

WELCOME

It gives me great pleasure to present this second annual report to the Institute's Board of Advisers on the activities and achievements of the Institute since the first meeting of the Board in May 2002. Much of the last report was taken up with the steps the Institute had taken to implement the independent Review of the Institute for Criminology and Criminal Justice carried out by Professor Shapland, Sir Tony Bottoms and Judge David Smyth QC in 2000-2001. Central to the review's recommendations were the need to strengthen the Institute's membership and structures and to build up its profile in research and teaching.

This year I am able to report on a number of positive developments relating to the membership and profile of the Institute. Since the last Board meeting, Queen's has made two new appointments in the field of criminology and criminal justice. Professor Phil Scraton (formerly of Edgehill College) has been appointed to a Chair of Criminology and Dr Anne-Marie McAlinden (formerly of the University of Ulster and a graduate of the Institute) has been appointed a lecturer in law. With this addition to its complement, the Institute is now one of the largest teaching and research centres of criminology and criminal justice in the United Kingdom.

The Institute is continuing to play an important role in the ambitious programme of change and reform that Northern Ireland has embarked upon since the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. In particular members of the Institute have published research and contributed to debates on important issues such as restorative justice, conflict transformation and policing. One notable development of the last year has been the key role the Institute is playing in researching and evaluating a number of the specific changes proposed in the light of the Criminal Justice Review.

The Institute continues to attract a large number of students from the criminal justice sector within and beyond Northern Ireland. It is continuing to review its curriculum through a university steering committee with representatives from other Schools in Queen's.

The Institute has also strengthened its links with the international criminal justice community within the last year. In May 2003 it hosted a criminal justice conference for the Faculty and students of the Free University of Amsterdam and has continued to play a role in developing links with other research centres at University College Dublin, the University of Cape Town and Charles University in the Czech Republic. A number of individual scholars and practitioners working in other institutions have also become associate members of the Institute.

With its increase in membership, the Institute looks forward to continuing to expand its teaching and research activities in the coming year and working with the criminal justice community both here in Northern Ireland and further afield.

Professor John Jackson
Director

COURSES

The Institute offers the following masters programmes:

- MSSc/Diploma in Criminology
- MSSc/Diploma in Criminal Justice
- MSSc/LLM in Criminal Justice and Human Rights
- Cross Border LLM in Criminal Justice and Human Rights (NUI, Galway)

In 2002 a total of 41 students graduated from the masters programmes, 4 of them with distinction. After a review of the postgraduate pathways in 2002, this year marked the first intake to the new pathways in Criminology and in Criminal Justice as well as to the new LLM in Human Rights and Criminal Justice, which is jointly run with the National University of Ireland, University College Galway. Altogether 60 students enrolled on the masters and diploma programmes this year: 22 in Criminology, 14 in Criminal Justice, 21 in Criminal Justice and Human Rights and 3 in the Cross Border masters.

Students pursuing the masters and Diploma programmes had to complete one or two (depending on the programme chosen) of the following core modules:

- Theory and Practice in Criminology
- Criminal Justice Processes
- Research Methods
- Protecting Human Rights

Students then had to choose two or more modules for the following list:

- Penal Policy and Practice
- Policing
- Fear, Crime and the Media
- Comparative Youth Justice
- A Social History of Criminal Justice
- Restorative Justice
- Crime, Gender and Abuse
- Criminal Justice Management
- Crime Prevention

Students pursuing the LLM/MSSc in Criminal Justice and Human Rights chose at least one option from a range of these elective modules offered by the Institute and at least one option from a range of elective modules offered by the Centre for Human Rights. Students proceeding to the Masters also had to complete a 20,000-word dissertation.

In addition to postgraduate teaching, members of the Institute teach on a range of modules in the undergraduate LLB and on other undergraduate programmes. Courses taught by members of the Institute at undergraduate level in 2002-2003 included Criminology, Law and Society, Evidence, Criminal Law, Criminal Process I (Procedure) and Criminal Process II (Sentencing).

The Institute's doctoral and MPhil research programme continues to attract a number of students. In 2002-2003 three students obtained their doctorates in criminology. Currently students are conducting research on topics such as social responses to drugs, conflict resolution, paramilitary prisoners, coping with long term imprisonment, transnational crime, sex offenders, young offenders, rape victims, rape as a war crime, restorative justice and community dispute resolution, police accountability, victims of crime and vulnerable witnesses.

RESEARCH

The Institute has continued to pursue its mission of carrying out high quality national and international criminological and criminal justice research while also serving the research and policy requirements of criminal justice agencies in Northern Ireland and beyond.

Members of the Institute have been instrumental in conducting research arising out of the Northern Ireland Criminal Justice Review implementation plan. Professor Jackson and Katie Quinn have completed a project on young persons' understanding of the police caution and on the support provided for young persons in police custody in Northern Ireland. The project was funded by the Northern Ireland Office as part of the Criminal Justice Review Implementation plan. The research reviewed a large sample of young persons from custody record data and interviewed police officers, solicitors and appropriate adults as well as young persons themselves. This will be published as a report in the Northern Ireland Office Research & Statistical Series.

A research team from the Institute directed by David O'Mahony and involving Professors Jackson and McEvoy has also been successful in securing a major research grant from the Northern Ireland Office as part of the Criminal Justice Review Implementation plan to evaluate the youth conference pilots in Northern Ireland. The research will examine the operation of both diversionary and court ordered youth conferences as part of a restorative justice framework recommended by the Criminal Justice Review. Members of the Institute have also contributed to research arising out of other aspects of the implementation plan such as the transfer of cases to trial and equity monitoring.

The Institute is also playing a part in undertaking collaborative research with institutions from the Republic of Ireland. Dr Graham Ellison was successful in securing funding for a major north-south project with University College Dublin on cross-border dimensions of policing, crime prevention and community safety.

Members of the Institute have been involved in a number of other funded research projects in 2002-2003. David O'Mahony secured funding from the Northern Ireland Office to conduct a major self-report offending study in Northern Ireland. The study involves 2,260 face-to-face interviews with a representative sample of the general population as well as custody and probation samples. The research will explore how a range of issues relate to criminality including individual characteristics, lifestyles, community based factors, peers and family, and drug and alcohol abuse.

David O'Mahony was also commissioned by the Opportunity Youth charity to carry out a study of lifestyles, criminality and drug and alcohol abuse amongst young persons. The research explores the backgrounds of young prisoners and their lifestyles and makes links between offending patterns and drug and alcohol abuse.

Professor Phil Scraton was awarded a large grant to conduct critical research and evaluation of the Wigan early intervention and positive action crime reduction programme.

Members of the Institute are also involved in a number of other research projects including hate crime in Belfast which is sectarian, homophobic and racially motivated, conflict transformation and models of transitional justice, ex-combatants and community regeneration in Northern Ireland and the changing role of the prosecutor.

LINKS AND VISITORS

The Institute has continued to broaden its national and international profile in a number of respects. As part of its programme to broaden links and exchanges with other universities, David O'Mahony organised a criminal justice exchange conference in May 2003 between Queen's University and the Free University of Amsterdam on various aspects of criminal justice. Dr Ellison has also organised a SOCRATES/ERASMUS programme with Charles University, Prague and the Centre for Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention in the Czech Republic which will involve staff and student exchanges between these respective institutions and the Institute. As part of an exchange link funded by the British Council with the University of Cape Town and the School of Law, a number of members of the Institute presented papers at a seminar on The Constitution and Criminal Justice in Transition in Cape Town in April 2003. During the course of 2003 David O'Mahony and Graham Ellison also made visits to Cornell Law School as part of the Gender, Sexuality and the Family International Exchange Programme organised by Cornell University.

Members of the Institute have also made visits to other criminology centres and research institutions during 2002 - 2003. Professor John Jackson was a tutor to the Senior Course in Criminology at the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge in July 2002 and he visited the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in April 2003. Professor Kieran McEvoy was a visiting scholar at the Cambridge Institute in July 2003. Special links continue to be made with members of the Institute of Criminology at University College Dublin and Professor Jackson visited the Institute in May 2003. Members of the Institute also participated in several international conferences, including the British and American Criminology Societies annual conferences.

The Institute continues to attract a number of visitors to the Institute. Sir Anthony Bottoms who is a member of the Institute's Board of Advisers visited the Institute in July 2003 when he was awarded an honorary doctorate at the Queen's summer degree ceremony. Professor Harry Mika of the Central Michigan University and Dr Ruth Jamieson of the University of Keele also spent some time at the Institute during 2002-2003. In addition the Institute hosted a number of seminars organised by Katie Quinn and funded by the British Society of Criminology (Northern Ireland branch) and the Institute. During 2002-2003 the following seminars were presented:

Professor Clifford Shearing Australian National University	<i>Regoverning Security</i>
Dr John Stannard Queen's University Belfast	<i>Sentencing and Catharsis</i>
Gavin Dingwall University of Wales	<i>Alcohol, Crime and Responsibility</i>
Professor Peter Duff Aberdeen University	<i>Truth v Fairness: some preliminary thoughts about the exclusion of evidence in criminal trials</i>
Professor Gill McIvor University of Stirling	<i>A Better Way? Reducing Women's Imprisonment in Scotland</i>
Dr Ruth Jamieson Keele University	<i>Understanding the effects of long-term imprisonment amongst Republican prisoners and their families</i>

Finally, the Institute has appointed a number of associate members of the Institute from other research institutions and the criminal justice community for a period of three years to mark their association and work with the Institute. Three visitors to the Institute in 2002–2003 mentioned above, Professor Clifford Shearing, Dr Ruth Jamieson and Professor Harry Mika have become associate members. Other members include Dr Debbie Donnelly of the Northern Ireland Office who helped organise the Criminal Justice Reform conference in May 2002, Duncan McLaughlan, a former prison governor of the Maze Prison who runs a module on criminal justice management in the masters programme and Judge David Smyth QC who is the chair of the Institute's Board of Advisers.

TRAINING

The Institute has been involved in training criminal justice and legal professionals in Northern Ireland and abroad in a variety of criminal justice fields. Within Northern Ireland members of the Institute have been involved in training programmes on human rights for a number of criminal justice agencies such as the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Policing Board, the Prison Officers' Association and the Life Sentence Review Commissioners. In addition members have been involved in training programmes on sentencing for the Criminal Bar Association (with SLS Publications) and on evidence and advocacy for the Northern Ireland Law Society. The Institute has been successful in a bid to deliver a major criminal justice training programme for the Northern Ireland Office in 2003 - 2004.

Members of the Institute have also been involved in training programmes outside Northern Ireland. Duncan McLaughlan was invited by Penal Reform International to participate in a team to increase awareness of international standards and good prison management in Afghanistan. Dr Susan Breau delivered lectures on human rights and criminal justice to judges and lawyers in the Ukraine for the US State Department in a project entitled Project Harmony. Professor Jackson and Katie Quinn also delivered lectures in Cairo and Beirut on the role and independence of judges and prosecutors for a programme for the support of Arab lawyers organised by the Law Society of England and Wales.

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