



**Belfast Harbour**  
Annual Police Report 2009



**Contents**



**03**  
**Foreword**

**06**  
**Traffic  
Management**

**07**  
**Multi-Agency  
Activity**



**04**  
**Introduction**

**07**  
**Public Order**

**08**  
**Establishment**



**05**  
**Belfast  
Harbour  
Police**

**07**  
**Security**

**08**  
**Officer Safety**

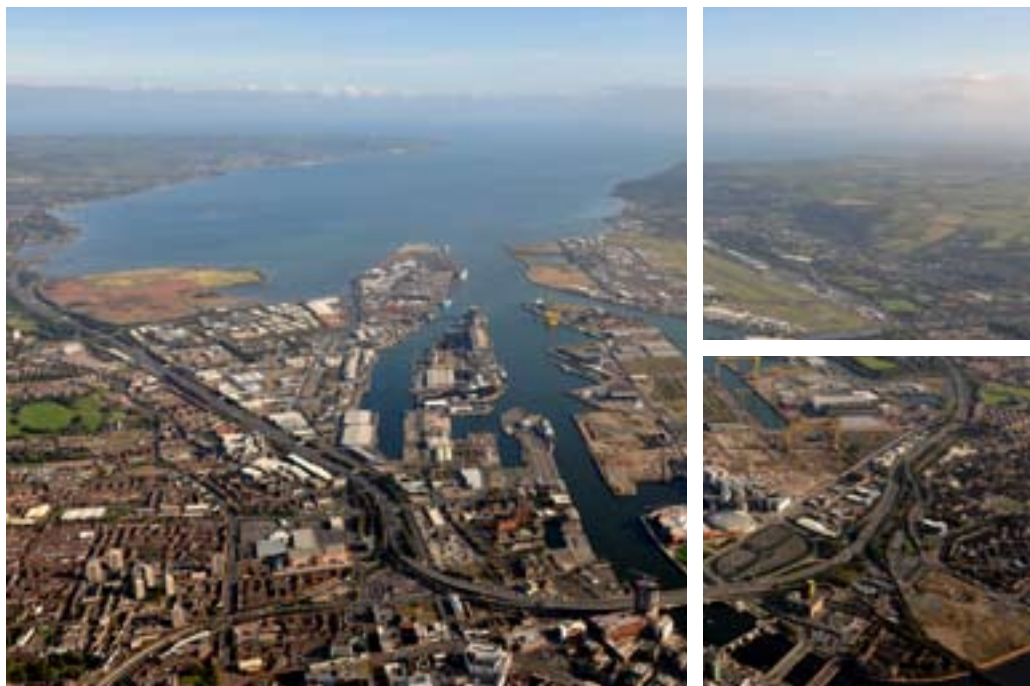


**06**  
**Crime  
Statistics**

**07**  
**Event Policing**

**09**  
**Complaints  
& Letters of  
Appreciation**

# Foreword



## Chairman's Statement

Belfast Harbour Police has a long and proud history. For over 160 years our officers have exercised their full constabulary powers to create a safe and secure environment for all those who work, live or socialise within Belfast Harbour Estate.

In recent times the service has been strengthened and modernised to better support the challenges and opportunities arising from new security legislation and the Harbour's urban regeneration projects.

The Harbour Estate has always been home to a wide range of activities, but more recent developments such as the decline of shipbuilding and the relocation of facilities to the seaward end of the Port have opened up the possibility of providing new residential, commercial and public spaces.

This gradual evolution presents Belfast Harbour Police with one of the most exciting policing challenges in these islands, supporting a wide range of stakeholders including port users, tenants, residents and the general public.

The results presented within this report reflect the success of this process. Going forward, the men and women of Belfast Harbour Police will continue to work with the Harbour's customers to consolidate and build upon this progress, and to meet the demands of a continually changing Harbour Estate.

I would like to thank each of them for their continued efforts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. P. O'Hagan'.

**Leonard J. P. O'Hagan**  
(Chairman)

# Introduction



## Chief Officer's Statement

It is with pleasure that I present my first annual report for the year ending 31 December 2009. The last year has brought a number of changes and challenges, not least of which was the Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge in August, which, with 500,000 visitors, was the largest ever public event held in the Harbour Estate. I am pleased to say that the event was very successful, not only as a tourist event, but also from a public order, traffic management and safety perspective.

Crime statistics for the year also continued to show an improving trend. This is testament to the hard work and dedication of the men and women of the Belfast Harbour Police and I would like to extend my thanks to each of them.

Other notable changes included the ending of Belfast Harbour Police's formal day-to-day security responsibilities at George Best Belfast City Airport. This followed a physical reconfiguration of the airport which allowed it to provide alternative security arrangements. Belfast Harbour Police, however, continues to provide wider support for the airport which remains an integral part of the Harbour Estate.

2009 has also been a year in which Belfast Harbour Police forged even stronger relationships with stakeholders, community groups and other agencies, attending events such as the Belfast Mela and Chinese New Year celebrations.

Belfast Harbour Police is committed to the continued provision of a professional and effective police service throughout the Harbour Estate. This is only possible with the assistance and support of Port Users and Harbour Estate occupants. On behalf of the service I would wish to acknowledge the support and assistance which we received throughout the year, and we look forward to developing those relationships in the year ahead.

**Stephen Reid**  
(Chief Officer)

# Belfast Harbour Police



**Established in 1847, Belfast Harbour Police (BHP) is one of a number of Home Office approved independent police forces in the United Kingdom.**

Belfast Harbour Police has full constabulary powers, along with special powers granted through Belfast Harbour Commissioners' by-laws. BHP provide 24-hour cover, responding to incidents and requests for assistance throughout the 2,000 acre Harbour Estate.

BHP's aim is to provide an effective and efficient policing service for the Belfast Harbour Estate and Port community with a clear focus on crime prevention and detection to provide a safe and secure environment for all.

Under the International Ship and Port Security Code 2004, BHP is responsible for the provision of policing and security to shipping in Belfast Harbour.

In addition to uniformed police officers, BHP employs the services of a number of security firms to provide perimeter and cruise ship security.

## **Human Rights**

BHP, in line with other United Kingdom police forces, adopt a Human Rights based approach to policing. BHP training programmes are designed to ensure that all our officers understand the principles of human rights and the obligations placed upon them. This is reflected in the development of policies, planning and the day to day delivery of our policing service.

## **Equality**

BHP is fully committed to equality of opportunity and promoting good relations in all social and economic activity, regardless of community background, religious beliefs, gender, ethnicity, disability, political opinion, age, sexual orientation, race or marital status.

## Crime Statistics

	2007	2008	2009
Theft General	84	98	77
Theft Motor	15	8	2
Burglary	21	10	20
Offences Against the Person	9	17	11
Criminal Damage	49	32	30
Public Order Offences	8	3	3
Sexual Offences	0	0	1
Arrests or Reported for Prosecution	45	126	161

Whilst burglary statistics have shown an increase in the last year, other statistics indicate an encouraging reduction and the Arrests or Reported for Prosecution figure reflects a pleasing 28% improvement on 2008 and a 258% improvement on 2007.

Noteworthy examples:

- 20 persons were successfully prosecuted for a complex fuel fraud scheme with a value of £10,000
- An organised criminal enterprise targeting a major port tenant was uncovered; arrests were made and £5,000 of property was recovered

## Traffic Management

**Belfast Harbour Estate is served by approximately 32 km of roads. BHP seeks to maintain the free and safe flow of the thousands of vehicles which travel through the Estate each day.**

**Road improvements in Belfast Harbour and a drive to improve road safety have been supported by a roads policing plan.**

During 2009 BHP:

- Conducted 330 traffic control activities
- Issued 251 fixed penalty tickets for parking offences
- Instituted 54 prosecutions for speeding offences

BHP worked closely with stakeholders during the year to improve the problem of dangerous HGV/lorry parking on the West Bank Road.

BHP attended 61 road traffic accidents during 2009. 55 accidents occurred within the Harbour Estate; none involved fatalities although 19 involved an injury. One very serious road traffic injury which occurred on the Sydenham Road, outside the Odyssey, was jointly investigated by the PSNI and Belfast Harbour Police.

## Public Order



### Public Order

During 2009 BHP responded to 18 incidents to prevent breaches of the peace. In most instances the attendance and calm approach made by officers was sufficient to defuse the situation and minimal arrests were made. During the 4 days of the Tall Ships Festival only 2 arrests were made despite the record numbers of visitors.

There were no incidences of assault on BHP officers during the year.

### Security

Since November 2003, BHP had been contracted to provide security at George Best Belfast City Airport. Last year Airport Management decided to remodel the physical layout of the Airport, enabling an alternative approach to security. As a result BHP ceased to provide security at the Airport from February 2009.

### Event Policing

During 2009 BHP provided policing assistance at 36 concerts at the Odyssey Arena.

Other notable events included:

- Titanic Quarter 10 kilometre run
- Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge
- Halloween Monster Mash
- Bike Safe - a joint safety initiative with PSNI and Stena Line focusing on visitors to the North West 200 Races

### Multi-Agency Activity

- Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)

BHP continues to work closely with the PSNI on operational activities such as the events detailed above. Both services are collaborating on the refinement of joint protocols.

- United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA)

BHP provided support and assistance on 16 occasions to UKBA. 11 of these incidences resulted in the arrest of suspected illegal immigrants by BHP on behalf of UKBA.

# Establishment

## BHP Establishment and administrative support staff at 31 December 2008

	Authorised	Actual
Chief Officer	1	1
Sergeants	6	6
Constables	32 (includes 1 Detective/Constable)	32 (includes 1 Detective/Constable)
Administrators	2	2

## BHP Establishment and administrative support staff at 31 December 2009

	Authorised	Actual
Chief Officer	1	1
Sergeants	6	6
Constables	32 (includes 1 Detective/Constable)	28 (includes 1 Detective/Constable)
Administrators	1	1

Actual numbers have been allowed to reduce through natural attrition due to the cessation of the George Best Belfast City Airport security contract.

### Officer Safety

New Personal Safety Training to UK national police standards was introduced during 2009 and the introduction of personal protection sprays is planned for early 2010.

There were no recorded assaults on BHP officers.

There were 7 incidents of officers being injured whilst on duty; none of these were reportable incidents as defined by Health and Safety at Work legislation.

## Complaints and Letters of Appreciation



A total of three complaints were made against BHP officers by members of the public. Whilst these were of a minor nature, they were thoroughly investigated and addressed. There were no formal complaints made to the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland in relation to BHP during 2009.

21 letters of appreciation have been received during the year. Such letters are in addition to numerous telephone calls and personal thank you messages. In each incidence the feedback is always shared with the officer(s) concerned.



Belfast Harbour  
**Police**



CarbonNeutral.com  
CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduced to  
net zero in accordance with  
The CarbonNeutral Protocol

.....  
CarbonNeutral<sup>®</sup> company

**Belfast Harbour**

Harbour Office  
Corporation Square  
Belfast BT1 3AL

+44 28 9055 4422  
(text phone) +44 28 9032 2013

[www.belfast-harbour.co.uk](http://www.belfast-harbour.co.uk)