



PSNI presence in education facilities.

**State policy of PSNI
'normalisation', and
risks involved for
our young people,
must be
challenged.**

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To whom it may concern,

As the new term begins we are seeking the ongoing support of your educational establishment with keeping learning spaces neutral environments. This is in relation to PSNI personnel in school, community and youth spaces. We seek your commitment with this in the interest of good community relations and child protection.

We are aware that the PSNI are attempting to use our youth and our youth spaces, community groups and schools as part of a public relations strategy. Their main area of focus is in working class communities where they hold no real interest, other than strategic. Their use of our young people and the public facilities that support them in their attempts to win the hearts and minds of communities is a well documented and publicly disseminated strategy.

Many of these PR stunts include the use of riot shields, jeeps, attack dogs and the showcasing of lethal, life-taking weapons, such as baton round guns, Glock pistols and automatic assault rifles. The PSNI regularly publishes images of young people holding these weapons.

With the PSNI believed to be holding a stockpile in excess of 50,000 plastic bullets at any one time, and with the force, incorporating the RUC, being responsible for the killing of seventeen people, including seven children, as a result of the use of plastic bullets, this is surely not an image any educational establishment would like to be attached to?

In total, it is estimated that the predecessor to the PSNI, the RUC, along with the British Army, were responsible for the deaths of 48 children through the use of arms similar to those that they are displaying today in schools.

Earlier this year the Children's Commissioner expressed concern about the PSNIs use of child informants, saying that it is "never appropriate for any child to be placed at risk in this manner". It is therefore essential that we have safeguards in place to ensure that our young people are not exposed to this force and its sinister activities.

The PSNI have also been complicit in state collusion and cover-ups , most recently in the case of young Noah Donohoe.

If you do intend to have the PSNI within your premises can you please outline how you have taken the following into consideration:

- The ongoing use of child informants
- History of the local area and public opinion
- A risk assessment that takes into consideration armed gunmen on premises
- The relevance to the educational curriculum
- Conflict related trauma
- The distribution and receipt of parental consent

We appreciate your ongoing support in relation to this matter.

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