
Policing with the Community? Patten's 'New Beginning' 10 Years On

18 & 19 November 2009
Radisson SAS Hotel

In September 1999 the Independent Commission on Policing in Northern Ireland produced its report, *A New Beginning: Policing in Northern Ireland*. Known as the Patten Report, it recommended that policing with the community be the core function of the proposed new police service (Police Service of Northern Ireland) as well as every police station.

The Agreement of 1998 and the Patten Report together provided a unique opportunity to deliver truly effective locally-based and rights-based policing in a way that recognizes that in modern democracies policing can no longer be the monopoly of the police and that effective policing can result only from the commitment and involvement of communities paired with robust accountability mechanisms.

The ongoing process of police reform has had radical implications for the structure and management of the police, but also for human rights, accountability, equality and community safety. Of central importance to these issues is the establishment of a new Policing Board and the District Policing Partnerships.

Where are we now in that process of reform? What do human rights say about policing with the community? What role should police culture and police ways of working play in the transition? What role should the culture, politics, and experience of working-class communities, which often bore the brunt of the conflict, play in the transition? What are the implications for other communities with historically difficult relations with the police (women, minorities, LGBT, youth, etc) and their grassroots organizations? What are the challenges and opportunities? And what are our collective visions for the future of policing?

Accountability & Engagement 18 November 2009

- 9.30 Registration

- 10.00 Welcome
Mike Ritchie, Director, CAJ

- 10.15 Opening remarks
Mick Beyers, Policing Programme Officer, CAJ

- 10.30 Keynote Speaker
Maurice Hayes, Patten Commissioner
Former Northern Ireland Ombudsman and Boundary Commissioner

- 11.00 Keynote Speaker
Kathleen O'Toole, Patten Commissioner
Chief Inspector, Garda Síochána Inspectorate

- 11.30 Question & Answer

- 12.00 Coffee

Accountability & Engagement
18 November 2009

12.15 Plenary - Northern Ireland Policing Board: *Holding the police to account?*

“A new beginning for democratic accountability is key to a new beginning for policing and to involving the community as a whole in the delivery of policing.” (Patten, p.28)

Brian Rea
Plenary Chair & Vice-Chair, Northern Ireland Policing Board

Alistair Finlay
Assistant Chief Constable, Urban Region, PSNI

Dave Jones
Assistant Chief Constable, Rural Region, PSNI

Gearóid Ó hEara
Member, Community Engagement Committee

Basil McCrea
Chair, Human Rights & Professional Standards Committee

1.00 Question & Answer

1.30 Lunch

2.15 Plenary - District Policing Partnerships: *Effective engagement with the police?*

“The function of the DPP(B)s should be advisory, explanatory and consultative. The Boards (sic) should represent the consumer, voice the concerns of citizens, and monitor the performance of the police in their districts...” (Patten, p.35)

Mary McKee
Plenary Chair & Vice-Chair, Human Right & Professional Standards Committee and Member of Community Engagement Committee

Jennifer Cornell
North Belfast District Policing Partnership Sub-Group

Mark Hamilton
Chief Superintendent, District Commander 'A' District (North & West Belfast), PSNI

Rosie McCorley
West Belfast District Policing Partnership

John O'Doherty
Former Vice-Chair, South Belfast District Policing Partnership Sub-Group

3.00 Question & Answer

3.30 Closing remarks
Mike Ritchie, Director, CAJ

Partnership & Future visions
19 November 2009

- 9.30 Registration
- 10.15 Welcome
Mike Ritchie, Director, CAJ
- 10.30 Keynote speaker: *Policing with the Community: Implications for Human Rights*
Alyson Kilpatrick, Human Rights Advisor, Northern Ireland Policing Board
- 11.00 Question & Answer
- 11.15 Coffee
- 11.30 **Plenary - Local Policing: *Policing in Partnership?***

“Partnership is a matter of policing style, but it is also an attitude of mind, both for police officers and for the public. It is at least as much a matter of philosophy as it is one of method, and it amounts to a profound shift in police thinking and community thinking.” (Patten, p. 41)

Jim Auld
Plenary Chair & Director, Community Restorative Justice Ireland

Gordon Douglas
Community Affairs Manager, Queen’s University Belfast

Derek Hanway
Director, An Munia Tober, Travellers support programme

Patricia Lyness
Belfast & Lisburn Women’s Aid
Vice-Chair, The Women’s Reference Group

Robert Murdie
Chief Inspector, Central Neighbourhood Policing Unit (City Centre) ‘B’ District,
(South & East Belfast), PSNI

- 12.15 Question & Answer
- 12.45 Lunch
- 1.30 Keynote Speakers: *Future Visions for Policing*

Nigel Grimshaw, Acting Assistant Chief Constable, Criminal Justice, PSNI

John Topping, Centre for Policing Studies, University of Ulster
- 2.15 Question & Answer
- 3.00 Closing remarks
Mike Ritchie, Director, CAJ