

sectarianism

Update on Action Plan on **Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland**

December 2006



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SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

sectarianism

Update on Action Plan on **Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland**

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Foreword

Earlier this year, I launched the Action Plan on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland – and it is now nearly two years since I convened the first Summit on Sectarianism. Since then, I have been overwhelmed by the positive response, and I applaud all of the efforts to tackle sectarianism in our football grounds, our schools, our universities and our workplaces. The genuine desire that so many have shown to changing attitudes and stamping out bigotry has been an inspiration to me.

This document provides an update on the initiatives set out in January's Action Plan. The reconvened Summit on Sectarianism on 12 December 2006 will provide us with a further opportunity to take stock and look to the future.

The lead given by the Scottish government has been important in raising the profile of this issue. I believe we have helped those who would otherwise not have spoken out to find a voice.

Today, there is nothing secret about sectarianism in Scotland and our collective desire to build a society free from sectarian bigotry is already delivering results. But, while we have made these gains, we cannot lose sight of the harm and intolerance that sectarianism can bring to our nation and our communities.

But, government can only achieve so much in supporting this kind of change. The challenge now is for us all to make a positive contribution as individuals, and as part of organisations, to root out the entrenched attitudes that have held Scotland back in the past. Working together, we must build a tolerant, sectarian-free Scotland – not just a Scotland in which sectarian excesses are curbed.

The tide of opinion has definitely turned against those who would drag us down with sectarian rhetoric and abuse. I have no doubt that our sustained efforts will bring about the Scotland in which our children and our children's children would want to live.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'J McConnell'.

Rt Hon Jack McConnell MSP
First Minister of Scotland

ACTION PLAN UPDATE

EDUCATION

Young people have been quick to embrace the anti-sectarian agenda and the range of initiatives they are involved in is impressive. We must maintain and build on this if we are to achieve the long-term attitudinal change which will ensure that abusive sectarian behaviour has no safe hiding place in Scottish society. Awareness-raising and twinning schools are both part of the positive engagement that needs to happen to bring communities together and break down barriers, both real and perceived. We have already made a great deal of positive progress in these and other areas and have highlighted some of this work below:

ACTION 1:

The Scottish Executive will provide £100,000 during 2006 to support anti-sectarian project work in schools, promote use of the anti-sectarian education resource and develop innovative approaches to tackling sectarianism. The Executive will also provide £13,500 to support the use of the resource in youth work.

Education resource:

- > The anti-sectarian education resource **Sectarianism: Don't Give It, Don't Take It** was originally launched on 22 March 2005. This resource has been central to all of our education-based work.
- > It is a modular web-based resource which was developed for teachers and others who work with young people to provide materials they can use to raise awareness of sectarianism and religious intolerance and encourage better mutual understanding. It was developed for us by the Centre for Education for Racial Equality in Scotland (CERES).
- > The resource is available to all schools, youth-workers and educationalists in Scotland, and contains materials which can be used across the curriculum.
- > Practitioner feedback has allowed us to continue to develop the resource and ensure its effectiveness. On 11 September 2006 we launched the revised and updated version of **Sectarianism: Don't Give It, Don't Take It**. New content includes case studies highlighting good practice and a section on Islam and Islamophobia.
- > The resource can be found at <http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/antisectarian/>
- > Launched a training DVD **Challenging Sectarianism: anti-sectarian education in practice** to complement the resource on 11 September 2006. The DVD aims to support practitioners in using interactive techniques to raise awareness of sectarianism.

- In addition, we provided over £27,000 to encourage the use of the resource through specialist training to youth workers, delivered in partnership with Youth Scotland and Glasgow City Council.
- We are developing a work-plan offered by CERES to review the website to ensure that the content is up to date and factually correct. Through quarterly updates, CERES will update lessons plans to reflect the **Curriculum for Excellence** framework, provide further good practice drawing on the £100k school project fund, and give schools ideas on how to develop twinning. We will also establish a strategic approach to anti-sectarian education in schools through the establishment of an Advisory Group facilitated by CERES.

Project work in schools:

- In response to our request for anti-sectarian project initiatives we received applications from a total of 22 different Education Authorities across Scotland.
- Each authority who applied to the fund has been successful in securing funding for at least one project. Therefore they will each receive a share of the £100,000.
- These projects are over a range of areas such as Highlands, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Glasgow, Inverclyde, West Lothian and Falkirk, and cover a wide range of initiatives. Some of these initiatives include excellent twinning examples ranging from drama work, sharing and celebrating a variety of religious festivals, and outdoor education.

Youth work:

- Youth Scotland received a grant of almost £10,000 to administer training to youth workers on the **Sectarianism: Don't Give It, Don't Take It** resource.
- In partnership with Glasgow City Council and Sense over Sectarianism 10 half-day training sessions were carried out at various venues all over Scotland – from Benbecula to Dumfries between May and August 2006.
- An evaluation of the training was carried out and the workshops were felt to be very useful by youth workers for raising the issue of sectarianism amongst young people and how to tackle it.
- Youth Scotland received an additional £3,500 to promote the anti-sectarianism resource.

ACTION 2:

The Scottish Executive will run seven pilot performances and supporting education workshops of the anti-sectarian play 'Singing I'm No a Billy, He's A Tim', which will involve 700 pupils from across Scotland, by June 2006.

- Drama has long been recognised as a powerful and stimulating medium for teaching and learning.
- Des Dillon's anti-sectarian play '**Singing I'm No a Billy, He's A Tim**', is a thought-provoking drama centred on a Rangers and a Celtic fan who are locked together in a cell on the day of an Old Firm match. The men are forced to talk to one another, and through discussing some of their prejudices find a common morality. The play looks at how religious bigotry is perpetuated, and considers how the two men have picked up their beliefs through family and society. This play was identified as a powerful vehicle for working with young people.
- The original play was written for an adult audience but, by working with the writer and publisher, it was successfully adapted for working with Secondary school pupils.
- Seven performances were staged with supporting educational workshops over February and March 2006. Approximately 700 pupils from the Borders, Fife, Clackmannanshire, Stirling, Falkirk, North Lanarkshire and Highland watched the play and participated in the workshops.
- Additional teacher workshops to support further work based on the play took place later in the year.
- We are considering a proposal building on the pupil workshops from the tour, which would bring young people together to build on their ideas for tackling sectarianism.

ACTION 3:

The Scottish Executive will produce an information pack for schools and local authorities highlighting the principles of twinning, distilling the good practice examples, illustrating ways to overcome potential barriers, and containing a comprehensive list of twinning activities and contacts. This will be published mid-2006.

- Twinning between denominational and non-denominational schools brings a multitude of benefits. Schools, teachers and pupils all benefit from better communication and co-operation and the development of better understanding between pupils of different beliefs.
- A national seminar on twinning was held on 16 May 2006, jointly hosted by the Scottish Catholic Education Service and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.

- > Twenty schools with existing twinning arrangements were involved in delivering presentations, hosting workshops, and staffing exhibition stands.
- > 150 education professionals from 24 local authorities across Scotland attended the event.
- > Since the seminar the Executive has been developing a guide on twinning between denominational and non-denominational schools.
- > The guide, **Building Friendships and Strengthening Communities**, was published on 12 December 2006 and sent to every school in Scotland. It is aimed at headteachers and others who are thinking about becoming involved in twinning activities, and includes information on the benefits of twinning, advice on how schools can start twinning arrangements, eight detailed good practice examples, and details of useful contacts and resources.
- > The guide can be found on the Scottish Executive website www.scotland.gov.uk

ACTION 4:

To raise the profile of the work that is being taken forward to tackle sectarian bigotry at school level, an anti-sectarianism category will be developed for the Scottish Education Awards 2006.

- > The anti-sectarian category featured in the 2006 Scottish Education Awards for the first time.
- > Despite this being a brand new category there were 24 entries received from a cross-section of Scotland covering a broad range of initiatives.
- > The 2006 winner was St Margaret Mary's Secondary School. Pupils from the school designed, sourced and produced a football featuring the logo **Kick Bigotry Out**. The project sparked off ideas for other products, such as T-shirts and key rings, with all profits donated to charity. St Margaret Mary's received a great deal of positive feedback and requests from parents. *The Times* Educational Supplement profiled their work, leading to a number of enquires from other schools wishing to promote the anti-bigotry message. The pupils are now involved in a Sense Over Sectarianism project.
- > The two runner-ups were Woodlands Primary School and Rosehall High School, North Lanarkshire:
 - **Woodlands Primary** got involved in the pilot of the Anti-Sectarian Education Resource and linked up with neighbouring school St Margaret of Scotland. The integration of the two schools proved effective in breaking down the religious divide and prompting understanding and tolerance. In 2006, 54 children took part in the initiative and a programme of work was developed by teachers. Its aim was to tackle discrimination and challenge behaviour and attitudes that could cause or sustain sectarianism.

- **Rosehall High School's** innovative project with three other local secondary schools, North Lanarkshire Council and the Scottish Executive demonstrated co-operative working at its best. The scheme included a youth conference in June 2005 to challenge religious and racial intolerance, and stimulate discussion of sectarianism among local children. Community Youth Rugby was also set up to emphasise teamwork and co-operation, while a one-day visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau was organised by Coatbridge schools in conjunction with the Holocaust Education Trust. A memorial day was held at Rosehall after the trip.

ACTION 5:

To support the National Union of Students Scotland anti-sectarian campaign the Scottish Executive will provide £10,000 to produce a range of materials that can be used by students associations to ensure that the anti-sectarian message reaches thousands of students in every campus across Scotland during 2006/07.

- > NUS Scotland launched its anti-sectarian campaign **Stamp out Sectarianism** in June 2006.
- > Students' associations across Scotland are using these campaign materials – including posters, beer mats, badges and postcards – to roll out the campaign on campus and engaging their own students.
- > NUS Scotland also had a presence at over 40 Freshers' Fares across the country, which we used as an opportunity to reach students and get them involved in the campaign.
- > The campaign website, <http://www.stampoutsectarianism.co.uk/>, has received thousands of hits with students signing pledges to challenge sectarianism and bigotry in Scotland.
- > The traditional Re-Freshers' Fares that will happen in January 2007 will mark a new phase of the campaign and will involve changing the pledges into New Years' resolutions and getting even more students signed up.
- > In support of the campaign NUS Scotland is producing a briefing pack describing how students' associations can effectively run the campaign on campus and also containing information on what sectarianism is and how students can help combat it.
- > NUS Scotland will also be running an in-depth training course, aimed at student officers with a welfare and training remit, to equip them with the skills to go back to their own institutions and run further anti-sectarian training for students.

SPORT

Sport is central to the lives of many Scots. It has always brought out the passion in individuals and has a major influence on society as a whole. Sports organisations, governing bodies and the fans themselves have all been making positive contributions to tackling sectarianism and this work will be stepping up as we move into 2007. A great deal has already been achieved and some of the key actions are highlighted below:

ACTION 6:

The Scottish Executive will work in partnership with the Scottish Football Association and sportscotland to develop a strategy for tackling sectarianism in football. This will be launched by the end of 2006.

- > The Sectarianism in Football (SIF) Working Group was established in May to develop a strategy for tackling sectarianism in football.
- > The SIF Working Group was chaired by David Taylor, Chief Executive of the Scottish Football Association, and involved senior representatives from **sportscotland**, the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland, Scottish Premier League, Scottish Football League and the Executive.
- > The strategy **Calling Full Time on Sectarianism** will be published on 12 December and will be available at www.scotland.gov.uk/publications
- > The main action points outlined by the SIF Working Group include:
 - To establish a new body – **Football for All** – to focus efforts across the country to develop and deliver activities to tackle sectarianism associated with Scottish football.
 - To undertake a nationwide anti-sectarianism awareness raising campaign at the beginning of 2007.
 - To introduce a new disciplinary offence of unacceptable conduct in football grounds in Scotland which will carry potential sanctions against clubs, officials, players or spectators engaging in sectarian behaviour.
 - To strengthen the **National Club Licensing Scheme** to require clubs to demonstrate policies and actions being undertaken against sectarianism and other forms of discrimination.
- > The strategy will be central to tackling football-related sectarianism in Scotland and progress will be reviewed by the SIF Working Group at the end of the 2006/07 football season. A report on progress made, and further actions, will be made prior to the start of the 2007/08 football season.

ACTION 7:

The Scottish Executive has appointed an independent facilitator to work with supporters groups of the Scottish Premier League and a selection of Scottish Football League clubs to identify actions that these groups can recommend or take forward to tackle sectarianism. This work will begin early in 2006 and the facilitator will deliver a report on what has been achieved by mid-2006.

- Independent consultant Bert Moorhouse, a senior lecturer and academic at Glasgow University, was appointed in November 2005 as the facilitator.
- He was asked to gather views from supporters' groups on what they see as the practical problems for the average fan and he invited them to suggest how sectarian attitudes could be addressed.
- His consultation took place over the spring and summer of 2006 and included representatives from key SPL and SFL Supporters' clubs.
- His findings have been considered as part of the strategy for tackling sectarianism in football which forms action 6 above.
- Mr Moorhouse's report recommends that:
 - The Scottish Executive provides and publicises a clear statement to fans and all clubs about its anti-sectarian initiatives.
 - Celtic and Rangers merge their current anti-sectarian initiatives into a single and joint campaign.
 - The Scottish Football Association, all major clubs and football bodies ensure that all footballers are offered anti-sectarian training.
 - The Scottish Executive learn from best practice in other parts of the UK and overseas.
- A summary of Mr Moorhouse's report is available at:
www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/11/fan-consultation-exec-sum

ACTION 8:

The Scottish Executive has introduced Football Banning Orders as part of the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill 2006. The provisions relating to Football Banning Orders will be implemented in autumn 2006.

- > Football Banning Orders (FBOs) were introduced in Scotland as part of the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006 on 1 September 2006.
- > FBOs will ensure that those who repeatedly use football as an excuse to indulge in violent and abusive behaviour can be excluded from Scottish, UK and international matches for up to 10 years.
- > In addition FBOs can be used to prevent individuals from known trouble spots and areas where fans are known to gather.
- > FBOs in Scotland differ from those in England and Wales by having a specific focus on sectarian behaviour and are an important tool in helping to ensure that our national game is not spoilt by abusive sectarian thugs.
- > The Minister for Justice launched the **Straight Red** campaign on 26 August 2006 to raise awareness of FBOs.
- > The campaign, jointly funded by the Executive and Strathclyde Police, included:
 - 84 radio commercials transmitted over Real Radio, which were heard by over 660,000 million listeners between 28 August 2006 and 24 September 2006.
 - Campaign posters displayed in the washrooms of football grounds.
 - 328,000 beer mats being distributed to bars and clubs where supporters are known to gather before and after matches.
 - Mobile ad-trailers located outside selected grounds on match days.
- > In addition, a FBO website has been established and was launched on 26 August 2006. It can be found at: www.footballbanningorders.com

FAITH

Scotland's faith communities have a long history of positive work to build bridges between and within communities. Charitable and voluntary groups are therefore an important vehicle for tackling the sectarianism that Christian and other religious groups have experienced at community level. There are a whole range of initiatives which are underway and some of these are highlighted below:

ACTION 9:

The Scottish Executive will work in partnership with the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations to establish a network of anti-sectarian groups and will host annual meetings to facilitate information sharing and the promotion of good practice.

- > The Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations, in partnership with the Executive, held their first conference on this issue on 27 November at St Mungo's Museum for Religious Life and Art, Glasgow.
- > The event brought together more than twenty small groups, local organisations and community-based projects that are working to tackle sectarianism covering such diverse interests as community cohesion; all years education; religion; sport; working with young offenders; residential visits; twinning of schools and local authorities.
- > The conference recognised the need for such a network and helped to identify the barriers to bridging divides.
- > As the network is developed and expanded it will allow all voluntary and community groups to link into an established network and ensure that the anti-sectarian message is getting through to communities across Scotland.

ACTION 10:

The First Minister will meet with Action for Churches Together in Scotland on an annual basis to support the development of co-operative partnerships at the highest level.

ACTS:

- > Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) brings together the most senior figures from nine Christian churches in Scotland.
- > This year's meeting brought together Keith Patrick, Cardinal O'Brien, Roman Catholic Church; Most Rev Dr Idris Jones, Primus, Scottish Episcopal Church; Rt Rev Alan McDonald, Moderator, General Assembly of the Church of Scotland; Major Alan Dixon, Salvation Army; Pamala McDougall, Religious Society of Friends; Dr Bill Reid, Methodist Synod of Scotland, Rev Jeremy Balfour, Baptist Union; Rev Andrew McMillan, United Free Church of Scotland; and Dr J Merrilees, United Reformed Church.
- > ACTS is a conduit to allow discussions on a range of issues to take place between the Executive and senior church representatives.
- > Sectarianism is a regular feature of the discussions at ACTS meetings and group members have been involved in addressing this issue within the communities they serve.
- > The First Minister met with ACTS on 14 August 2006 at Bute House.
- > The meetings with the First Minister are held on an annual basis, and there is also a range of less formal meetings and discussions which take place between the Executive and ACTS to ensure they are aware of ongoing issues which are of interest to them.

Core Liaison Group:

- > One of the ways in which dialogue between the Executive and faith groups is maintained is through the Core Liaison Group (CLG).
- > The CLG was set up to allow for closer working and consultation with church and faith groups and specifically:
 - Equality of access to policy and decision makers.
 - Open and transparent dialogue between government and church and faith groups.
 - To use as a vehicle for collating and disseminating information.
 - As an early alert for issues of concern that members may wish to bring to the table.
- > As well as being a good vehicle for inter and intra faith working the CLG provides opportunities for other faiths to meet with Christian church representatives and develop new routes of communication between them.

- The group is drawn from representatives of the Scottish Christian Churches; the Scottish Jewish Community; and the Scottish Inter Faith Council.
- All faith communities in Scotland can contribute to the CLG.

Inter-faith Liaison Officer Pilot:

- The Executive is also partnering Glasgow City Council to run a 3-year inter-faith liaison officer pilot.
- The main aim of the pilot is to develop good working relationships between the City Council and the seven main faith communities in Glasgow. These communities are Baha'i; Buddhist; Christian; Hindu; Islamic; Jewish; and Sikh.
- Specifically the pilot will help to ensure that faith communities are aware of policy development which impacts on them and are able to feed in their views and opinions. It is also about breaking down barriers between the different faith groups and fostering closer working relationships.
- Tom Harrigan MBE was appointed as the Inter Faith Liaison Officer in August 2005 and is currently based at St Mungo's Museum for religious Life and Art.
- We are considering the potential for rolling out the pilot on a Scotland-wide basis.

ACTION 11:

The Scottish Executive will work in partnership with the National Union of Students Scotland and the Scottish Trades Union Congress Youth Committee to hold a conference bringing young people together to discuss breaking down barriers and developing participation in present-day Scotland. Tackling sectarianism will be high on the agenda.

- The **Who do you think you are? Being a young person in Scotland in the 21st century** conference was held in Glasgow on 11 December 2006 as a direct result of this action.
- By working together the National Union of Students Scotland, Scottish Trades Union Congress Youth Committee and the Executive have managed to develop an interesting and exciting event which will engage young people from all communities and stimulate discussion on the issues of identity and what it means to be Scottish in the 21st century.
- The delegates came from a broad range of backgrounds including youth groups, schools, young trade unionist and student activists.
- It event also considered the benefits of democratic participation and the need to tackle racism and sectarianism.

MARCHES AND PARADES

The right to march is a powerful visible sign of a robust democracy. But with those rights come responsibilities and there is a clear balance that needs to be struck between the rights of communities and the rights of those who wish to march and parade. There have been abusive instances in the past which have marred these events for both participant and spectators and we now need to ensure that marches and parades are organised and run in ways that are fit for the 21st century. Here are some of the activities that have been taken forward so far:

ACTION 12:

The Scottish Executive will ensure that the legislative provisions on marches and parades being taken forward as part of the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill 2006 will be implemented by 1 April 2007.

Review:

- The Executive recognises that everyone has the right to peaceful assembly. However, we also recognised that the system for allowing marches and parades to take place needed to be modernised so it was fit for the 21st century.
- In June 2004 Sir John Orr was commissioned to review marches and parades in Scotland.
- His report, **Review of Marches and Parades in Scotland**, was published on 24 January 2005.
- The report highlighted how the decision-making process could be changed in key areas so the system and the processes within it are fairer and more transparent.
- The Executive accepted Sir John's advice and have worked through the Working Group on Marches and Parades to implement all 38 of the recommendations.
- The Working Group was made up of representatives from the Convention of Local Authorities in Scotland (COSLA); Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS); Association of Scottish Police Superintendents (ASPS); the Scottish Police Federation (SPF) and key local authority representatives.
- Ministers accepted all 38 recommendations in Sir John's report and are pleased that the Working Group could find practicable and workable solutions for almost all of them.
- The work taken forward on the recommendations in Sir John Orr's **Review of Marches and Parades in Scotland** is now complete.

Legislative changes:

- The Police Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006 contains some very important changes to the way that notifications are to be handled by local authorities.
- These changes will come into force on 1 April 2007.
- Ultimately these will allow for marches and parades to be properly notified, planned for, and discussed in advance.
- The key features of the legislative changes are:
 - We have increased the minimum amount of notice that organisers must give to a local authority about their intention to march (from seven days to 28 days).
 - We have removed the ability that a local authority previously had to exempt certain processions from the requirements to give notice.
 - A local authority must consider a range of issues when deciding whether to prevent a procession or place conditions on it.
 - A local authority must take account of whether a procession may place too much of a burden on the police.
 - A local authority must take into account the effect that a previous procession had on public safety issues and how far those involved kept to any code of conduct or guidance.
 - A local authority must keep a list of processions that have been held in their area, or which have been prevented, to allow the public to see which processions happen regularly and which are likely to happen in the future.

Non-legislative changes:

- Local authorities are expected to adopt the range of good practices that are set out in the guidance on marches and parades. Key areas include:
 - Holding precursory and debriefing meetings with the police and march organisers.
 - Creating 'how to' guides and codes of conduct so march organisers know what is expected of them.
 - Creating single gateways so consistent advice is given out.
 - Sharing information and experiences between local authorities.
 - Consulting more regularly with community bodies and businesses in the area.

ACTION 13:

Scottish Ministers will issue guidance for local authorities on implementing the recommendations of the **Review of Marches and Parades in Scotland to all 32 Scottish local authorities and other key stakeholders by March 2007.**

Guidance:

- > The Working Group on Marches and Parades met regularly throughout 2005 and 2006 to address the recommendations made in the **Review of Marches and Parades in Scotland**.
- > They produced a set of draft guidance which was issued for public consultation on 17 July 2006. Views were specifically sought from local authorities, police forces and marching organisations.
- > 21 responses were received from stakeholders and interest groups and these were used to ensure the final guidance is robust.
- > The guidance provides local authorities with:
 - Information on how the legislative reforms should be implemented.
 - Information on key good practice areas which be adopted across all 32 local authority areas.
 - A simple to follow step-by-step guide.
 - Examples of letters and forms that could be used by them.
- > The final agreed guidance is being issued on 12 December.

Report:

- > The Working Group also produced a report which supplements the guidance.
- > The report sets out how all 38 of Sir John's recommendations should be taken forward by all the partners in the process – not just local authorities.
- > The report provides:
 - Complementary information to what is in the guidance on the changes that have been made to the legislation.
 - Advice on how Sir John Orr's recommendations should be taken forward by all stakeholders; details on how monitoring will be introduced so the Executive can understand how the new measures are being taken forward by local authorities and the police.
 - A chart showing the main steps and timetable for taking decisions.
 - A note of the enforcement powers available to the police.
- > The report is being issued on 12 December.

ACTION 14:

The Scottish Executive will work in partnership with the Accounts Commission and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to develop monitoring arrangements to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the recommendations of the Review of Marches and Parades in Scotland. The first report on activity - covering the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 – will be produced by July 2008.

- Assessing the effectiveness of the changes to the way that marches and parades in Scotland are to be handled is vital to allow us to understand how well the new processes are working.
- HM Inspectorate of Constabulary will, from next year, be collecting information in their annual protocols on police forces' perspectives on the new processes. This will help us to assess how the police are adapting to the new requirements.
- A questionnaire for local authorities is currently being developed and Executive officials will meet with COSLA representatives to discuss it. We aim to introduce a system which minimises the burden on local authorities.
- We are conscious that we need to view this from all perspectives and so march organisers and community groups will also be contacted to see what impact the new processes are having from their point of view.

ACTION 15:

The Scottish Executive will form a working group of key interests to map out the legal interventions that can currently be used to deal with abusive behaviour at marches and parades. The group will also be asked to assess the effectiveness of current laws and make recommendations on whether further interventions are required. The group should make its initial report to Ministers by December 2006.

Joint statement:

- The vast majority of marches and parades pass off peacefully. But any march which results in an innocent bystander suffering from violent or abusive behaviour is totally unacceptable.
- On 2 May 2006 key march organisers – the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland, Cairde Na hEireann and the STUC – came together with the Minister for Justice, Strathclyde Police and local authority representatives to sign a statement on tackling abusive behaviour at marches and parades.
- The statement committed the signatories to working in partnership to tackle unacceptable behaviour at marches and exert whatever influence they can to minimise the disruption they can cause to communities.

- The Minister for Justice subsequently invited other march organisers to sign up to the same pledge and we the Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Scotland and the Ancient Order of Hibernians have now also signed the statement.

Banning orders:

- We also recognise that there are some individuals who will require robust interventions to be stopped from deliberately causing trouble at marches and parades.
- The Task Group on tackling Sectarianism in Scotland (see action 18) was asked to consider the current legislation which the police can use to prevent disruptive behaviour at marches and parades and whether this was adequate.
- The Task Group felt that there were adequate laws to allow the police to deal effectively with incidents which happen while marches and parades are taking place, however, they also felt that there was scope for additional powers to help prevent trouble arising in the first place.
- In addition, it was felt that powers similar to those for Football Banning Orders could provide a way forward. The Task Group also recognised the practical difficulties in enforcing such powers and recommended that this idea should be considered in more detail.
- As a result we will be consulting all key stakeholders, including the police and march organisers, in the first half of 2007 to gather views on this idea.

FURTHER INITIATIVES

ACTION 16:

The Scottish Executive will work in partnership with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service to review the reports received under the Section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006 for the period 1 January 2004 to 30 June 2005 and provide an in-depth analysis of cases throughout this period by mid-2006.

- > Section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003 came into force on 27 June 2003.
- > This legalisation gives police the power to add an aggravation of religious prejudice to the primary charge, for example an assault or a breach of the peace and so forth.
- > On 20 November 2004 the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) published the first analysis of Section 74 aggravations. This covered the period 27 June 2003 to 31 December 2003.
- > This first set of analysis is available at:
<http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/9/0000077.pdf>
- > A commitment was given to continuing to look at this data and the second analysis **Use of Section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003 – Religiously Aggravated Reported Crime: 18 Month Review** covering the period 1 January 2004 to 30 June 2005 was published on 20 November 2006.
- > The second set of analysis is available at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/11/24133659/0>
- > A sample of 532 cases was used and the key information drawn from the sample was:
 - 88% of proven charges were for breach of the peace.
 - In 45% of the cases the accused was under the influence of alcohol.
 - 57.0% of cases occurred in Glasgow, 13.5% occurred in North Lanarkshire and 9.8% occurred in South Lanarkshire.
 - 64% of cases were deemed to contain conduct perceived as derogatory to Catholicism and 31% were deemed to contain conduct perceived as derogatory towards Protestantism. It should be noted that there is no information available on the religion of the victim.
 - 33% of cases were related to football.
 - 12% were related to a march or parade.
 - 92% of the accused were males, the average age of this group was 29 years old.

- > We accept that the data sources available for this study do not allow for a full evaluation. Along with ACPOS and COPFS we are therefore considering how to respond to the four recommendations made in chapter four of the analysis. We remain committed to continue to monitor the use of Section 74.
- > These partners will work together to ensure that future analysis allows for a fuller evaluation of the inputs (behaviours and individuals), outputs (sentences) and impacts (behaviour changes) associated with the use of Section 74.
- > Complementary research is also proposed to explore Scottish communities' experience of sectarianism to help determine targeted strategies to tackle the problem.

ACTION 17:

The Scottish Executive and Sense Over Sectarianism will fund the Scottish Trades Union Congress to carry out research into the effect of sectarianism in the workplace and to make recommendations as to how any identified problems might be addressed. The research will be completed by September 2006.

- > This is an interesting and innovative project which focuses on an aspect of sectarianism which has not been looked at much in a modern setting.
- > Following some initial delays this research project is now well underway and is being taken forward by Strathclyde University under direction from the STUC.
- > The University provided its initial report to the STUC in October 2006 and the final report is due to be completed early in 2007.
- > The research focuses on several strands addressing manifestations of sectarianism in the workplace:
 - The opportunity structures open to young people and their experiences of seeking employment.
 - Experiences of direct and indirect discrimination in the workplace.
 - The role young workers perceive employers and trade unions to hold in tackling sectarianism.
 - An understanding of the perspective of employers.
- > The University has been working with a range of partners including:
 - Focus groups of workers, one of which will be not be in a large urban area, and one which will be out with the central belt.
 - Interviews with individuals with specific experiences of sectarianism and knowledge of work-place issues.
 - Examination of the opportunities provided by HR departments for education and training of workers on issues of discrimination.
 - Survey of the information available to students on sectarianism.

- The findings will help to broaden our understanding of sectarianism in Scotland and how it is perceived by those in working environments. It will help to inform future work to tackle sectarianism.

ACTION 18:

The Scottish Executive will establish a Task Group on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland in early in 2006 to make recommendations on new areas and initiatives where positive action can be taken to tackle sectarianism in the long term. The Group will also produce a report on its activities one year after inception.

- Scottish Ministers are committed to taking long-term action to tackle sectarianism and established the Task Group on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland on 18 April 2006 to make recommendations on new areas of work and initiatives.
- The Task Group members are Chief Superintendent Kenneth Scott, Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland; Alison Logan, Project Co-ordinator for Sense Over Sectarianism; John Park, Assistant Secretary, Scottish Trades Union Congress; Sister Isobel Smyth, Interfaith consultant and David Bell, Scottish Executive.
- The Task Group has been considering a range of initiatives including:
 - The development of a rehabilitation programme to help tackle the behaviour and attitudes of individuals who have been involved in or convicted of sectarian behaviour. The programme would help to achieve the long-term attitudinal change which is necessary to eradicate sectarianism and will be designed to help individuals take responsibility for their own actions and behaviour.
 - Developing effective community engagement on tackling sectarianism across Scotland to help break down perceived barriers which exist in some communities, promote respect and mutual understanding and the build mutual trust and understanding.
 - The development of theatre for use with children and adults to help address sectarianism.
- In addition the Task Group has been asked to consider the recommendation for introducing banning orders to deal with abusive behaviour at marches and parades (see action 15).
- The Task Group made their initial report to Ministers on 25 October 2006 who have asked for the initiatives to be taken forward.

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