

Annual Report and Financial Statements Parades Commission for Northern Ireland for the year ended 31st March 2009

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Schedule 1,
paragraphs 12 and 13, of the Public Processions
(Northern Ireland) Act 1998



parades
commission



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Ordered by The House of Commons to be printed
9 June 2010



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ISBN: 9780102948967

Printed in the UK for The Stationery Office Limited
on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office

PC2744 07/10

Printed on paper containing 75% recycled fibre content minimum

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Chairman's Report



This is the eleventh Annual Report for the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland and covers the period April 2008 to March 2009.

INTRODUCTION

ROGER POOLE

(Roger Poole resigned his position as Chairman of the Parades Commission on 20th July 2009)

As Chairman of the Parades Commission during the period covered in this Annual Report, April 2008 to March 2009, I welcome the opportunity to highlight the advances made on the management of contentious parades over the three and a half years in which I had the pleasure of chairing the Commission.

In January 2006, the incoming Parades Commissioners set about addressing the issue of parades with an absolute determination to improve the parading situation in Northern Ireland. Overall I am satisfied that we achieved just that. The previous September had seen the worst parade-related rioting and civil disturbances in years, and it was clear that parading and some of the associated issues still had the capacity to bring turmoil to Northern Ireland. Over the following three years the community enjoyed a relatively peaceful parading environment, thanks to the efforts of a huge number of people who worked tirelessly to ensure that where parades

could be agreed upon they were, and where no agreement was possible that at least parades and associated protests would be managed in a peaceful manner.

This past summer society here got a nasty reminder of the tension which still grips this emotive issue. One of the reasons that street violence this summer had a high profile was that it was so unusual. The violence and tension served as a reminder that, in the round, the parading issue is still not fully resolved. It is clear, however, that, in the wider sense, progress is being made and the appetite for progress is as strong as ever.

There is effectively now a new Parades Commission team in place. There have been personnel changes since 2006 and now a new Chair, Rena Shepherd, is in place. There is still an ongoing political debate over how parades are managed and decided upon, but for now that role continues to rest with the Parades Commission. I know my former colleagues are absolutely dedicated to that work and I wish them, and everybody who is interested in resolving parading disputes, every success.

Our job in the Parades Commission is to ensure, as far as possible, that parades are a positive feature in this society.

RENA SHEPHERD

(Rena Shepherd was appointed to the Chair of the Parades Commission on 20th July 2009)

Although this is my first year as Chair of the Northern Ireland Parades Commission, I joined the Commission in the Spring of 2008 and over the last two parading seasons I have seen the positive outcome of dialogue and agreements over some parades, and the negative and damaging impact of parade-related violence on other occasions. The lesson is a salutary one; parades which take place in an agreed context can be a very positive element of life in Northern Ireland and can enhance our reputation among tourists and the international community. When parades are not agreed and tension and violence predominate, that casts the entire community in a very poor light and has the potential to damage our collective reputation. Our job in the Parades Commission is to ensure, as far as possible, that parades are a positive feature in this society.

Membership of the Parades Commission does change from time to time; that is the nature of publicly appointed bodies that have a life span which is limited either by statute or indeed by personal choice. At the same time the principles on which we set about our work in the Parades Commission, and which we bring to the way in which contentious parades are managed, do not change. The Parades Commission does not reward or punish either dialogue or intransigence. In the past we have been accused of either 'rewarding' or 'punishing' those who want to parade or residents and community leaders who oppose parades. Neither charge stands up to any scrutiny. The Parades Commission continues, week after week and month after month, to consider each individual parade entirely in its own context. The legislation under which this body was established obliges the Commission to consider a series of factors including the impact on community relations and the potential for public disorder.

It is these factors which guide our decision making process, alongside the views we hear directly from parading bodies, residents groups, political leaders, community representatives and the

Police Service of Northern Ireland. The input from those bodies is crucial; it assists us as we consider how individual parades should proceed. If any individual or organisation chooses, for whatever reason, not to engage with the Commission then their view will go unheard, they will effectively put themselves at a disadvantage.

The Commission is often called upon by some politicians to 'ban' a parade. That is not something which the Commission has the legal authority to do. The starting point for society in Northern Ireland is that there is a right to assemble and a right to parade. If there is a dispute over a parade we then have to make a judgement on whether a parade should be restricted in some way, usually through the route, the numbers involved, the timing or the music which is played. The number of times we do intervene, and the nature of any restrictions we impose, is set out later in this Annual Report. However, it is demonstrably clear that the vast majority of parades take place as notified and they do so in a peaceful manner which draws no objections from the local community. That is a positive aspect of parading and one which is often overlooked.

Amidst the criticism which is often aimed at the Commission, it can be overlooked that among the silent majority – who do not have a vested interest in particular parades but who do want to see a settled parading environment - support for the work of the Commission has grown year on year. In the Omnibus survey recorded early in 2009, 46% felt that the Commission had improved the parading situation, 36% were neutral on its impact, while only 11% of the population said that the Commission had made the situation worse.

As the new Chair of the Commission, I pay tribute to the work undertaken by Roger Poole during his tenure and on behalf of the Commission I want to acknowledge the very positive contribution made by those politicians, community leaders and parade organisers who work with us to help ensure that parades pass off peacefully. We also rely heavily on the secretariat, the Authorised Officers of the Commission and our team of volunteer monitors. Their ongoing efforts are greatly appreciated.

Foreword



The Commission will continue through dialogue to encourage local communities to resolve disagreements about parades and to find a mutually acceptable resolution.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – ACCOUNTS DIRECTION

Under paragraph 12(1) of Schedule 1 to the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, as amended by the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 (Accounts and Audit) Order 1998, the Commission is required to:

- (a) keep proper accounts and proper records in relation to the accounts; and
- (b) prepare a statement of accounts in respect of each financial year of the Commission.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with a direction issued by the Northern Ireland Office under the 1998 Act. The accounts incorporate an income & expenditure account, balance sheet and cash flow statement.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCLOSURES

EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

The Chairman Mr Roger Poole resigned from the Parades Commission with effect from 20th July 2009. He was replaced as Chair by Mrs Rena Shepherd with effect from that date. Mr Edwin Graham was appointed as a Commissioner with effect from 1st August 2009. Ms Anne Monaghan left the Commission on 31st December 2009.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Commission will continue to encourage local communities to engage in dialogue as a means to finding resolutions to local parading disputes. We are prepared to initiate, facilitate, or simply support any dialogue process. We will also work to enhance awareness of the parading issue among the wider community.

Where local dialogue does not take place, or where such dialogue does not bring about a resolution to a contentious parade, we will remain the final arbiter on parades and protests.

FIXED ASSETS

Details of the movement of fixed assets are detailed in note 6 to the accounts.

FUNDING

The Commission is financed by a budget allocated by the Secretary of State from the Northern Ireland Office Request for Resources 1. The Account below relates to the year ending on 31st March 2009.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION 2008/09

The membership was as follows:

Mr Roger Poole (Chair)
Mrs Rena Shepherd
Mrs Kelly Andrews
Dr Joe Hendron
Mrs Vilma Patterson
Mrs Alison Scott-McKinley
Ms Anne Monaghan

PROMPT PAYMENT

The Commission is committed to the prompt payment of bills for goods and services received in accordance with the Confederation of British Industry's Prompt Payers Code. Unless otherwise stated in the contract, payment is due within 30 days of the receipt of the goods or services, or presentation of a valid invoice or similar demand, whichever is later.

On their receipt, invoices are promptly sent for processing to the Northern Ireland Office. During 2008/09, that Department had processed 85 % (2008: 89.9%) of all bills received by them within 30 days.

Following the Prime Minister's statement of 8 October 2008 setting a challenge to government departments to pay all suppliers to within 10 days, and subsequent Cabinet Office guidance, the Northern Ireland Office and its bodies revised internal timescales for the processing and payment of invoices with effect from 1 December 2008. In the four months to 31 March 2009 the Parades Commission paid 82% of properly rendered invoices received within 10 working days.

DISABLED EMPLOYEES

It is the Parades Commission's policy to give equality of opportunity when considering applications from disabled persons. The Commission complies with all existing legislation in regard to its disabled employees.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

In keeping with the Northern Ireland Office's Equal Opportunities Policy Statement, everyone in the Parades Commission has the right of opportunity and to a good and harmonious working environment and atmosphere in which all staff are encouraged to apply their diverse talents and in which no member of staff feels under threat or intimidated.

EMPLOYEE INVOLVEMENT

The maintenance of a highly skilled workforce is key to the future of the business. The Parades Commission is committed to, and complies with, the policies of equal opportunity and responsibility for employee and career development of all staff.

The Parades Commission recognises the benefits of keeping employees informed of the progress of the business and of involving them in the Commission's performance. During the year the employees were regularly provided with information regarding the financial and economic factors affecting the performance of the Commission and on other matters of concern to them, as employees, through notices and meetings.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND REGISTER

Within the executive processes of the Parades Commission, there is now embedded a corporate Risk Register in line with Government guidance. Risks are identified, assessed in terms of likelihood of occurrence and impact and then ranked in terms of risk.

The Risk Register is kept under constant review and updated by Senior Management as necessary. Senior Management consider signs or warnings of risks altering, examine existing controls to reduce or manage risks and, if necessary, take additional action.

PRINCIPAL RISKS

The principal risk identified is anything that would prevent the Commission from discharging its statutory duties in respect of notified processions and related protests.

REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Commission members and senior staff are required to provide information of personal or business interests that might be perceived by a member of the public to influence their judgement in the exercise of their public duty.

The Parades Commission maintains a register of interests which is available for public inspection.

AUDIT

The National Audit Office has been appointed under statute to examine these accounts and report on the audit examination. The agreed fee of £11,250 is confined to the statutory audit and neither includes or permits other services which might diminish auditor independence.

PENSION LIABILITIES

Details of how pension liabilities are treated can be found in Accounting Policy note 1. Additionally, further details in respect of pensions can be found in the Remuneration Report.

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITOR

So far as the Accounting Officer is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the entity's auditors are unaware, and the Accounting Officer has taken all steps that he ought to have taken to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the entity's auditors are aware of that information.



Management Commentary

ORGANISATIONAL OVERVIEW

The Parades Commission was established on 27th March 1997 as a non-statutory body. The Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, amended by the Public Processions (Amendment) Northern Ireland Order 2005, gives the Commission statutory responsibilities in relation to public processions and related protests.

The Parades Commission operates from a single site in Belfast City Centre. Contact details are as follows:

Parades Commission
12th Floor
9-15 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EL
Telephone: 028 9089 5900
Fax: 028 9032 2988
E-mail info@paradescommission.com
Web: <http://www.paradescommission.org>

The Secretary, Mr Ronnie Pedlow, is responsible for the effective operation of the Parades Commission secretariat and for managing its financial and manpower resources. He is also the designated Accounting Officer.

The Parades Commission Secretariat ("the Secretariat") is responsible for providing advice and support to the Chairman and Commissioners in support of their aims and objectives, and in undertaking their statutory responsibilities. The Secretariat had an average of 11 staff in post over the year. The Commission also made use of services provided by external professionals such as authorised officers, media advisors, auditors and accountants. In addition the Commission also has access to the invaluable services provided by its team of volunteers who have provided their time and expertise to provide independent monitors' reports on public processions and protests.

The Commission's statutory role is set out in the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998. Section 2 (1) of that legislation provides that:

"IT SHALL BE THE DUTY OF THE COMMISSION —

- (a) to promote greater understanding by the general public of issues concerning public processions;
- (b) to promote and facilitate mediation as a means of resolving disputes concerning public processions;
- (c) to keep itself generally informed as to the conduct of public processions and protest meetings;
- (d) to keep under review, and make such recommendations as it thinks fit to the Secretary of State concerning, the operation of the Act."

AND SECTION 2 (2) PROVIDES THAT:

"The Commission may in accordance with the provisions of this Act —

- (a) facilitate mediation between parties to particular disputes concerning proposed public processions and take such other steps as appear to the Commission to be appropriate for resolving disputes;
- (b) issue determinations in respect of particular proposed public processions."

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The Parades Commission received notification of 3,801 parades in the year from 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009. Only 221 of those required detailed consideration by the Commission and of those only 123 required the imposition of conditions on a proposed route. In making its decisions the Commission faced the difficult task of upholding the rights of not just one group, but also of seeking to balance the conflicting rights of different groups within the statutory criteria laid down in the legislation. It approached each of these contentious parades independently and fairly, and it remains steadfastly committed to this approach in working with all those involved in the parades issue. The Commission members have stated that their overall objective is to help bring about a situation in which parades can take place peacefully in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

It shall be the duty of the Commission to promote greater understanding by the general public of issues concerning public processions.

Parading Statistics

FIG 1. Total no of parades

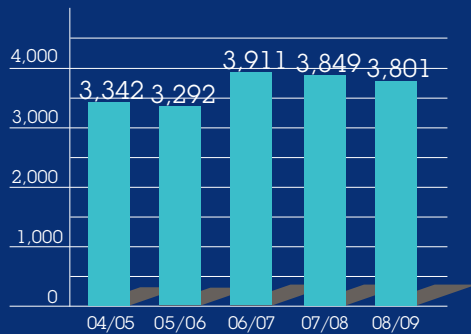


FIG 2. Breakdown of 08/09 parades

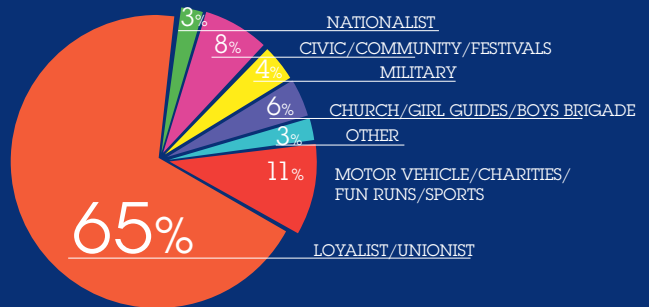


FIG 3. Breakdown of Loyalist /Unionist parades

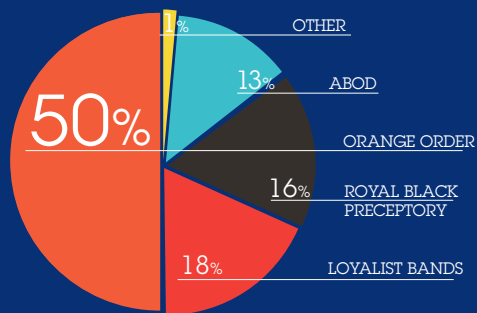


FIG 4. Total no of contentious parades

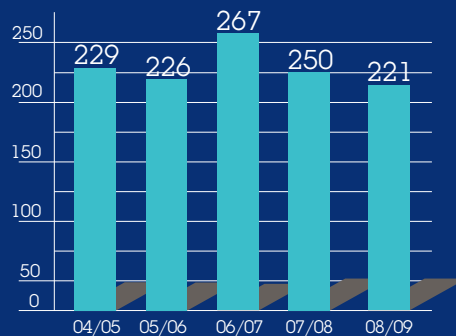


FIG 5. Total contentious parades by type

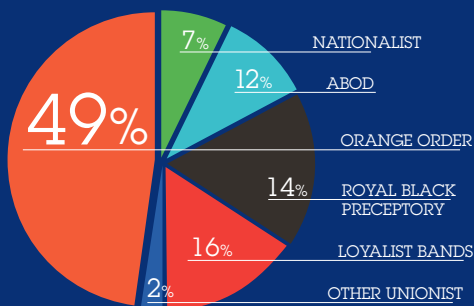
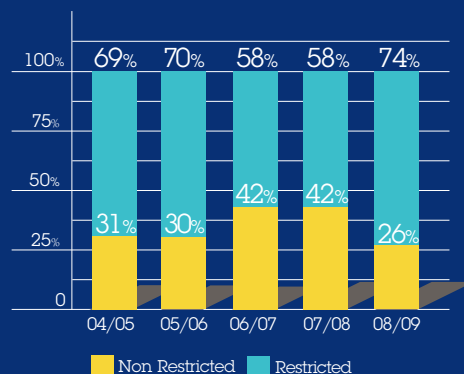


FIG 6. Restrictions on contentious parades



TOTAL PARADES NOTIFIED

The 2008/09 parading season witnessed a slight reduction in the overall number of parades from the previous year (3,801 in comparison to 3,849) with a similar breakdown of parade types. The current legislation requires that all public processions, with the exception of funerals and Salvation Army-organised parades, are notified to the police at least 28 days before the date of the parade. The notifications are then passed on to the Parades Commission. (see fig 1)

TOTAL PARADES BY TYPE

The number (2,483) of parades organised by the loyal orders and broad unionist tradition represents 65% of the overall total. This is a reduction from the previous year's figure (2,691), which accounted for 70% of the total. The number (111) of parades organised by nationalist groups has almost halved from the previous year (203) and remains very low at 3 % of the overall total (a reduction from 5% in 2007/08). There was a substantial increase in the number of "Other" parades from the previous year (1,207 in comparison to 954). This category includes charity, civic, rural and sporting events, as well as church parades. These now made up 32% of the overall total number of parades (25% in 2007/08). (see figs 2 & 3)

TOTAL CONTENTIOUS PARADES

The number of parades deemed to be contentious decreased to 221 from 250 in the previous year. This represents 6% of the total number of parades notified, which mirrors last year's proportion. Fifty-two of the parades deemed to be contentious relate to the weekly notification by the Portadown LOL District No. 1 in respect of the Garvaghy Road. Contentious parades are those that are considered as having the potential of raising concerns and community tensions, and which consequently are considered in more detail by the Parades Commission. (see fig 4)

CONTENTIOUS PARADES BY TYPE

The vast majority of contentious parades continued to be loyalist parades, which accounted for 90% (No change from 90% in 2007/08). The proportion of contentious Nationalist parades decreased to 7% from 9% in the previous year. Other parades and parade-related protests accounted for 3% of the total. (see fig 5)

BREAKDOWN OF RESTRICTIONS

The proportion of contentious parades and parade-related protests on which the Commission placed restrictions was 74%, which was an increase from the figure for the previous year (58%). (see fig 6) However, the increase of parades with restrictions inversely correlates to the overall reduction in contentious parades, which account for less than 6% of the total number notified. The most common restriction was on the route of a contentious parade or location of a protest, which applied in 78% of restrictions. The remainder of restrictions related to size and timing of a parade or protest, type of music to be played, behaviour and dress code.

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

The deficit for the year was £1,182,690 (2008: £1,051,067). The Commission has met its key financial target of managing its workload in 2008-09 within a running costs budget (to cover salaries and administrative expenditure) to financial limits agreed with the Northern Ireland Office (including in-year adjustments).

GOING CONCERN

The Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2009 shows net liabilities of £20,651 (2008: £26,189). This reflects the inclusion of liabilities falling due in the next period, which may be met by future funding from the Commission's sponsoring Department, the Northern Ireland Office. This is because, under the normal conventions applying to parliamentary control over income and expenditure, such funding may not be issued in advance of need.

Deficit funding for 2009/10, taking into account the amounts required to meet the Commission's liabilities falling due in that year, has already been included in the Department's estimates for that year, which has been approved by Parliament. There is no reason to believe that the Department's future sponsorship and future parliamentary approval will not be forthcoming. It has accordingly been considered appropriate to adopt a going concern basis for the preparation of these financial statements.

Remuneration Report

REMUNERATION POLICY

The remuneration of senior civil servants such as the Accounting Officer is set by the Prime Minister following independent advice from the Review Body on Senior Salaries.

In reaching its recommendations, the Review Body has regard to the following considerations:

- the need to recruit, retain and motivate suitably able and qualified people to exercise their responsibilities;
- regional/local variations in labour markets and their effects on the recruitment and retention of staff;
- Government policies for improving the public services, including the requirement on departments to meet the output targets for the delivery of departmental services;
- the funds available to departments as set out in the Government's departmental expenditure limits; and
- the Government's inflation target.

The Review Body takes account of evidence it receives about wider economic considerations and the affordability of its recommendations.

The remuneration of all senior civil servants is entirely performance based.

Further information about the work of the Review Body can be found at www.ome.uk.com.

SERVICE CONTRACTS

Civil Service appointments are made in accordance with the Civil Service Commissioners for Northern Ireland's Recruitment Code, which requires appointment to be on merit on the basis of fair and open competition but also includes the circumstances when appointments may otherwise be made.

AUDITED

	Salary, including performance pay	Real increase in pension at age 60 and lump sum	Total accrued pension at age 60 at 31/03/09 and related lump sum	Cash Equivalent Transfer Value at 31/03/08	Cash Equivalent Transfer Value at 31/03/09	Real increase in CETV	Employer Contributions to partnership pension account	Benefits in Kind
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Ronnie Pedlow	55-60 (*55-60)	0-2.5 (0-2.5)	20-25 & 65-70 (20-25 & 65)	428 (398)	470 (451)	3 (9)	Nil (Nil)	Nil (Nil)
Michael Boyle	45-50 (45-50)	0-2.5 (0-2.5)	10-15 & 30-35 (10-15 & 30)	188 (167)	214 (197)	9 (8)	Nil (Nil)	Nil (Nil)

**Figures in brackets relate to 2007/08 financial year.*

Unless otherwise stated below, the officials covered by this report hold appointments which are open-ended until they reach the normal retirement age of 60. Policy relating to notice periods and termination payments is contained in the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Staff Handbook. Further information about the Civil Service Commissioners can be found at www.nicscommissioners.org

Details of salaries and allowances paid, benefits in kind and accrued pension entitlement are shown in the table at the bottom of the page.

COMMISSIONERS' NUMBERS AND COSTS

The total emoluments of the Commissioners (including the Chairman) during the year ended 31 March 2009 amounted to £172,093 (2008: £167,601) and the Commission's expenses was £138,728 (2008: £156,962). The total remuneration of the Chairman during the same period was £55,466 (2008: £54,219). The Chairman was the highest paid Board Member. Both the Chairman and Commissioners are non-Northern Ireland Civil Service; therefore they are not pensionable. The salary entitlement of the Chairman and Commissioners for 2008/09 was as follows:

AUDITED

Commission Member	Salary Range £'000	
	2009	2008
Mr Roger Poole (Chairman)	55 – 60	(50 – 55)
Mrs Vilma Patterson	15 – 20	(15 – 20)
Dr Joe Hendron	15 – 20	(15 – 20)
Mrs Alison Scott-McKinley	15 – 20	(15 – 20)
Mrs Kelly Andrews	15 – 20	(15 – 20)
Ms Anne Monaghan	15 – 20	(15 – 20)
*Mrs Rena Shepherd	15 – 20	(Nil)
Mr David Burrows	Nil	(15 – 20)

**Mrs Rena Shepherd took up her post on 19th May 2008.*

SALARY

"Salary" includes gross salary, performance pay or bonuses, overtime, reserved rights to London Weighting or London allowances, recruitment and retention allowances, private office allowances and any other allowances to the extent that it is subject to UK taxation.

PENSION

Pension benefits are provided through the Civil Service pension arrangements. From 1st October 2002, civil servants may be in one of three statutory-based "final salary" defined benefit schemes (classic, premium, and classic plus). The Schemes are unfunded with the cost of benefits met by monies voted by Parliament each year. Pensions payable under classic, premium and classic plus are increased annually in line with changes in the Retail Price Index. New entrants after 1st October 2002 may choose between membership of premium or joining a good quality "money purchase" stakeholder-based arrangement with a significant employer contribution (partnership pension account).

Employee contributions are set at the rate of 1.5% of pensionable earnings for classic and 3.5% for premium and classic plus. Benefits in classic accrue at the rate of 1/80th of pensionable salary for each year of service. In addition, a lump sum equivalent to three years' pension is payable on retirement. For premium, benefits accrue at the rate of 1/60th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. Unlike classic, there is no automatic lump sum (but members may give up (commute) some of their pension to provide a lump sum). Classic plus is essentially a variation of premium, but with benefits in respect of service before 1 October 2002 calculated broadly as per classic.

The partnership pension account is a stakeholder pension arrangement. The employer makes a basic contribution of between 3% and 12.5% (depending on the age of the member) into a stakeholder pension product chosen by the employee. The employee does not have to contribute but where they do make contributions, the employer will match these up to a limit of 3% of pensionable salary (in addition to the employer's basic contribution). Employers also contribute a further 0.8% of pensionable salary to cover the cost of centrally-provided risk benefit cover (death in service and ill health retirement).

Further details about the Civil Service pension arrangements can be found at the website www.civilservicepensions-ni.gov.uk.

The following represents an explanation of the various terms used.

A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures would show the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies. The CETV figures, and from 2003/04 the other pension details, include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which the individual has transferred to the Civil Service scheme and for which the Scheme has received a transfer payment commensurate to the additional pension liabilities being assumed. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their purchasing additional years of pension service in the scheme at their own cost. CETVs are calculated within the guidelines and framework prescribed by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.

The real increase in CETV reflects the increase effectively funded by the employer. It takes account of the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

BENEFITS IN KIND

The monetary value of benefits in kind covers any benefits provided by the employer and treated by the Inland Revenue as a taxable emolument.

Gross salaries for the most senior managers of the Department were determined by reference to the senior civil service pay award for 2006.

R PEDLOW

SECRETARY

10 March 2010

Parades remain a difficult issue, as a Commission we do our utmost to balance rights, responsibilities and act fairly.



Statement of Secretary's Responsibilities



Under paragraph 12 (1) of Schedule 1 to the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) 1998 Act, the Secretary of State (with the consent of HM Treasury and Northern Ireland Office) has directed the Parades Commission to prepare, for each financial year, a statement of accounts in the form and on the basis set out in the Accounts Direction. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Parades Commission and of its income and expenditure, recognised gains and losses and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts, the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the requirements of the Government Financial Reporting Manual and in particular to:

- observe the accounts direction issued by the Northern Ireland Office on behalf of the Secretary of State, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;

- make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, as set out in the Government Financial Reporting Manual, and disclose and explain any material departures in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis.

The Accounting Officer of the Northern Ireland Office has designated the Secretary as the Accounting Officer for the Parades Commission. The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer are set out in the Accounting Officers' Memorandum issued by HM Treasury and published in Managing Public Money. Some of the Accounting Officer's responsibilities include the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding the Parades Commission's assets.

Statement on Internal Control

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland's policies, aims and objectives, whilst safeguarding the public funds and departmental assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in Managing Public Money.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level to achieve policies, aims and objectives rather than to eliminate all risk of failure. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of departmental policies, aims and objectives; to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised; and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland for the year ended 31st March 2009 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts, and accords with Treasury guidance.

CAPACITY TO HANDLE RISK

The system of internal control is based on a framework of regular management information, administrative procedures, including the segregation of duties, and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting systems with an annual budget which is reviewed and agreed by the Secretary and Chairman of the Commission;
- regular reviews of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance; and
- as appropriate, formal project management disciplines.

THE RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK

The Parades Commission for Northern Ireland has relied upon the services provided by ASM Horwath Internal Audit Unit (on behalf of the Northern Ireland Office), which operates to standards defined in the Government Internal Audit Manual. The work of the Internal Auditor is informed by an analysis of the risk to which the Commission is exposed, and annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. A comprehensive risk register has been completed and is subject to ongoing review and monitoring by the Audit Committee.

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal auditors and the executive managers within the Commission who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports. I have been advised on the implications of the result of my review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the Audit Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Internal audit examined three key areas during its 2008/09 review. These areas were mediation/professional services; financial systems; and personnel, payroll, travel and hospitality. Financial systems was found to have a "satisfactory" assurance level while the other two areas received "limited" assurance levels. In relation to mediation the auditor commented on the arrangements for the appointment and contractual arrangements for mediators. In relation to personnel and payroll the auditor commented on the absence of a payroll and reporting system for the Commission. However, this was not accepted as it would not have been possible to achieve within the framework of HR Connect.

R PEDLOW
SECRETARY
10 March 2010

The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to The Houses of Parliament

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland for the year ended 31 March 2009 under the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998. These comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and Statement of Recognised Gains and Losses and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them. I have also audited the information in the Remuneration Report that is described in that report as having been audited.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARADES COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND, SECRETARY AND AUDITOR

The Parades Commission for Northern Ireland and the Secretary as Accounting Officer are responsible for preparing the Annual Report, which includes the Remuneration Report, and the financial statements in accordance with the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 as amended by the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 (Accounts and Audit) Order 1998 and directions made thereunder by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and for ensuring the regularity of financial transactions. These responsibilities are set out in the Statement of Secretary's Responsibilities.

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements and the part of the remuneration report to be audited in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements, and with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

I report to you my opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and whether the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited have been properly prepared in accordance with the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 as amended by the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 (Accounts and Audit) Order 1998 and directions made thereunder by the

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. I report to you whether, in my opinion, the information, which comprises the Foreword and Management Commentary, included in the Annual Report, is consistent with the financial statements. I also report whether in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

In addition, I report to you if the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland has not kept proper accounting records, if I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit, or if information specified by HM Treasury regarding remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed.

I review whether the Statement on Internal Control reflects the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland's compliance with HM Treasury's guidance, and I report if it does not. I am not required to consider whether this statement covers all risks and controls, or form an opinion on the effectiveness of the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland's corporate governance procedures or its risk and control procedures.

I read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. This other information comprises the Chairman's Report and the unaudited part of the Remuneration Report. I consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. My responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

BASIS OF AUDIT OPINIONS

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. My audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts, disclosures and regularity of financial transactions included in the financial statements and the part of the

Remuneration Report to be audited. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland and the Secretary in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are most appropriate to the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error, and that in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited.

OPINIONS

In my opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 as amended by the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 (Accounts and Audit) Order 1998 and directions made thereunder by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, of the state of the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland's affairs as at 31st March 2009 and of its deficit, recognised gains and losses and cash flows for the year then ended;
- the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited have been properly prepared in accordance with the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 as amended by the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 (Accounts and Audit) Order 1998 and directions made thereunder by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland; and
- information, which comprises the Foreword and the Management Commentary included within the Annual Report, is consistent with the financial statements.

OPINION ON REGULARITY

In my opinion, in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

REPORT

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

Amyas C E Morse
Comptroller and Auditor General
National Audit Office
157 Buckingham Palace Road
Victoria
London
SW1W 9SP
31 March 2010



It is clear that the vast majority of parades take place as notified and they do so in a peaceful manner which draws no objections from the local community.

Financial Statements

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2009

	Note	2009 £	2008 £
Expenditure			
Staff costs	2	723,758	683,746
Other operating costs	3	398,623	422,715
Exceptional items	4	-	(51,014)
Notional costs	5	50,269	(11,254)
Depreciation	6	8,820	8,452
Permanent diminution	6	1,220	(1,578)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Deficit for the Year		1,182,690	1,051,067
Reversal of notional costs	5	(50,269)	11,254
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Deficit transferred to reserves		1,132,421	1,062,321
		<hr/>	<hr/>

The notes on pages 23 to 31 form part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2009

		2009 £	2008 £
Revaluation of Fixed Asset	6	219	0
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Financial Statements

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2009

	Note	2009 £	2008 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	6	29,813	28,744
Current Assets			
Cash in hand		90	45
Debtors	9	13,025	16,188
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		13,115	16,233
Current Liabilities			
Creditors (due within one year)	10	63,579	71,166
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Current Liabilities		(50,464)	(54,933)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Assets less Liabilities		(20,651)	(26,189)
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Financed By			
Capital & Reserves			
General fund	13	(20,958)	(26,277)
Revaluation reserve	13	307	88
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		(20,651)	(26,189)
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

R PEDLOW

Secretary
10 March 2010

The notes on pages 23 to 31 form part of these accounts.

Financial Statements

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2009

	Note	2009 £	2008 £
Net Cash Outflow from Continuing Operating Activities	14	1,132,699	1,708,441
Capital Expenditure Payments to acquire fixed assets		4,996	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Outflow Before Financing		1,137,695	1,708,441
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Financing			
Cash inflow from financing	13	1,137,740	1,708,406
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Increase / (Decrease) in Cash		45	(35)
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Included within creditors and accruals is an amount totalling £5,894 (2008: nil) in relation to capital expenditure.

The notes on pages 23 to 31 form part of these accounts.

Financial Statements

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Statement of Accounting Policies

Accounting Convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention, modified by the revaluation of fixed assets.

The accounts comply with the accounting standards issued or adopted by the Accounting Standards Board, Financial Reporting Manual and accounting and disclosure requirements issued by the Treasury, insofar as those requirements are appropriate.

Financing Received from Sponsor Department

The Parades Commission is funded by the NIO. Financing is received to fund activities and expenditure which support the objectives of the Commission. This is treated as financing and is credited to the General Reserve, because it is regarded as contributions from a controlling party.

Leasing

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Fixed Assets

Fixed assets comprise computer and office equipment and are re-valued annually on 31st August, using appropriate indices compiled by Central Statistics Office. The level for capitalisation of a tangible fixed asset or group of assets is £1,000.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis on all fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of each asset over its expected useful life.

The estimated useful lives for depreciation purposes are as follows: -

Computer hardware	5 years
Computer servers	5 years
Computer software	5 years
Furniture & equipment	15 years
Leasehold Improvements	Lease Term

Financial Statements

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

Capital Charge

A notional charge, reflecting the cost of capital utilised by the Commission, is included in the operating costs. The charge is calculated at HM Treasury's rate of 3.5% (2008: 3.5%) on all assets and liabilities.

Employer's Pension Contributions

The Secretary and employees of the Parades Commission are civil servants to whom the conditions of the Superannuation (Northern Ireland) Orders 1967 and 1972 and subsequent amendments apply. The Commission's staff is covered by the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme, which is a non-contributory scheme. The rate for the employer's contribution is set by the Government Actuary.

VAT

The Commission does not have any income which is subject to output VAT. The Commission recovers input VAT on contracted out services in accordance with NIO guidance.

2. Staff Costs and Numbers

Staff costs consist of:

	2009	2008
	£	£
Wages & salaries	309,445	291,033
Social security costs	24,358	22,938
Pension costs	55,681	50,693
Total direct employee staff costs	389,484	364,644
Amounts payable in respect of staff on secondment, agency/temporary staff, and contract staff	334,274	319,082
Total Staff Costs	<u>723,758</u>	<u>683,746</u>

In line with revised disclosure requirements, amounts payable in respect of staff on secondment, agency/temporary staff and contract staff are now reported together. This includes the Commissioners' and Authorised Officers' costs, as they are non-Northern Ireland Civil Service and are therefore not pensionable.

The PCSPS (NI) is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme which produces its own resource accounts, but the Parades Commission is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. The scheme actuary valued the scheme as at 31st March 2007. You can find details in the resource accounts of the Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk

Financial Statements

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

For 2008-09, employer's contributions of £55,681 (2007-08: £50,693) were payable to the PCSPS (NI) at one of four rates in the range 16.5 to 23.5% of pensionable pay, based on salary bands.

The contribution rates are set to meet the cost of the benefits accruing during 2008/09 to be paid when a member retires, and not the benefits paid during this period to existing pensioners. The remuneration report on pages 12-13 contains detailed pension information.

Employees joining after 1st October 2002 could opt to open a partnership pension account, a stakeholder pension with an employer contribution. Employer's contributions are paid to one or more of a panel of four appointed stakeholder pension providers. Employer contributions are age-related and range from 3 to 12.5% of pensionable pay. Employers also match employee contributions up to 3% of pensionable pay. In addition, employer contributions of 0.8% of pensionable pay are payable to the PCSPS (NI) to cover the cost of the future provision of lump sum benefits on death in service and ill health retirement of these employees. No employees of the Commission have opted for a pension partnership account during 2008/09.

Number of Employees

The average number of whole-time equivalent persons (including senior management) employed during the year was:

Directly Employed Parades Commission Staff

	2009	2008
	No.	No.
Management and Executive	1	1
<u>Administration Staff</u>		
Employed on a full-time basis	11	11
Seconded, agency/temporary and contract staff	11	11

The Commission is not responsible for the remuneration of any ministers or special advisers.

Financial Statements

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

3. Other Operating Costs

	2009	2008
	£	£
Other operating costs comprise:		
Accommodation costs	20,790	10,754
Rent	132,179	127,872
Travel, subsistence & hospitality	37,656	56,513
Advertising	11,666	15,652
Training	127	2,074
Telecommunications	19,312	18,488
Inter-Departmental charges	34,124	28,433
Courier Service	13,925	14,462
Professional advisors' service	51,828	68,231
Consultants' fees	2,795	15,202
Auditor's remuneration	11,250	10,000
Mediation	26,363	36,901
Other Expenditure	36,608	18,133
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	398,623	422,715
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Expenditure in 2008 has been reclassified to match categorisation of expenditure in 2009.

4. Exceptional Items

	2009	2008
	£	£
NIC + income tax payable	-	(51,014)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	(51,014)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The charge in 2008 is in respect of NIC and income tax payable relates to a failure to deduct income tax and national insurance from payments made to Commissioners from the establishment of the Commission in 1997 to December 2005. The amount of £516,014 was included as an accrual in 2007; however, the actual amount settled was £465,000.

Financial Statements

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

5. Notional Costs

The income & expenditure account bears a non-cash charge for interest relating to the use of capital by the Parades Commission. The basis of the charge is 3.5% of the average capital employed by the Commission during the period ended 31st March 2009, defined as the total assets less total liabilities. The CSO service charge for 2009 reflects notional legal costs in respect of "the Dunloy" judicial review case.

	2009	2008
	£	£
Cost of capital	(797)	(12,223)
CSO Service charge	51,066	969
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	50,269	(11,254)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

6. Fixed Assets

£	Computer Hardware £	Computer Software £	Office Equipment £	Leasehold Improvements £	Total
Opening Cost	18,300	6,744	8,817	19,790	53,651
Additions	10,890	-	-	-	10,890
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	258	-	258
Permanent diminution	(2,056)	(475)	-	-	(2,531)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Closing Cost	27,134	6,269	9,075	19,790	62,268
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Opening Depreciation	14,567	4,045	1,347	4,948	24,907
Charge for the year	2,013	1,254	605	4,948	8,820
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Backlog depreciation	-	-	39	-	39
Permanent diminution	(1,026)	(285)	-	-	(1,311)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Closing Depreciation	15,554	5,014	1,991	9,896	32,455
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Closing Net Book Value	11,580	1,255	7,084	9,894	29,813
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Opening Net Book Value	3,733	2,699	7,470	14,842	28,744
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Financial Statements

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

7. Capital Commitments

There were no outstanding capital commitments at 31st March 2009.

8. Contingent Liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities at 31st March 2009.

9. Debtors

	2009	2008
	£	£
Prepayments	13,025	16,188
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	13,025	16,188
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

10. Creditors

	2009	2008
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year		
Creditors	3,397	2,625
Accruals	60,182	68,541
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	63,579	71,166
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

11. Provisions for liabilities and charges

There was no provision for liabilities and charges for 2009.

12. Commitments

Operating Lease

The Commission is committed under a Memorandum of Terms of Occupation with the Department of Environment to pay rental of £59,202 per annum for the premises it occupies.

Operating Leases expiring:	2009	2008
	£	£
Within one year	NIL	NIL
Between one and five years	59,202	60,489
After five years	NIL	NIL

Financial Statements

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

13. Reconciliation of Movements in Reserves

	General Fund £	Revaluation Reserve £	Total 2009 £	Total 2008 £
At start of year	(26,277)	88	(26,189)	(672,274)
Transfer from income & expenditure account	(1,132,421)	-	(1,132,421)	(1,062,321)
Financing from Estimates	1,137,740	-	1,137,740	1,708,406
Transfer of fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Revaluation of fixed assets	-	219	219	-
At end of year	(20,958)	307	(20,651)	(26,189)

14. Reconciliation of Results for the Period to Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities

	2009 £	2008 £
Result for the year	(1,182,690)	(1,051,067)
Notional costs	50,269	(11,254)
Adjustment for non cash transactions		
Depreciation	8,820	8,452
Permanent Diminution	1,220	(1,578)
Decrease in provisions	-	-
Adjustments for movements in working capital		
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	3,163	(3,651)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	(13,481)	(649,343)
Net Cash Outflow From Operating Activities	(1,132,699)	(1,708,441)

Financial Statements

15. Financial Instruments

As the cash requirements of a non-departmental Government body are met through Grant-in-Aid provided by the Northern Ireland Office, financial instruments play a more limited role in creating and managing risk than would apply to a non-public sector body. The majority of financial instruments relate to contracts to buy non-financial items in line with the non-departmental public bodies expected purchase and usage requirements and the non-departmental public body is therefore exposed to little credit, liquidity or market risk.

The Parades Commission has no powers to borrow or invest surplus funds and has limited end year flexibility. Financial assets and liabilities are generated by day-to-day operational activities and are not held to change the risks facing the Commission in undertaking its activities.

Liquidity Risk

The Parades Commission is budgeted through the Northern Ireland Office Request for Resources 1 and is accountable to Parliament through the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and is not therefore exposed to significant liquidity risk.

Interest-Rate Risk

All financial assets and financial liabilities of the Parades Commission carry nil rates of interest and therefore are not exposed to interest rate risk.

Currency Risk

The Parades Commission does not trade in foreign currency and therefore has no exposure to foreign currency risk.

Fair Values

The book values and fair values of the Parades Commission's financial assets and financial liabilities as at 31 March 2009 are as set out below:

Primary Financial Instruments:

	Book Value	Fair Value
	£	£
Financial Assets	-	-
Petty cash	90	90
Financial Liabilities	-	-

Financial Statements

16. Related Party Transactions

The Parades Commission is an independent statutory body, established by the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, and funded by the Secretary of State through the Northern Ireland Office.

The Northern Ireland Office is regarded as a related party. During the year, the Parades Commission has had various material transactions with the Northern Ireland Office.

In addition, the Parades Commission has had a small number of material transactions with other Government Departments. Most of these transactions have been with the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland, and one of its executive agencies, the Construction Service, and also Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission.

None of the Parades Commission members, key managerial staff or other related parties has undertaken any material transactions with the Parades Commission during this year.

17. Events after the Balance Sheet Date

The Annual Report and Accounts were authorised to be issued and laid in the Houses of Parliament on the same date as they were certified by the Comptroller and Auditor General. There were no other events which required disclosure or adjustment of the Accounts.

18. International Financial Reporting Standards Impact

The Parades Commission has put measures in place to ensure the transition from reporting under Financial Reporting Standards (FRS) to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for the preparation of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2010. The only likely accounting adjustment for the Commission under IFRS is the requirement to accrue employee benefits at the financial year-end. All other adjustments will be in terms of presentation.

Our Process



The Commission



1. MRS RENA SHEPHERD:

Rena has extensive experience at senior executive level in business. She has led organizations in the Oil, Publishing and Postal Sectors. She is currently a partner in a medium-sized consultancy firm that supports organisations in strategic planning, leadership development, corporate governance and diversity issues. She is heavily involved with a number of disability charities and lobbies for the rights of people with disabilities. She is Chair of the Policy Committee at the Chamber of Commerce and sits on the Development Board of the Ulster Orchestra.

2. DR JOE HENDRON:

Joe was a GP in West Belfast for 40 years. He was elected MP for West Belfast for the SDLP and served from 1992-97. He was an MLA for the constituency from 1998-2003 where he chaired the Assembly's Health, Social Services and Public Safety Committee. He served on Belfast City Council from 1981-1992. He visited North Korea in 1998 as part of a Trocaire charity delegation looking at famine.

3. MR EDWIN GRAHAM:

Edwin Graham has a number of roles in the public and voluntary sectors and immediately prior to his appointment to the Commission he worked as an Authorised Officer in the Parades Commission.

Edwin is a trained mediator and holds a BSc in Environmental Science from the University of Ulster. He was appointed in 2007 as a Non-Executive Director on the Southern Health and Social Care Trust. Edwin also holds a number of voluntary positions which include his role on the Pharmacy National Appeal Panel of the Department of Health; Northern Ireland representative on the UK Faith Communities Consultative Council; Chairman, Edward Street Hostel Ltd; Chairman, Clinical Excellence Panel, Southern HSC Trust; Secretary, Northern Ireland

Inter-Faith Forum; Member, Religious Education Advisory Group, CCEA; Treasurer, Baha'i Council for Northern Ireland

4. MRS VILMA PATTERSON MBE:

Mrs Patterson has spent over 30 years in the construction industry, in sportsground construction, consultancy, research and network development and is Director of John G Duff (Annadale) Ltd. She was a member (1996-2008) and Chair (1999-2002) of the Independent Monitoring Board for HMP Maghaberry and Chair of Northern Ireland Association of the Independent Monitoring Boards for Northern Ireland. She is also the former Chair of the Women in Business Network working with the private, public, voluntary and community sectors. She was appointed as a Civil Service Commissioner for Northern Ireland in 2009 and is a member of the Probation Board for Northern Ireland.

5. MRS KELLY ANDREWS:

Kelly Andrews is former Chair of the National Executive Committee for the Green Party Ireland. She is also a former Co-Chair and Secretary of the Green Party in Northern Ireland. Kelly has a background in community development. She has worked as a Training Coordinator for Women into Politics, facilitating various programmes dealing with conflict resolution, equality, democracy and politics. She has a BA Hons in English and Politics from Queen's University Belfast.

6. MRS ALISON SCOTT MCKINLEY:

Alison is currently employed by the North Eastern Education and Library Board as an Alternative Education Youth Worker. Alison's background is in the field of Family Work, Youth Work and Community Development. Alison is currently a Therapist working with young people and adults. She is a Lay Magistrate serving in the Family Proceedings and Youth Courts in the Londonderry County Division, and an Independent Member of Cookstown District Policing Partnership.

7. MS ANNE MONAGHAN:

Was a member of the Parades Commission until 31st December 2009.

8. MR ROGER POOLE:

Resigned from the Parades Commission on 20 July 2009.

The Parades Commission
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