via the Press and 14% had heard of it via newspaper supplements.

Gender

75. While similar proportions of both males and females had heard of the OCTF via the TV and newspaper supplements, a high proportion of males than females (52% compared to 44%) had heard of it via the Press (Table 27).

Table 27: How respondents were made aware of the Organised Crime Task Force: by gender

	GENDER		
	Male %	Female %	Total %
TV	76	78	77
Press	52	44	49
Newspaper supplement	19	21	20
Friend/neighbour/relative	7	4	6
Government publications	2	2	2
Website	1	1	1
Organised Crime Task Force awareness events	2	0	1
Local community group	1	2	1
Other	3	4	3
Don't know/refusal	0	0	0
Base	183	154	337

Area

76. Similar proportions of those living in the East and West of the Province had heard of the OCTF via the TV (Table 28). There was a difference of 17 percentage points between the East and West of the Province in relation to the proportion who had heard of the OCTF via newspaper supplements.

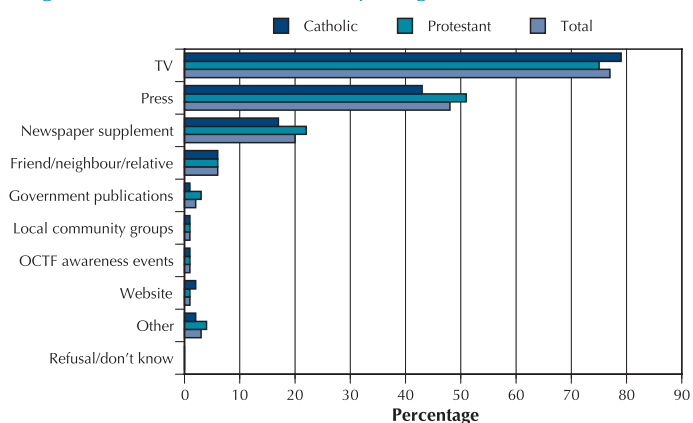
Table 28: How respondents were made aware of the Organised Crime Task Force: by area

	AREA			
	Belfast ¹ %	East %	West %	Total %
TV	-	74	75	77
Press	-	48	52	49
Newspaper supplement	-	26	9	20
Friend/neighbour/relative	-	6	7	6
Government publications	-	3	2	2
Website	-	1	1	1
Organised Crime Task Force awareness events	-	2	0	1
Local community group	-	2	0	1
Other	-	0	0	0
Don't know/refusal	-	6	0	3
Base	54	182	101	337

Religion

77. A smaller proportion of Protestants (75%) than Catholics (79%) had heard of the OCTF via the TV (Figure 13). A higher proportion of Protestants than Catholics had heard of the OCTF via the Press (51% compared to 43%) and newspaper supplements (22% compared to 17%).

Figure 13: How respondents were made aware of the Organised Crime Task Force: by religion



¹The number of respondents in this category was too small to allow valid comparisons.

Question 14: How effective do you think the Organised Crime Task Force has been so far in raising awareness about organised crime?

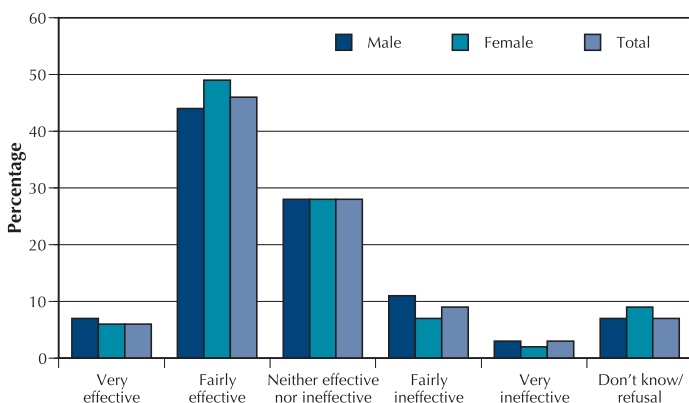
78. Overall, the majority of respondents, who had heard of the OCTF (52%), thought that it was fairly effective or very effective in raising awareness about organised crime (Figure 14). Nevertheless, approximately an eighth of those surveyed (12%), thought that the OCTF was fairly ineffective or very ineffective about raising organised crime awareness. Over one quarter of respondents (28%), could not decide whether the OCTF was effective or ineffective.

79. The January 2005 Omnibus Survey revealed that 65% thought the OCTF was fairly effective or very effective.

Gender

80. A marginally higher proportion of females (55%) compared to males (51%), were of the opinion that the OCTF was successful in raising awareness about organised crime (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Respondents' views on how the Organised Crime Task Force has raised awareness about organised crime: by gender



Area

81. A slightly smaller proportion of respondents living in the West of the Province (50%) compared to the East of the Province (54%) thought that the OCTF was fairly effective or very effective (Table 29). Similar proportions of respondents living in both the West and East of Northern Ireland were indifferent to the role of the OCTF.

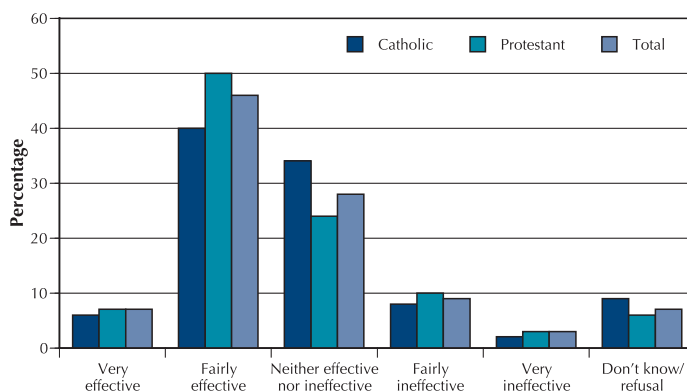
Table 29: Respondents' views on how the Organised Crime Task Force has raised awareness about organised crime: by area

	AREA			
	Belfast ¹ %	East %	West %	Total %
Very effective	-	8	3	6
Fairly effective	-	46	47	46
Neither effective nor ineffective	-	28	31	28
Fairly ineffective	-	7	12	9
Very ineffective	-	3	1	3
Don't know/refusal	-	7	6	7
Base	54	182	101	337

Religion

82. A higher proportion of Protestants (57%) than Catholics (46%) thought the OCTF was fairly effective or very effective (Figure 15), while a higher proportion of Catholics (34%) than Protestants (24%) were indifferent to the OCTF.

Figure 15: Respondents' views on how the Organised Crime Task Force has raised awareness about organised crime: by religion



¹The number of respondents in this category was too small to allow valid comparisons.

Question 15: How effective do you think the partner agencies of the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) have been in tackling organised crime?

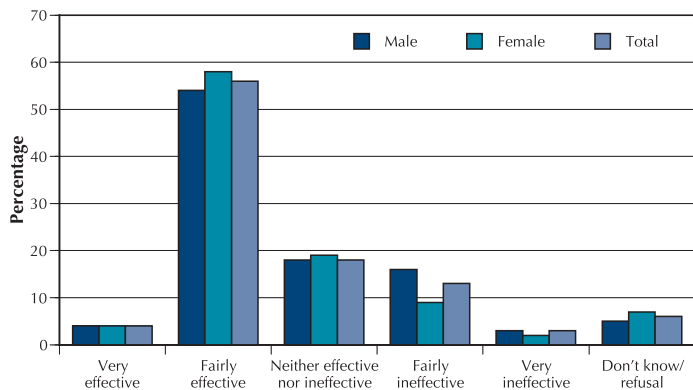
83. Of those who were aware of the OCTF, three fifths (60%) of respondents thought that the partner agencies of the OCTF (PSNI, Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs, Assets Recovery Agency, Home Office, Northern Ireland Office, National Criminal Intelligence Service, and other government agencies) were fairly effective or very effective in tackling organised crime (Figure 16).

84. This proportion corresponds to the January 2005 Omnibus Survey when 62% thought that the partner agencies of the OCTF were fairly effective or very effective in tackling organised crime.

Gender

85. A marginally higher proportion of females than males (62% compared to 58%) thought that the partner agencies of the OCTF were effective in tackling organised crime (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Respondents’ views on the effectiveness of the partner agencies of the Organised Crime Task Force: by gender



Area

86. A slightly higher proportion of respondents in the East of Northern Ireland (62%) compared to the West of Northern Ireland (58%) thought that the partner agencies of the OCTF were effective in combating organised crime (Table 30).

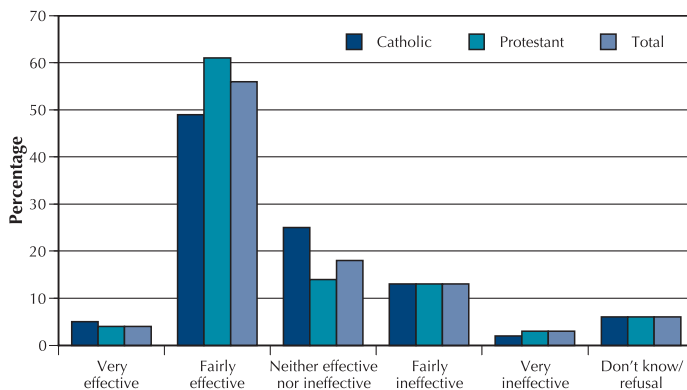
Table 30: Respondents’ views on the effectiveness of the partner agencies of Organised Crime Task Force: by area

	AREA			
	Belfast ¹ %	East %	West %	Total %
Very effective	-	4	3	4
Fairly effective	-	58	55	56
Neither effective nor ineffective	-	17	22	18
Fairly ineffective	-	10	14	13
Very ineffective	-	4	2	3
Don't know/refusal	-	7	4	6
Base	54	182	101	337

Religion

87. A higher proportion of Protestants (65%) than Catholics (54%) thought that the partner agencies of the OCTF were effective in tackling organised crime (Figure 17).

Figure 17: Respondents’ views on the effectiveness of the partner agencies of the Organised Crime Task Force: by religion



¹The number of respondents in this category was too small to allow valid comparisons.

TECHNICAL NOTES

88. The sample of those surveyed in the January 2006 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey was drawn from the Valuation and Lands Agency list, the most up-to-date listing of private households in Northern Ireland. The complete list of private addresses was stratified into three regions – Belfast, East of Northern Ireland and West of Northern Ireland, and a random sample drawn from each stratum.

89. At each address the interviewer lists all members of the household eligible for inclusion in the sample, that is, all persons aged 16 or over. The interviewer’s computer then randomly selects one person from each household to complete the interview. From an eligible sample of 1,984 individuals, 1,122 interviews were achieved giving a response rate of 57%.

90. Selecting only one individual for interview at each address means individuals living in large households have a lower chance of being included in the sample than individuals living in smaller households. The data presented in this bulletin has been weighted to prevent a bias towards smaller households.

91. To assess how accurately a survey sample reflects the population of Northern Ireland, the characteristics of the sample are compared with the characteristics of the current Census of Population. Table 31 shows a comparison between the January 2006 Omnibus Survey sample and the Northern Ireland adult population (16+) from the 2001 Census of Population.

Table 31: Sample Profile

		2001 Census of population (Adults) %	January 2005 Omnibus survey %
Sex	Male	48	46
	Female	52	54
Age group	16 - 24	16	15
	25 - 34	19	17
	35 - 49	27	28
	50 -64	20	23
	65 and over	17	17
Base		1,292,169	1,122

92. The area analysis was based on District Council boundaries and is detailed in Table 32. The 26 District Councils listed in this table were used to form each of the three areas (Belfast, East of Northern Ireland, West of Northern Ireland) described in the bulletin.

Table 32: Areas of Northern Ireland by District Council

Area	District Council
Belfast	Belfast
East of Northern Ireland	Antrim, Ards, Ballymena, Banbridge, Carrickfergus, Castlereagh, Craigavon, Down, Larne, Lisburn, Newtownabbey, North Down
West of Northern Ireland	Armagh, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Cookstown, Dungannon, Fermanagh, Limavady, Derry, Magherafelt, Moyle, Newry & Mourne, Omagh, Strabane

93. Due to rounding, percentages denoted in both tables and figures may not sum to 100%.

94. In the table, if the figure is less than 0.5% the cell is denoted with a '0%'.

Annex 1: Comparison of January 2005 and January 2006 Omnibus Surveys

Question	Main Finding	January 2005 (%)	January 2006 (%)
1. Do you think that there is a problem with organised crime in Northern Ireland?	Problem with organised crime	95	96
2. How serious do you think the problem with organised crime is in Northern Ireland?	Very serious	68	60
3. Who do you think is mainly responsible for committing offences relating to organised crime in Northern Ireland?	Paramilitary Organisations	77	77
4. What types of crime would you associate with organised crime in Northern Ireland?	Drug dealing Armed robbery Money laundering	78 59 30	81 52 42
5. Who do you think suffers as a result of organised crime?	Individual victims General public Local communities	75 67 61	70 65 64
6. What do you think is the impact of organised crime?	Fear in the community Damage to victim's health Violence in the community	76 63 62	73 54 57
7. How likely is it that you would report someone if you knew that they were associated with organised crime?	Likely/very likely	56	53
8. If you were to report someone, who would you report them to?	Police Crimestoppers	69 23	67 24
9. Who do you think has a role in tackling organised crime?	Police Government Assets Recovery Agency	93 62 39	91 66 54
10. Do you think that you have a role in tackling organised crime yourself?	Thought they had a role in tackling organised crime	45	45
11. What do you think your role is?	Report activities to police or Revenue and Customs Refuse to purchase counterfeit goods Contact Crimestoppers	72 61 54	74 56 55
12. Have you heard of the OCTF?	Heard of OCTF	40	30
13. How did you find out about the OCTF?	TV Press Newspaper supplement	77 49 14	77 49 20
14. How effective do you think the OCTF has been so far in raising awareness about organised crime?	Fairly effective/very effective	65	52
15. How effective do you think the partner agencies of the OCTF have been in tackling organised crime?	Fairly effective/very effective	62	60

NOTES

NOTES

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A Commentary on Northern Ireland Crime Statistics 2004 *August 2005*

Northern Ireland Office

Criminal Justice Directorate
Statistics and Research Branch
Massey House
Stoney Road
Belfast
BT4 3SX

Email: statistics.nio@nics.gov.uk

Telephone: 028 9052 7534

Facsimile: 028 9052 7532

www.nio.gov.uk