

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

An inspection of the operation and effectiveness of ASBOs

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Who Are We?

CJI:

- is an independent statutory inspectorate
- has responsibility for inspecting all aspects of the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland (apart from the judiciary)
- endeavours through its work to promote the effectiveness, efficiency and even-handedness of the criminal justice system
- seeks to secure improvement and greater co-operation between the various statutory and voluntary organisations to provide a better justice system for the whole community in Northern Ireland.

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Background

- ASBOs introduced to Northern Ireland on 27 July 2004

- By end Dec 2007:
 - 65 ASBOs issued
 - 87.7% male
 - 38.5% Catholic / 32.3% Protestant / 29.2% not known
 - 96.9% White / 3.1% Irish Traveller
 - 46.2% Under 18 years / 52.3% Over 18 years / 1.5% not known
 - Age range 12 to 65, average 22.7 yrs



Positive Findings

- Graduated approach to ASBOs using alternatives
- Used to address patterns of anti-social behaviour
- Good partnership working between agencies in most areas
- Support from voluntary and community sector to those at risk of an ASBO



Positive Findings

➤ Case File Review (31 cases)

- Most frequently recorded incidents: ‘other’, criminal damage/vandalism, assault/physical violence, intimidation/harassment
- Majority of case files:
 - ASB occurring for more than 12 months
 - Sixteen or more incidents
 - In residential areas near perpetrator’s home/in/near retail property



Areas for Improvement

- Signing of all protocols between agencies and widening of partnerships
- Better communication with communities
- Improved monitoring of data and outcomes
- Specified role in organisations to address anti-social behaviour
- Improved processes in relation to addressing breaches



Questions?

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