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ANNEX B

PERSONS AND ORGANISATIONS CONSULTED

December 1987

Sir Kenneth Bloomfield
Mr D Chesterton
Mr W Innes
Mr J McConnell

Mr P Donnelly
Mr K Nixon
Mr J Toner
Mr D McFerran
Mr A McMillan
Mr N Kerr

NIO
NIO
NIO
NIO

Solicitor
Former Teacher
Solicitors
Barrister
Solicitors
Solicitor
Barrister
Journalist
NIO

January 1988

Mr R. Watson
Mr D Wightman

NIO Senior
Civil Representatives

Mr E Simpson
Mr F Edgar

NI Courts Service

Mr S O'Hara (Chairman)
Mr J Fisher (Secretary)

Standing Advisory
Commission on Human
Rights

Mgr A Duffy
Fr R Fullerton
Fr D Rogan
Fr M Wallace

Catholic Priests

Mrs B Gadd

Chief Probation
Officer for NI

Dr J Harbison
Mr E Jardine
Sir B Shaw

DFP PPRU
DFP PPRU
Director of Public
Prosecutions (NI)

Mr A Campbell QC

Crown Counsel NI

Mr M O'Brien et al

Committee on
Administration of
Justice

Mr B Dickson

Dr M Hayes

Commissioner for
Complaints (NI)

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TABLE 5 - CASES DISPOSED OF IN CROWN COURTS 1986

		Pleas	Trials	Total
Belfast	Scheduled	264	65	329
	Non-Scheduled	372	31	403
North Antrim		108	27	135
Londonderry		77	22	99
Omagh & Enniskillen		45	21	66
Armagh		71	24	95
South Down		68	13	81
Ards		102	15	117
Total		1107	218	1325

Law and order in Ulster—how the two communities view it

Belfast Telegraph

6 FEB 1985

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The RUC

Question: "How fair do you think the RUC is in the discharge of its duties in Northern Ireland?"

Response	Roman Catholic (%)	Protestant (%)
Very fair	4	37
Fair	43	59
Unfair	38	3
Very unfair	15	1

Analysis: Almost the entire Protestant population regards the RUC as operating fairly, with only 4pc feeling otherwise. But the Roman Catholic community is split almost evenly, with 47pc expressing some degree of satisfaction while 53pc regard the RUC as unfair. Only four pc of Catholics think the RUC very fair, compared with a similar declaration from 37pc of Protestants.

Security Forces

Question: "Do you think the security forces are restricted or not restricted by political policies in their security duties in Northern Ireland?"

Response	Roman Catholic (%)	Protestant (%)
Are restricted	39	92
Are not restricted	40	4
Don't know	21	4

Analysis: Roman Catholic opinion is divided on the issue in almost equal numbers. Protestants feel almost entirely (92pc) that the Government plays a large part in determining what security forces should do. But a considerable body of Catholics (21pc) appear uncertain.

Supergrasses

Question: "Do you think that the evidence of supergrasses should be or should not be admissible without corroboration in the trials of those charged with terrorist-type offences in Northern Ireland?"

Response	Roman Catholic (%)	Protestant (%)
Should be admissible	10	35
Should not be admissible	81	46
Don't know	9	19

Analysis: Protestant opinion is seriously divided on this issue. Large percentages in their responses believe it should be admissible, should not and also do not know. A high number (19pc) are not and also do not know. By contrast, Roman Catholic opinion is unified, with four out of five people saying firmly that supergrass evidence should not be admissible.

THE Roman Catholic community appears to have a higher regard for the RUC than is often believed, according to the Belfast Telegraph opinion poll on law and order.

The poll examined eight issues, and the finding showed the extent of differences on many of them between Protestants and Catholics.

Catholic attitudes to the legal system are divided. While 57pc feel justice is carried out unfairly, more than a third believe the process is fair. Only 9pc of Protestants feel a sense of injustice.

Considerable polarisation is shown regarding the use of plastic

bullets and how the legal system operates in Northern Ireland.

But, when dealing with people's attitudes on how they regard the RUC in performing its duties, the poll indicated that almost half of Catholics (47pc) felt it was doing the task fairly.

Almost the entire Protestant community (96pc) supported the police, although communal differences surface in the degree of fairness attributed in response to the question.

Only 4pc of Catholics felt the RUC was "very fair", compared to 37pc of Protestants.

Other points from the poll were:

- Nearly all Protestants (86pc)

support the use of plastic bullets, while a similar percentage (87pc) of Catholics do not approve of their use as riot control weapons.

• Nine out of 10 Protestants feel that the security forces are being restricted by political considerations from the Government.

• While 57pc of Catholics feel the legal system dispenses justice in an unfair way in Northern Ireland, 89pc of Protestants disagree.

• Four out of five Protestants indicated support for a two-way system of "hot pursuit" of terrorist suspects across the border by the RUC and Garda, although 56pc of

Catholics were opposed.

• On the supergrass issue, four out of five Catholics maintain such evidence should not be admissible in courts. Protestant opinion on the issue is seriously divided, with almost 20pc unsure of where they stand on it.

• The community splits on sectarian lines on the question of restoring the death penalty for terrorism — 74pc of Protestants in favour and 71pc of Catholics against.

• Both religious communities are substantially divided in their attitudes on whether republican and loyalist prisoners should be segregated in the province's jails.

Hanging

Question: "Would you approve or disapprove of the re-introduction of the death penalty only for those convicted of terrorist murders in Northern Ireland?"

Response	Roman Catholic (%)	Protestant (%)
Approve	21	74
Disapprove	71	18
Don't know	8	8

Analysis: The question of hanging again splits along sectarian lines. Protestants and Roman Catholics oppose each other on this issue, with almost equally high percentages of Protestants favouring its re-introduction, and a similar percentage of Catholics rejecting such a move.

Prisoners

Question: "Do you think that republican and loyalist prisoners in Northern Ireland should or should not be segregated into separate units while serving their sentences?"

Response	Roman Catholic (%)	Protestant (%)
Should be segregated	40	53
Should not be segregated	49	37
Don't know	11	10

Analysis: Both religious communities are substantially divided on the issue. A slight majority of Roman Catholics are not in favour of segregation, accounting for almost half of all Catholics questioned. The reverse occurs among Protestants, with a larger majority favouring segregation — while a substantial minority (37pc) would oppose it.

Hot Pursuit

Question: "Do you think that the RUC and Garda Síochána should or should not have the right to cross the border into each others territory in hot pursuit of suspects?"

Response	Roman Catholic (%)	Protestant (%)
Should have the right	37	78
Should not have the right	56	19
Don't know	7	3

Analysis: Although most Roman Catholics (56pc) oppose a "hot pursuit" security policy, almost two in five would favour it. Four out of five Protestants (78pc) support such an approach to security. As the question quite openly allows the Garda to cross into Northern Ireland, it would appear that almost 80pc of Protestants would see hot pursuit as a two way policy.

Nearly 1,000 answer the poll

THE Belfast Telegraph opinion poll on attitudes towards law and order in Northern Ireland was carried out by the Northern Ireland Consumer Panel.

Research was conducted through a mailed questionnaire between January 7 and 28.

The panel is made up of 1,200 households recruited through a systematic random sample of the electoral registers.

It was established as a research facility jointly sponsored by the Belfast Telegraph and Price Waterhouse Associates (Management Consultants).

Of the 1,200 questionnaires sent out to Panel members' homes, 955 were returned completed, giving a 79.5pc response rate.

The panel was primarily established to provide market research information, but because of its representative nature a separate poll about eight law and order issues was included with its January survey.

Respondents were asked to state their religious affiliations, and of those who did so 28.2pc stated Roman Catholic and 71.8pc Protestant.

The panel was picked to represent Northern Ireland as a whole in terms of sex, age, social class and area of

Justice



Question: "Do you think that in the main the legal system in Northern Ireland dispenses justice very fairly, fairly, unfairly or very unfairly?"

Response	Roman Catholic (%)	Protestant (%)
Very fairly	4	25
Fairly	32	64
Unfairly	37	7
Very unfairly	20	2
Don't know	7	2

Analysis: While 89pc of Protestants attribute some degree of fairness to the legal system in Northern Ireland, and only a fraction appear unhappy, Roman Catholics are considerably more divided. A little more than one-third of Catholics see the system of justice as operating fairly, while almost all the remaining two-thirds regard it as unfair.

Plastic Bullets



Question: "Do you approve or disapprove of the use of plastic bullets by the security forces as a weapon during riots?"

Response	Roman Catholic (%)	Protestant (%)
Approve	9	86
Disapprove	87	8
Don't know	4	6

Analysis: Massive polarisation emerges from this question. An overwhelming majority (87pc) of Roman Catholics oppose the use of plastic bullets, while an almost equal percentage of Protestants (86pc) approve of them. There is little common ground between both communities on the issue.

13 THE LAW AND SECURITY FORCES

We have seen that a substantial proportion of people think that discrimination and denial of civil rights are among the main causes of the current Troubles and that providing equal opportunities is the most important condition of resolving the conflict. In the meantime, the conflict itself makes it much more difficult than in peaceful times to uphold the most fundamental form of equality: that is, equality before the law. The process of development is that people start by protesting about discrimination, unfairness or inequality in access to housing and jobs, the protests lead to clashes with the opposite community or become violent in themselves, these outbreaks of violence are met by an increase in the nature and size of the security forces (together with changes in their working methods) and by changes in the law and criminal procedure to meet the new conditions. By this time, even if the original grievances have been dealt with, people are protesting about discrimination, unfairness or inequality in the treatment of protest and protesters on each side. The tactic of revolutionaries is to exploit this trend of development by encouraging the government to respond repressively and in a way that destroys the credibility and legitimacy of established authority.

If that outcome is to be avoided, it is of central importance that there should be faith in the fairness of the courts and security forces. We therefore set out to establish how far people believe that Protestants and Catholics are equally treated by the courts and security forces, and that these forces make equal efforts to contain attacks on members of each community. In the context of this survey we were not, of course, able to study people's contacts with the police and security forces, or their views about police and security policy or about the standards of conduct of the police and army. However, we have been able to extend our analysis of views about equal and unequal treatment of Protestants and Catholics from employment, housing

and public services to the law and the security forces.

Fairness of the courts

Towards the end of the interview, respondents were asked the following pair of questions.

On the whole, do you think the courts in Northern Ireland are fair or unfair when dealing with Protestants?

On the whole, do you think the courts in Northern Ireland are fair or unfair when dealing with Catholics?

The main point to be made about the results (Table 13.1) is that only a small minority of people have completely lost confidence in the courts: overall, 5 per cent say they are very unfair when dealing with Protestants, and 8 per cent when dealing with Catholics. The proportion who have lost confidence to some degree - who think the courts are a bit unfair or very unfair - is also fairly small: 14 per cent when dealing with Protestants, and 17 per cent when dealing with Catholics.

Table 13.1 Fairness of the courts

Column percentages

	Total	Protestants	Catholics
When dealing with Protestants			
Completely fair	25	29	18
Reasonably fair	46	44	49
A bit unfair	9	9	9
Very unfair	5	5	5
Don't know, not stated	15	13	18
When dealing with Catholics			
Completely fair	24	32	9
Reasonably fair	44	48	36
A bit unfair	9	5	17
Very unfair	8	2	21
Don't know, not stated	14	13	17

There is no striking difference of view between Protestants

and Catholics on the way the courts deal with Protestants. Exactly the same proportion of the two groups think they are a bit unfair and very unfair in this context; Protestants are rather more likely than Catholics to think they are completely fair when dealing with Protestants, but this is not a large difference. However, there is a considerable difference between the views of the two groups about the fairness of the courts when dealing with Catholics. The most disturbing finding here is that 21 per cent of Catholics (compared with only 2 per cent of Protestants) have completely lost confidence in the way the courts treat their own group (they think they are very unfair); also, 38 per cent of Catholics think the courts are a bit unfair or very unfair when dealing with Catholics, compared with 7 per cent of Protestants who hold the same view. The main loss of confidence is therefore among Catholics and with regard to the treatment of Catholics: It does not extend to the majority, but it does affect a substantial minority - somewhere between 20 per cent and 40 per cent, depending on the exact criterion that is used.

We have seen that among Catholics there is a cluster of attributes that tend to be associated with the view that Catholics are subject to injustices of various kinds. These views are most common among working class Catholics, among those in mostly Catholic neighbourhoods, among those in Belfast, and among supporters of Sinn Féin, and all of these attributes are related to each other. With regard to views about the fairness of the courts when dealing with Catholics, this pattern is repeated, except that there is no consistent tendency for working class Catholics to be more critical of the courts than those belonging to the middle class.

[Table 108]

There are, however, quite large differences between regions; again it is Catholics in Belfast who are most critical (55 per cent say the courts are a bit unfair or very unfair). Also, those in mostly Catholic neighbourhoods are much more critical than those in mixed neighbourhoods. Finally, as might be

expected, supporters of Sinn Fein are far more critical of the courts than others. [Tables 109-111]

We have seen that among Protestants the level of confidence in the courts is generally higher, but the proportion who think the courts are a bit unfair or very unfair in dealing with Protestants is considerably higher among the lower working class (the semi-skilled and unskilled manual groups) than among the middle class (Table 108). This is linked with the fact that supporters of the DUP are considerably more likely to be critical of the courts than other Protestants (Table 111); the link is that DUP supporters tend strongly to belong to the lower working class (see Appendix 1). However, there is little or no indication of differences between the opinions of Protestants in different regions, or between those in mostly Protestant and mixed neighbourhoods (Tables 109 and 110).

Thus there is some tendency for a lack of confidence in the fairness of the courts to be associated with the extremes of the political spectrum (the DUP and Sinn Fein) and with a cluster of other characteristics associated with these extremes. There is not much criticism of the fairness of the courts from Protestants other than DUP supporters. However, among Catholics, criticism of the courts certainly does not come from Sinn Fein supporters alone. Thus Table 111 shows that 40 per cent of SDLP supporters think the courts are a bit unfair or very unfair when dealing with Catholics; this is lower than the 77 per cent among Sinn Fein supporters, but is still substantial. It is interesting to note, however, that among Catholic Alliance supporters, the proportion who give this answer (13 per cent) is lower than for any other Catholic group.

Police action to stop attacks

A major difficulty in establishing the impartiality of the police in Northern Ireland is that in spite of attempts to recruit more Catholics, the Royal Ulster Constabulary is a largely Protestant force. Because of this, Catholics may be liable to suspect that the police will take a one-sided view of sectarian violence, and

do more to prevent or stop attacks committed by Catholics than by Protestants. To test their views on this point, respondents were asked 'How hard do you think the police try to stop attacks by Protestants?' The question was repeated for attacks by Catholics.

The great majority of people (77 per cent) think the police try very hard or fairly hard to stop attacks by Catholics, and there is not much difference between the views of Protestants and Catholics on this, though Catholics are a bit more likely to think they try very hard (47 per cent compared with 39 per cent). Although the two groups give much the same answers here, their motives may be somewhat different. In crude terms, Catholics may be saying that the police deal firmly with Catholics because they are antagonistic to them. By contrast, Protestants may be saying that the police deal firmly with attacks by Catholics because they are a good police force.

By contrast, the two groups express sharply different views about police efforts to stop attacks by Protestants (Table 13.2). The great majority of Protestants (86 per cent) think the police try very hard or fairly hard to stop attacks by Protestants,

Table 13.2 How hard the police try to stop attacks

Column percentages

	Total	Protestants	Catholics
Attacks by Protestants			
Very hard	38	51	14
Fairly hard	34	35	32
Try a bit	18	10	33
Don't try at all	8	2	19
Don't know, not stated	3	2	11
Attacks by Catholics			
Very hard	42	39	47
Fairly hard	35	35	35
Try a bit	14	16	12
Don't try	6	7	4
Don't know, not stated	3	3	3

whereas only 46 per cent of Catholics hold the same view. This conflict of opinions is entirely to be expected. Protestants have every reason to say that the police deal firmly with attacks by their own side. It is a way of showing loyal support for the police while affirming that the rule of law prevails and pointing out that Protestants, as well as Catholics, are punished when they offend. By contrast, Catholics will say the police do not try to stop attacks by Protestants if they think a largely Protestant police force is biased in favour of the Protestant side. Thus the same motives produce agreement about police efforts to stop attacks by Catholics, and disagreement about their efforts to stop attacks by Protestants.

In any case, the substantive finding is that about half of Catholics think the police try only a bit or don't try at all to stop attacks by Protestants. This signals a considerable lack of confidence in the police among Catholics.

Looking at these results a different way, they show that each side is more likely to think the police try to stop attacks by their own side than by the other side. However, this contrast of views is much greater in the case of Catholics than in the case of Protestants. Most Protestants think the police try to stop attacks from both sides, whereas this is not true of Catholics.

Sinn Fein supporters are much more likely than other Catholics to think the police do not try hard to stop attacks by Protestants. Also, DUP supporters are considerably more likely than other Protestants to think the police do not try hard to stop attacks by Catholics. [Table 112]

Equal or unequal treatment of Protestants and Catholics
Respondents were asked whether the police treat Protestants and Catholics equally on the whole, and if not which group they treat better. The question was repeated for the British army and for the UDR.

Protestants and Catholics have entirely different views as to how far the police and security forces are even-handed in their treatment of the two groups (Table 13.3). Among Protestants, the

majority view is that all three organisations are even-handed. The proportion of Protestants who think they treat both groups equally is highest for the army (85 per cent), next highest for the police (75 per cent) and lowest for the UDR (68 per cent). Protestants are a bit more likely to think the army treats Protestants better (9 per cent) than Catholics better (3 per cent). There is an equal number of Protestants who think the police treat each group better (11 to 12 per cent). By contrast, hardly any Protestants think the UDR treats Catholics better (1 per cent) whereas 27 per cent think they treat Protestants better. Thus, broadly speaking, a majority of Protestants think all three security organisations are even-handed in their treatment of the

Table 13.3 Whether the police and security forces treat Protestants and Catholics equally

Column percentages

	Total	Protestants	Catholics
The police treat			
Protestants much better	13	2	32
Protestants a bit better	15	9	24
Both groups equally	63	75	42
Catholics a bit better	5	7	1
Catholics much better	3	5	-
Don't know, not stated	2	2	1
The British army treat			
Protestants much better	6	2	13
Protestants a bit better	10	7	15
Both groups equally	78	85	68
Catholics a bit better	1	2	-
Catholics much better	1	1	*
Don't know, not stated	4	4	4
The UDR treat			
Protestants much better	22	7	50
Protestants a bit better	20	20	18
Both groups equally	53	68	27
Catholics a bit better	*	1	-
Catholics much better	*	*	-

two groups, though a substantial minority have doubts about the UDR on this score, and these Protestants believe the UDR is biased against Catholics.

Among Catholics, the proportion who think the organisations are even-handed is 68 per cent for the army, 42 per cent for the police, and 27 per cent for the UDR. Hardly any Catholics think these organisations treat Catholics better. The proportion of Catholics who think they treat Protestants better is 28 per cent for the army (compared with 9 per cent of Protestants); 56 per cent for the police (compared with 11 per cent of Protestants); and 68 per cent for the UDR (compared with 27 per cent of Protestants). These findings show that a majority of Catholics think that the police and the UDR are biased against them.

There is agreement among Protestants and Catholics that the army is the most even-handed of the three organisations and that the UDR is the most biased. There is, in fact, far more confidence among Catholics in the even-handedness of the army than of either the police or the UDR. Also, there is far more agreement between Protestants and Catholics about the army than about either the police or the UDR.

Young people are much more likely than older people to think the police and security forces treat Protestants better (Table 13.4). These age differences are large both among Protestants and among Catholics, so generally speaking the contrast of views between Protestants and Catholics remains much the same when comparisons are made within particular age groups. However, it seems important that a substantial minority of young Protestants think the police and the UDR are biased against Catholics, even though this is much smaller than the proportion of young Catholics who hold the same view.

There are probably two factors underlying these striking age differences. The first is that young people tend to be more hostile to all figures of authority than older people; for example, in England and in the United States, young people are much more hostile to the police than older people. It seems that in the context of sectarian division, hostility to authority can

Table 13.4 Proportion who think the police and security forces treat Protestants better, by age

Percentages

	Police	Army	UDR
Protestants by age			
18-24	27	33	53
25-34	21	11	37
35-44	11	3	26
45-64	2	4	16
65+	3	2	14
Catholics by age			
18-24	77	40	84
25-34	62	33	75
35-44	47	23	71
45-64	48	22	63
65+	33	19	42

be expressed as the belief that authority favours the dominant side in the conflict. The second factor is that young people will have far more contact than older people with the police and security forces. Although we have not collected evidence on this point in the present survey, it is a finding common to all studies of contact between the police and the public. We do, of course, have evidence from this survey that young people are more likely than older people to be aware of violent events and to have witnessed them, and experience of this kind is closely related with experience of the police and security forces. Other studies have shown that those who have had contact with the police tend strongly to be more critical of them than those who have not had contact, and that this is closely related to differences between age groups both in attitudes to the police and in the pattern and extent of contact with them.

Among Catholics, the belief that they are unfairly treated by the police and security forces is considerably stronger in mostly-Catholic neighbourhoods than in mixed neighbourhoods. However, the regional differences are not very large, and there is little evidence of differences between social classes. There is

less evidence on this issue than on some others, therefore, that hardline views are associated with a cluster of characteristics suggesting working class solidarity among Catholics in highly segregated neighbourhoods, especially in Belfast.

[Tables 113, 115 and 117]

Among Catholics there are striking differences between the views of the supporters of different parties. For example, the proportion who think the police treat Protestants better is 90 per cent among Sinn Fein supporters, 61 per cent among SDLP supporters, and 24 per cent among Catholic supporters of the Alliance. There is least difference of opinion about the army between the supporters of different parties, though even so Sinn Fein supporters hold highly distinct views on that issue. Among Protestants, the difference of views between supporters of different parties is much less pronounced, though supporters of the DUP are considerably more likely than other Protestants to think that the police and the army treat Catholics better.

[Tables 114, 116 and 118]

NORTHERN IRELAND: SURVEY OF PERCEPTIONS AND VIEWS JUNE 1986

Column percentages

Table 108
Q41ab Fairness of the courts
Base: all respondents

	Protestants by SEG of chief earner								Catholics by SEG of chief earner						
	Grand total	Total	Prof. or	Other non-manual	Skill-ed manual	Semi-skill-ed manual	Un-skill-ed manual	Not class-ified	Total	Prof. or	Other non-manual	Skill-ed manual	Semi-skill-ed manual	Un-skill-ed manual	Not class-ified
Base for percentages	1672	1059	184	201	330	120	91	134	594	74	94	219	69	66	73
Q41a When dealing with Protestants															
Completely fair	25	29	37	31	26	25	26	27	18	16	25	17	15	25	13
Reasonably fair	46	44	44	47	47	41	34	42	49	49	51	50	47	46	50
A bit unfair	9	9	5	6	9	16	14	11	9	8	8	8	9	9	15
Very unfair	5	5	4	3	5	9	9	1	5	3	3	6	12	8	-
Don't know, not stated	15	13	10	13	13	8	17	19	18	23	14	19	18	12	22
Q41b When dealing with Catholics															
Completely fair	24	32	39	34	31	27	31	30	9	12	13	7	7	11	8
Reasonably fair	44	48	46	49	51	49	44	45	36	38	37	38	24	40	38
A bit unfair	9	5	4	3	5	12	6	2	17	19	19	13	16	15	22
Very unfair	8	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	21	8	19	25	35	23	10
More lenient	*	*	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know, not stated	14	13	10	12	12	10	17	21	17	22	12	17	18	11	22

Table 109
Q41ab Fairness of the courts
Base: all respondents

	Grand total	Protestants					Catholics				
		Total	Belfast	Rest of Greater Belfast	Fringe Bann	West of Bann	Total	Belfast	Rest of Greater Belfast	Fringe Bann	West of Bann
Base for percentages	1672	1059	194	454	223	188	594	120	63	104	308
<u>Q41a When dealing with Protestants</u>											
Completely fair	25	29	34	31	24	23	18	19	27	22	14
Reasonably fair	46	44	40	43	52	42	49	44	53	45	52
A bit unfair	9	9	8	7	12	13	9	14	5	4	10
Very unfair	5	5	5	3	6	7	5	11	-	7	3
Don't know, not stated	15	13	14	16	7	15	18	12	15	22	20
<u>Q41b When dealing with Catholics</u>											
Completely fair	24	32	35	35	30	26	9	6	23	16	6
Reasonably fair	44	48	42	46	55	49	36	28	40	44	37
A bit unfair	9	5	6	2	6	7	17	19	13	11	18
Very unfair	8	2	2	1	1	3	21	36	11	10	21
More lenient	.	.	-	.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know, not stated	14	13	15	15	7	15	17	10	13	20	19

QUALITY OF JUDGMENT OF POLICE OF JUDICIAL DECISIONS
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NORTHERN IRELAND: SURVEY OF PERCEPTIONS AND VIEWS JUNE 1986

Column percentages

Table 110
Q41ab Fairness of the courts
Base: all respondents

	Protestants by majority in neighbourhood								Catholics by majority in neighbourhood						
	Grand total	Total	Nearly all Prot	Majority Prot	Even balance	Majority Cath	Nearly all Cath	Not stated	Total	Nearly all Prot	Majority Prot	Even balance	Majority Cath	Nearly all Cath	Not stated
Base for percentages	1672	1059	345	404	204	56	16	34	594	29	65	132	190	174	4
Q41a When dealing with Protestants															
Completely fair	25	29	29	29	27	22	19	50	18	21	19	23	18	14	25
Reasonably fair	46	44	43	45	44	53	56	18	49	45	58	48	48	49	50
A bit unfair	9	9	9	9	12	4	19	3	9	14	6	4	9	13	25
Very unfair	5	5	6	4	4	7	6	3	5	3	-	5	3	9	-
Don't know, not stated	15	13	13	14	12	15	-	26	18	17	17	19	22	15	-
Q41b When dealing with Catholics															
Completely fair	24	32	33	32	31	27	19	53	9	10	17	18	6	3	25
Reasonably fair	44	48	48	49	50	51	69	18	36	48	53	43	33	27	50
A bit unfair	9	5	5	4	5	4	6	3	17	10	9	11	23	17	-
Very unfair	8	2	2	1	1	4	-	3	21	14	6	8	20	38	25
More lenient	*	*	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know, not stated	14	13	13	13	12	15	6	24	17	17	14	20	18	14	-

Table 111
Q41ab Fairness of the courts
Base: all respondents

		Which political party you feel closest to								
		DUP	Official or other Unionist	Alliance Prot- estant	Alliance Catholic	Sinn Fein	SDLP	Labour Socialist WP IIP	None, NS Prot- estant	None, NS Catholic
Base for percentages		239	550	108	82	63	247	85	138	146
Total										
Q41a When dealing with Protestants										
Completely fair	25	17	32	41	31	16	13	31	24	18
Reasonably fair	46	43	46	37	51	42	56	45	44	40
A bit unfair	9	16	8	4	5	16	10	2	8	8
Very unfair	5	12	3	1	-	16	5	7	1	3
Don't know, not stated	15	12	10	17	14	10	17	14	23	31
Q41b When dealing with Catholics										
Completely fair	24	25	35	43	23	-	5	25	26	10
Reasonably fair	44	53	50	38	49	18	41	35	45	29
A bit unfair	9	8	4	1	9	18	20	15	4	13
Very unfair	8	3	2	1	4	60	19	15	-	16
More lenient	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know, not stated	14	11	10	17	15	5	15	10	25	31

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Column percentages

Table 112
Q42ab How hard do police try to stop attacks
Base: all respondents

		Which political party you feel closest to									
		DUP	Official or other Unionist	Alliance Prot- estant	Alliance Catholic	Sinn Fein	SDLP	Labour Socialist WP IIP	None, NS Prot- estant	None, NS Catholic	
Base for percentages		1672	239	550	108	82	63	247	85	138	146
Attacks by Protestants											
Very hard	38	56	53	46	28	3	11	25	40	14	
Fairly hard	34	33	35	37	46	16	31	27	38	35	
Try a bit	18	9	8	12	17	42	39	33	12	25	
Don't try	8	2	1	1	7	39	16	12	3	22	
Don't know, not stated	3	.	2	4	1	-	2	2	7	4	
Attacks by Catholics											
Very hard	42	29	43	50	49	58	44	50	37	41	
Fairly hard	35	31	36	39	43	23	36	26	35	39	
Try a bit	14	24	14	8	6	11	14	18	13	10	
Don't try	6	16	5	-	-	8	3	5	5	3	
Don't know, not stated	3	.	2	3	1	-	3	1	10	6	

Table 113
Q43a Do police treat Protestants and Catholics equally
 Base: all respondents

	Protestants by majority in neighbourhood								Catholics by majority in neighbourhood						
	Grand total	Total	Nearly all Prot	Majority Prot	Even balance	Majority Cath	Nearly all Cath	Not stated	Total	Nearly all Prot	Majority Prot	Even balance	Majority Cath	Nearly all Cath	Not stated
Base for percentages	1672	1059	345	404	204	56	16	34	594	29	65	132	190	174	4
They treat Protestants much better	13	2	3	2	2	-	-	-	32	17	20	16	35	48	25
Protestants a bit better	15	9	9	10	7	15	6	9	24	28	20	20	28	24	25
Both groups equally	63	75	71	77	79	67	75	85	42	52	59	62	34	26	50
Catholics a bit better	5	7	7	7	7	7	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	1	-
Catholics much better	3	5	7	3	4	7	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know/not stated	2	2	3	2	1	4	6	6	1	-	-	2	2	1	-

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Column percentages

Table 114
Q43a Do police treat Protestants and Catholics equally
Base: all respondents

Which political party you feel closest to										
	Total	DUP	Official or other Unionist	Alliance Prot- estant	Alliance Catholic	Sinn Fein	SDLP	Labour Socialist WP IIP	None, NS Prot- estant	None, NS Catholic
Base for percentages	1672	239	550	108	82	63	247	85	138	146
They treat Protestants much better	13	2	1	6	10	69	33	25	1	27
Protestants a bit better	15	9	7	17	14	21	28	20	12	26
Both groups equally	63	64	80	76	73	10	37	51	76	43
Catholics a bit better	5	11	8	1	1	-	-	2	2	1
Catholics much better	3	12	3	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Don't know/not stated	2	2	1	1	2	-	1	-	6	3