



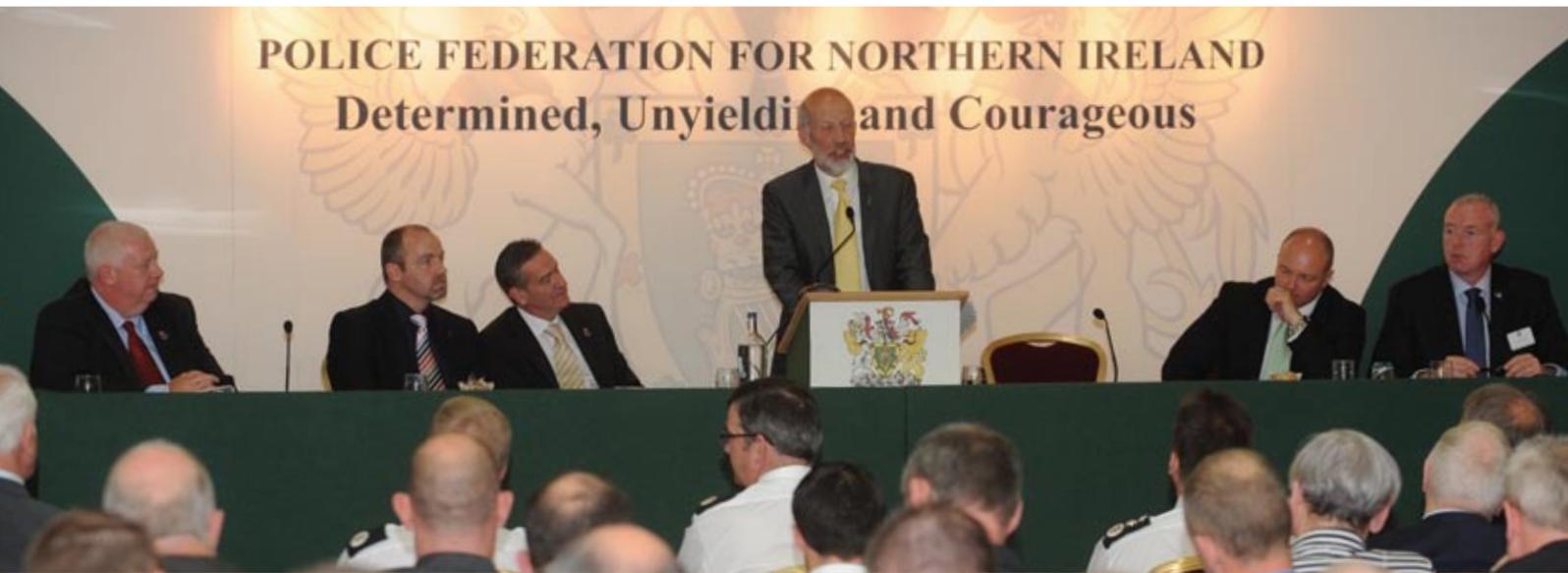
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# policebeat

[www.policfed-ni.org.uk](http://www.policfed-ni.org.uk)

## CONFERENCE EDITION

POLICE FEDERATION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND  
Determined, Unyielding and Courageous



## MUCH STILL TO AGREE

The annual conference of the Federation was marked by the attendance of David Ford as Minister of Justice in the Executive and by Owen Paterson, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Mr Ford may have the devolved responsibility for policing but the Secretary of State has an interest in terrorism as it may affect national security. Given what the Federation Chairman Terry Spence had to say it was extremely useful that Mr Paterson had left Mr Ford to fend for himself over current criticism of security threat.

The Minister of Justice made a stout defence of the efforts made to secure the maximum possible resources available to the PSNI to defeat and eliminate the terrorism, even hinting by way of illustration that the £248million secured by the Chief Constable was at the expense of the MoD. The funding is earmarked for new armoured vehicles and state of the art information technology. All this is welcome but the Federation remains unconvinced that more hardware will make up for the software of officers visibly on the frontline.

However, conference was assured that should another business case need to be made because of shortcomings in security policy there would be no hesitation from the Executive in going back to the Westminster Government.

The recent disturbances in East Belfast have been evidence of how little progress has really been made in relieving the local communities of the grip of the paramilitaries. The UVF ordered an unexpected attack on their nationalist neighbours which in turn gave the dissident republican paramilitaries the opportunity to play community defenders. Shots were fired at police officers and civilians by both terrorist groups but

fortunately nobody was killed. As well as being an example of the volatility of community relations and their easy manipulation by the paramilitaries the Chairman used the disgraceful behaviour to remind the Secretary of State that he had the sanction of returning to prison anyone released under license through the Good Friday Agreement. Mr Paterson had quite rightly ordered Marian McGlinchy back to prison for her participation and evident support for violence at the Dissident Republican Easter Commemoration ceremony in Londonderry. How much more appropriate that UVF rioters and directors of violence are incarcerated again if violence becomes repetitive.

Much of the Chairman's speech was about the likely impact respectively of the Winsor and Hutton reports on police pay and public sector pensions. Although the Northern Ireland transition allowance has nothing to do with Winsor the Minister of Justice suggested in his conference remarks that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed. Since then the signs are that the Minister is taking on board the sense of unfairness felt by the police service at all levels and we are marginally more hopeful that a resolution to the campaign for the NITA award will be found that is acceptable to members.

Finally this was the last conference of the present Federation representatives and while thanking members for their work over the past three years the Chairman wants all 7,000 members of the Federation to take an interest in Federation affairs and to consider standing for election next January.