



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

Com Sec: 10\3089

10<sup>th</sup> May 2010

*Dear Mr Shannon,*

**To ask the Minister for Justice if there are any plans to retain the police reserves in light of the increased dissident republican activity** 64466/10

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 the criminal justice systems and processes in order to free up more officer patrol time.

It has always been our intention to continue with the phasing out of the Full Time Reserve, in line with a recommendation in the Patten Report. However the phasing of this was always subject to the prevailing security situation and the Chief Constable is on record as saying that this would be kept under review. You will undoubtedly be aware from recent reports that we are considering the option of retaining the remaining Full Time Reserve officers for operational duties beyond June 2010, by when they were all due to have entered re-training. If such a decision were to be made, I must stress that none of the officers will be retained beyond March 2011 when the phasing out of the Full Time Reserve will be complete.

As you will appreciate any decision taken by the PSNI to adjust these arrangements in year will 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 in due course.

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*

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.

I trust this is of assistance.

*Yours sincerely,  
John McCaughan*

**JOHN MCCAUGHAN**  
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for Chief Constable

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