1). Detail Data previously requested information from PSNI under FOI relating to arrests following incidents of housing intimidation that resulted in the issuing of a SPED certificate. This information was not released. Why is the PSNI not more transparent on the issue of how it deals with housing intimidation, given the prevalence and cost of the problem?

As stated in your FOI response, your request for information was turned down as the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate cost limit. The PSNI’s Operational Support Department confirmed that in order to retrieve the requested information on the number of arrests, charges, and convictions in relation to each SPED application would take in excess of 90 hours which would greatly exceed the appropriate cost limit. It has been determined that this information is not currently held in relation to each SPED application and it would therefore be necessary for each policing district to carry out a manual examination of their records which could take a number of hours per each SPED application.

2). Since 1998 there have been nearly 10,000 accepted incidents of people being forced from their homes due to intimidation. There have been 2,060 in the last five years. How many arrests have followed over this entire period; in the last five years?

This information may be available through an FOI request.

3). Does the PSNI use intermediaries to help validate such threats? Does this system, afford the alleged perpetrator some level of impunity?

When a threat is received PSNI gather and process all available information in order to validate and make an initial assessment of the threat.

4). What is the estimated annual cost to the PSNI of policing issues related to housing intimidation?

This information may be available through an FOI request.

5). Does the PSNI have a strategy/protocol for dealing with housing intimidation? If so please outline. If not, why not?

PSNI have a corporate policy on Threats to Life which provides instruction and advice on receiving a threat, assessing a threat, responding to a threat, reviewing a threat, resolving a threat and warning notices. In addition, PSNI have established practices and policies in dealing with other types of criminality which may contribute to intimidation.

6). Available data on housing intimidation has only been made available by the Housing Executive at a District (council area) level. Can the PSNI provide this data at a more localised level (eg town/city area, postcode, estate)? If not, why not?

The SPED scheme is owned and administered by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and they own information relating to this scheme.