



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

Com Sec: 10\3182

26th May 2010

Dear Mr Shannon,

To ask the Minister of Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that there is an adequate security force presence on the ground to deal with the increasing dissident republican activity

6461/10

The above mentioned question was placed before the Minister for Justice, who has deemed that this is an operational matter for the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Therefore the Chief Constable has been asked to respond directly.

The last few months has seen a considerable escalation of terrorist activity with a continued determination to murder police officers. In spite of this we are taking steps to ensure the resilience of frontline policing is maintained and although PSNI has more officers now on the streets that at any time since 2007, efforts are continuing to move more officers from non-operational police roles into front line service delivery. This process will be pursued relentlessly, alongside efforts to reform criminal justice systems and processes in order to free up more officer patrol time.

This is an issue that the Chief Constable and his Command Team keep under continual review. Throughout this they work closely with the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Minister of Justice.

As you will appreciate any decision taken by the PSNI to adjust these arrangements in year may require additional funding. We will explore the options for securing this with the Policing Board and the Department of Justice, and will make a measured decision appropriate to the circumstances.

Please be advised that a copy of this letter will be placed in the Library of the Northern Ireland Assembly. If you have any queries regarding this response, please address your correspondence to Command Secretariat, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland BT5 6LE.

Command Secretariat, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland BT5 6LE
Telephone: 028 90700006, Fax: 028 90700124



Calls within Police Service of Northern Ireland telephone system may be monitored or recorded