



## GOGGINS LAUNCHES FOYLE RETAIL CRIMEWATCH

Criminal Justice Minister, Paul Goggins MP was in Londonderry this morning to launch the first phase of the rollout of the Retail Crimewatch initiative across all police districts throughout Northern Ireland.

At today's launch at the Millennium Forum in Derry to an audience of local councils, business and trade representatives, local police and town centre managers Paul Goggins said: "**Retail crime does not just affect businesses and threaten the livelihoods of honest traders, it has a real impact on everyone, including consumers and the wider community. It undermines jobs and is a real drain on our economy.**

"The success so far of the Retail Crimewatch scheme is encouraging. In Belfast it has led to a 50% reduction in stock loss across the 300 participating retailers and 2331 offenders have been issued with civil exclusion orders.

"I am confident that the development of a similar scheme here in Foyle and the eventual rollout across all policing districts in Northern Ireland will realise similar reductions in retail crime, helping to detect, frustrate and prevent this type of illegal activity."

### Notes to Editors

The total cost to continue with and expand the Retail Crimewatch Scheme across the Northern Ireland Policing Districts is £170k over the next three years.

The Retail Crimewatch initiative, which has 300 members in Belfast, was launched in Belfast in December 2004.

Participating members collect and share data on persistent retail offenders in the city centre and this data is also shared within the National Business Information System (NBIS), which enables retailers from across the UK to identify repeat offenders.

The scheme will be managed by Town Centre Managers. Belfast City Centre Management will assist in coordinating the regional roll out to each PSNI district.