

## NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2009 AT 9:30AM\* IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

#### PRESENT:

#### MEMBERS:

- Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
- Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)
- (1) Mr Tom Buchanan
- Mr Leslie Cree
- (2) Mrs Dolores Kelly
- Mr Alex Maskey
- Mr Basil McCrea
- (3) Mr Daithí McKay
- (4) Ms Mary McKee
- (5) Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- (1) Mr Gearóid Ó hEára
- (4) Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
- Mr Brian Rea
- Mr Trevor Ringland
- Mr David Rose
- (2) Mr Suneil Sharma
- (6) Mr Jimmy Spratt
- (4) Mr Peter Weir

#### POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (7) Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
- (7) Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)
- (7) Mr Alistair Finlay (ACC Urban Region)
- (7) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Crime Operations)
- (7) Mr David Jones (ACC Crime Support)
- (7) Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Criminal Justice)
- (7) Mr Roy Toner (ACC Operational Support)
- (7) Mr Joe Stewart (Director of Human Resources)
- (7) T/Superintendent Michele Larmour, Command Secretariat
- (7) 1 Public Affairs Officer
- (7) 1 PSNI Personnel, Command Secretariat

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\* Due to traffic disruption caused by snow, the meeting commenced at 10:00am.

**OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

Dr Debbie Donnelly (A/Chief Executive)  
Mr David Jackson (Director of Community  
Engagement)  
Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate  
Services)  
Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)  
3 Board Officials

- (1) Item number 5 to close
- (2) Item number 4.3 to close
- (3) Part Item number 13 only
- (4) Item number 3.3 to close
- (5) Item number 2 to close
- (6) Item number 6.2.3 to close
- (7) Item number 13 only

**1. APOLOGIES, ETC**

Apologies were received on behalf of Ms Martina Anderson. NOTED.

The Chairman reminded Members of paragraphs 24 and 25 of the Board's Code of Conduct, relating to 'public comment' and 'confidentiality'. He advised that he would make further reference to the Code later in the meeting. NOTED.

**2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE POLICING BOARD**

**2.1 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 4 December 2008**

The Board considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 4 December 2008 be approved.

## **2.2 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting In Public Held On 4 December 2008**

The Board considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:-

### **RESOLVED:**

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting in public held on 4 December 2008 be approved.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS**

### **3.1 TASER (Item 3.1.1 Of Minutes Refers)**

The A/Chief Executive confirmed that an affidavit, on behalf of the Board, had been forwarded to the court in December 2008 and said it was understood that the Judicial Review hearing in relation to TASER would commence in late March 2009. NOTED.

### **3.2 Role Of The Policing Board (Item 3.1.3 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chairman and Members who had attended a meeting with the Minister of State and senior NIO officials on 3 February 2009, updated the Board about their discussions. NOTED.

### **3.3 PSNI Estate Strategy – Special Board Meeting (Item 6.1.1 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chairman reminded Members that the special Board meeting to consider the PSNI Estate Strategy postponed from January 2009 had been rearranged for Friday, 20 February 2009 at 9:30am. NOTED.

A Member referred to the recent closure of Dromara PSNI station and indicated that he would raise the matter with the Chief Constable later in the meeting.

## **4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Engagements**

The Chairman highlighted the following engagements which he had undertaken on behalf of the Board:-

- Transnational Policing – Boston, Massachusetts and Tucson, Arizona – 19 – 29 January 2009.

The Chairman gave a verbal report on his participation in the Transnational Policing Programme, commenting on the approach of American police in combating organised crime, particularly drugs, cross border human trafficking/prostitution and the effect of 9/11 on policing. NOTED.

- Meeting (with Board Vice Chairman) - Gaelic Athletic Association Ulster Council Secretary and Community Development Manager – Belfast – 4 February 2009.

NOTED.

### **4.2 Publications**

The Chairman highlighted the following publications that had been received/issued:-

- Human Rights Guidance for Police Authorities – Monitoring Compliance with the Human Rights Act 1998 – Association of Police Authorities – January 2009;
- Report of the Consultative Group from the Past - January 2009;
- First report on the arrangements for the Devolution of Policing and Justice matters – Northern Ireland Assembly – January 2009.

NOTED.

### 4.3 Correspondence

The Chairman highlighted that the following correspondence had been received/issued:-

- letters of thanks from C/Supt Ken Henning dated 13 January 2009, Mr Brian McCargo dated 17 January 2009 and Mr Philip James dated 19 January 2009 in response to letters regarding awards in the New Years Honours List;
- letter from Mr Peter Robinson, First Minister and Mr Martin McGuinness, Deputy First Minister dated 19 January 2009 regarding Devolution of Policing and Justice – Policing Budget;
- letter from Chief Constable dated 20 January 2009 regarding Sir Peter Gibson’s Review of Intercept Intelligence in relation to the Omagh bombing on the handling by the Police Service of relevant information available to it in the period covered by Sir Peter’s Review.
- letter from Public Prosecution Service dated 21 January 2009 regarding Omagh Bomb Investigation;
- letter from Police Ombudsman dated 26 January 2009 regarding meetings between the Ombudsman and the Board;

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

That the Board should meet with the Police Ombudsman to discuss issues of mutual interest.

- letter from Consular Association of Northern Ireland dated 28 January 2009 regarding the Association;
- letter from Chief Officer dated 2 February 2009. (This correspondence was dealt with at Item 5.6.)

NOTED.

#### **4.4 News Releases**

The Chairman highlighted the following news releases:-

- Gibson Report – Written Ministerial Statement by Secretary of State, Shaun Woodward – NIO – 21 January 2009;
- Burglary rises “Not Inevitable” – Home Secretary – 4 February 2009.

NOTED.

#### **4.5 Assembly And Executive Review Committee – Request For Information**

The Board considered a paper, tabled at the meeting, in relation to a request from the Assembly and Executive Review Committee for financial information from the Policing Board and other bodies in relation to the devolution of policing and justice matters. Officials had prepared a draft reply containing the requested information.

It was:-

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the information contained in the draft reply should be forwarded to the Assembly and Executive Review Committee.

### **5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S BUSINESS**

#### **5.1 Conferences/Seminars**

The A/Chief Executive informed Members about the following conferences/seminars:-

- Capita National Conference on Information Sharing in the Criminal Justice Sector – London – 11 February 2009;
- Second Annual European Serious Organised Crime Conference – Liverpool – 9/10 March 2009;
- Seminar regarding Children’s Policy – Belfast – 13 March 2009;
- APA Workforce Modernisation Conference – March 2009;
- Conference regarding Attendance Management in the Public Sector – London – 12 May 2009.

The A/Chief Executive also referred Members to a letter, tabled at the meeting, from ACC Rural Region inviting Members to join the ACC on a number of visits to neighbourhood policing teams in February and March 2009. NOTED.

## **5.2 Members’ Attendances At Meetings And Events During The Period 31 May 2007 – 31 December 2008 And Members’ Expenses 1 April – 31 December 2008**

The A/Chief Executive referred to a paper containing details of Members’ attendances and expenses and asked that any amendments be notified to the Secretariat before 13 February 2009, prior to uploading on the Board’s website. NOTED.

## **5.3 Travel And Subsistence Claims**

The A/Chief Executive reminded Members that any outstanding travel and subsistence claims should be submitted to the Secretariat as soon as possible, to enable payments to be made before the end of the financial year. NOTED.

## **5.4 Members’ Survey**

The A/Chief Executive reminded the Board that the Members’ Survey was due for return to Statistics and Research Branch by 13 February 2009. NOTED.

## **5.5 Workshop On Rank Ratios**

All Members were invited to attend a workshop on PSNI Rank Ratios, arranged for the Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick on 13 February 2009 at 9:30am. NOTED.

## **5.6 PSNI Senior Officers**

The A/Chief Executive referred Members to a letter received from the Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Paul Leighton, dated 2 February 2009, seeking Board approval to retire from the PSNI on 31 May 2009.

It was:-

### **RESOLVED:**

- to accept Deputy Chief Constable Leighton's letter of resignation;
- to commence the process to appoint a new Deputy Chief Constable as soon as possible.

The Board noted that the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee had delegated authority to act for the Board in respect of the Board's duties relating to the appointment of senior police personnel and would have responsibility for appointing the selection panel. The A/Chief Executive further reminded the Board that there is a requirement for the same appointment panel to be retained during the entire appointment process. In response to a question from a Member, the Board was advised that the appointment process could take up to 5 months to complete.

The A/Chief Executive reminded Members that the term of office of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board and all Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons of Committees were due to be completed in May 2009.

Following discussion, it was:-

**AGREED:**

That the current Chairman of the Board (Professor Sir Desmond Rea) and Vice Chairman (Mr Barry Gilligan) should be the Chair and Vice Chair of the appointment panel for the Deputy Chief Constable post.

**6. CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

**6.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Corporate Policy, Planning And Performance Committee Held On 11 December 2008**

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee held on 11 December 2008.

**6.2 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Corporate Policy, Planning And Performance Committee Held On 15 January 2009**

The Chairman of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

**6.2.1 Invitation To Greater Manchester And West Yorkshire Police Authorities**  
(Item 5.1 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the Board should invite representatives from the Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire Police Authorities to attend a future meeting of the Board.

**6.2.2 Funding Request – Communication Campaign On The Issue Of Underage Drinking** (Item 13 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To give approval to part fund the Communication Campaign on the issue of Underage Drinking to a maximum of £35,000.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the Board should write to the Chief Constable to recommend that a future campaign should include reference to the impact of a conviction on a young person's future job and travel aspirations.

**6.2.3 Shortfall In Detectives** (Item 15 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board discussed a recommendation from the Committee to give approval to the introduction of Trainee Intelligence Officers to Crime Operations Department.

Following discussion, it was:-

**RESOLVED:**

- to give approval to the introduction of Trainee Intelligence Officers to the Crime Operations Department, as a means of addressing, in part, the shortfall in Detectives in PSNI;
- that ACC Crime Operations should make regular reports to the Board's Human Resources Committee on training guidance and progress;
- that the appointment and training process should be monitored by HMIC;
- that the Board should write to PSNI to establish whether any further measures could be taken to reduce impediments in respect of experienced police officers serving in Great Britain joining the PSNI in their existing rank.

Mr Spratt asked that it be recorded that he considered that the decision to introduce Trainee Intelligence Officers was to the detriment of professional policing and that he did not support the Board's decision.

**6.2.4 Code Of Conduct**

The Chairman referred Members to paragraphs 24 and 25 of the Board's Code of Conduct, relating to public comment and confidentiality, and to media coverage of business discussed at the January 2009 Committee meeting. The Chairman highlighted the need for all Members to adhere to the Code.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee held on 15 January 2009.

### **6.3 St Patrick's Day Celebrations – Washington**

The A/Chief Executive referred Members to a paper containing recommendations from the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee on Board representation at the St Patrick's Day events in Washington in March 2009, drawing attention to the estimated cost of the visit of £40,000.

It was:-

#### **RESOLVED:**

- that the Board should be represented at the St Patrick's Day events in Washington in March 2009;
- that the representatives should comprise the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board, plus one representative from each of the 4 political parties and 2 Board officials.

### **6.4 Co-terminosity – District Command Unit Structure**

The Board considered a paper in relation to the co-terminosity of police districts within the 11 new local government councils.

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

That the Board should host a workshop, to which the Chief Constable and his Chief Officers would be invited, to discuss the issue of co-terminosity of police districts and the new local government councils in detail, before reaching a finalised Board view.

## **7. AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **7.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Audit And Risk Management Committee Held On 17 December 2008**

The Chairperson of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

**7.1.1 Discussion With The Chair Of The PSNI Audit And Risk Committee** (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

**7.1.2 Presentation On The Independent Consultant's Report Regarding The Review Of Consultancy And Contracted Out Services In PSNI** (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

**7.1.3 Northern Ireland Policing Board Management Statement And Conditions Of Grant** (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

#### **RESOLVED:**

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Management Committee held on 17 December 2008.

### **7.2 PSNI And NIPB Management Statement And Conditions Of Grant**

The Board considered a paper containing a draft Management Statement and Conditions of Grant for the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

Members were reminded that the Northern Ireland Office, as Parent Department for the PSNI and the Board, is required to issue a Management Statement and Conditions of Grant, relating to the framework within which both organisations must operate and the delegated limits of authority given by the parent body to the satellite body.

The Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Management Committee advised that the Committee had considered the draft documents at its meeting in December 2008 and suggested a number of changes which were now reflected in the documentation before Members.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To give approval for the A/Chief Executive to sign the documentation on its behalf.

**8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**8.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Community Engagement Committee Meeting Held On 22 January 2009**

The Chairperson of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

**8.1.1 Magherafelt District Policing Partnership Member's Attendance** (Item 3.7 Of Minutes Refers)

**8.1.2 Community Engagement Event Derry/Londonderry – 18 February 2009** (Item 4.1 Of Minutes Refers)

**8.1.3 Proposal For Outreach To Loyalist And Republican Communities** (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

**8.1.4 District Policing Partnerships Six Month Assessment Of The Implementation Of PSNI Neighbourhood Policing Framework (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)**

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement Committee held on 22 January 2009.

**8.2 Consideration Of The Removal From Office Of A District Policing Partnership Member**

The Board considered a paper concerning a District Policing Partnership (DPP) independent member's level of attendance at meetings of Magherafelt DPP.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That in view of the member's non-attendance at meetings of Magherafelt DPP and subsequent information received in relation to the member's unfitness for employment, that the DPP member should be removed from office.

**9. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**9.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 8 January 2009**

The Chairperson of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

**9.1.1 Review And Possible Extension Of The Selected Medical Practitioner Contract And Change Of Policy On Injury On Duty Reviews** (Item 3 Of Minutes Refers)

**9.1.2 PSNI People Strategy For Policing In Northern Ireland** (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 8 January 2009.

**10. RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**10.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Resources And Improvement Committee Meeting Held On 12 December 2008**

The Chairperson of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

**10.1.1 Compensation Information – Settlement And Fees** (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

**10.1.2 Update On The Crumlin Initiative** (Item 4.1 Of Minutes Refers)

**10.1.3 PSNI Devolution Pressures** (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 10.4.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Resources and Improvement Committee held on 12 December 2008.

**10.2 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Resources And Improvement Committee Meeting Held On 16 January 2009**

The Chairperson of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

**10.2.1 Call Handling Centre** (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

**10.2.2 PSNI Medium Term Funding Pressures Financial Years 2009/1010 And 2010/2011** (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 10.3.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Resources and Improvement Committee held on 16 January 2009.

**10.3 PSNI Medium Term Funding Pressures Financial Years 2009/10 And 2010/11**

The Board considered a paper which detailed the projected pressures on the PSNI budgets in relation to financial years 2009/10 and 2010/11.

At its meeting in December 2008, the Resources and Improvement Committee had received details from PSNI in relation to its financial situation in the next 2 years up to the end of the CSR07 period. The paper provided details of the available funding,

financial projections and pressures, and options for addressing the funding shortfall. The paper also contained a list of areas where cuts could be made to address the shortfall of £101.3m in the 2009/10 financial year and £74.8m in the 2010/11 financial year.

Having considered the details, the Committee had asked PSNI to look again at the areas of overtime, absenteeism, historical costs and civilian staff costs and bring back details of a balanced budget to the February 2009 meeting of the Committee. It was planned that the balanced budget would be brought back to the March 2009 Board meeting to agree a balanced budget for 2009/10. The Chairperson of the Committee highlighted that Board Members should be aware and be prepared for some difficult decisions in relation to the choices for achieving a balanced budget. NOTED.

#### **10.4 PSNI Devolution Pressures**

The Board considered a paper in relation to the PSNI financial pressures which would be discussed in relation to the Devolution of Policing and Justice. Figures produced by PSNI indicated devolution pressures estimated at £324,100,000.

It was:-

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the list of pressures submitted by the PSNI should be formally submitted to the NIO.

### **11. INFORMATION PAPERS**

#### **11.1 UK Border Agency Business Plan 2008 – 2011**

NOTED.

## **12. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

That a news release should be issued in respect of the Board's acceptance of Deputy Chief Constable Leighton's retirement from the PSNI.

## **13. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

The Chairman welcomed the Chief Constable and other PSNI representatives to the meeting.

The Board received further information in relation to:-

- threats against PSNI officers which had resulted in the officers having to move from their homes;
- the systems in place to identify and prevent membership of, or relationships with, illegal organisations by police officers and PSNI staff;
- the ballistic testing of handguns;
- an attempted robbery of a van carrying cash on 15 January 2009;
- investigations into professional misconduct by officers in 2 specific cases;
- the PSNI policy in dealing with civil actions against the police.

The Board then moved into public session and following the Board meeting in public, the PSNI representatives left the meeting.

## **14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no matters arising.

## **15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

A Special Board meeting was arranged for 20 February 2009 to consider the PSNI Estate Strategy.

The date of the next meeting with the Chief Constable was arranged for 5 March 2009 at Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 2:00pm).

**Secretariat**  
**February 2009**

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**Chairman**