

# **Women Offenders: The Development of a Policy and Strategy for Implementation by the Probation Board for Northern Ireland**

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**Summary:** In late 2004 the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) established a Policy, Planning and Business Development Unit to co-ordinate policymaking and to include a focus on new business development. This article describes the experience of building an evidence base as part of the process of the development of a policy and strategy in relation to women offenders in Northern Ireland. It summarises the findings from research undertaken as part of this process and makes recommendations for the formulation of policy and strategy.