

Tolerance Implementation Meeting Addressing the Hate Crime Data Deficit

**Outline presentation for Assistant Chief Constable Drew Harris,
Police Service of Northern Ireland**

Session 3 Data Collection and Police-Community Relations

- **The Northern Ireland Experience**
 - Reacting to Terrorism and the importance of collecting intelligence
 - The Peace Process and subsequent demographic changes leading to a new beginning in policing and a new policy requiring the collection of hate crime data
 - The potential nature of hate attacks in NI (pipe bomb attacks, paramilitary style beatings, co-ordinated criminal activity) makes the search for resolution using accurate data all the more important and significant challenge to maintaining community confidence in policing.

- **Responding to Hate Crime and the Data deficit**
 - Defining Hate incidents. The implication of the McPherson report and the case of Stephen Lawrence. The concept of 'institutional racism' in the police. Collecting data to enable the police to be more effective
 - The development and implementation of the PSNI Hate Crime policy
 - The collection of data by PSNI. Do communities have the will and confidence to report Hate incidents to police? The balance required to ensure ECHR compliance
 - Using the data. Informing policy-making and operational policing, educating public opinion and influencing confidence.

- **Responding to the data**
 - Planning and monitoring an effective police response, linking to National Intelligence Model for an effective police response. Problem solving, partnerships and prevention rather than random patrolling, reactive investigation and rapid response
 - Developing partnerships to obtain qualitative data. Reported statistics may not reflect the actual experience of the victims of hate crime
 - Education. Internally and externally to challenge mindsets. Educating young people through the Citizenship schools programme (CASE)

- **The Challenges**
 - Turning policy into practice locally in NI and nationally in the UK and ensuring corporacy
 - Hate crime cannot be solved by the police alone. Community support is essential. (Cite example of OFMDFM Shared Future Strategy as example of government agency interaction.)
 - Maintaining community confidence
 - Recruitment of minority groups into policing

- Accountability. Allocating responsibility and holding key stakeholders to account is the only way to ensure that data is acted upon effectively
- Closing the 'Criminal Corridor'. The movement of populations across Europe presents an opportunity for criminal gangs to exploit (e.g. people trafficking, drugs, smuggling, prostitution). Failure to deal effectively with hate crime does not encourage minority groups to report criminal activity to police and creates an intelligence deficit that could undermine national security.