



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

Com Sec: 104227

24<sup>th</sup> June 2010

*Dear Mr McKay,*

**To ask the Minister of Justice to outline the projections for the percentage of PSNI staff that will be (i) Protestant; and (ii) Catholic in (a) March 2011; (b) March 2015; and (c) March 2020.**

The above mentioned question was placed before the Minister of 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 current breakdown by community background for PSNI police staff is as follows:

Protestant - 78.6%

Roman Catholic - 17.8%

Undetermined - 3.6%

The ongoing PSNI Resource to Risk process has not yet determined an affordable, agreed future target strength for police staff. The forthcoming spending review by the Northern Ireland Executive will, of course, be a key determinant in doing so. Therefore, a forecast breakdown by community background is not currently possible as potential recruitment levels cannot be determined.

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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