

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 2 JULY 2009 AT 9:30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

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

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (8) Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
- (8) Mrs Judith Gillespie (Deputy Chief Constable)
- (9) Mr Alistair Finlay (ACC Urban Region)
- (9) Mr David Jones (ACC Rural Region)
- (8) Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Operational Support & Criminal Justice)
- (9) Ms Liz Young, Head of Media & Personnel
- (9) Superintendent, Command Secretariat
- (9) 1 PSNI Personnel, Command Secretariat

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr Adrian Donaldson (Chief Executive)
- Dr Debbie Donnelly (D/Chief Executive)
- Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)
- (5) Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)
- (5) Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
- Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
- 3 Board Officials

- (1) Item number 3.3 to close, except item number 16
- (2) Item number 9 to close
- (3) Item number 7 to close
- (4) Item number 5 to close
- (5) Except item number 16
- (6) Item number 9 to close, except item number 16
- (7) Item number 3.3 to close
- (8) Item numbers 15 & 16
- (9) Item number 15 only

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE POLICING BOARD

2.1 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 11 June 2009

The Board considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting and it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 11 June 2009 be approved.

2.2 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting In Public Held On 11 June 2009

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 11 June 2009 be approved.

A Member sought further information about the average number of 'hits' on the minutes on the Board's website and officials undertook to supply further details.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

3.1 Appointment Of A New Chief Constable For The PSNI (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive informed the Board that the selection panel would meet to shortlist applicants for the post of Chief Constable following the conclusion of the Board meeting. Depending on the final number of candidates shortlisted, interviews would be arranged for 10 and/or 11 August 2009. NOTED.

3.2 Assistant Chief Constable Selection Panel (Item 4.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive informed the Board that the closing date for applications for the Assistant Chief Constable vacancy was 24 July 2009. He advised that a selection panel meeting to shortlist candidates was likely to be arranged in early September, with interviews in early September 2009. NOTED.

3.3 Vetting Of Contractors (Item 4.3 Of Minutes of 7 May 2009 Board Meeting Refers)

The Board considered a paper containing legal advice in relation to the PSNI vetting of contractors.

It was:-

AGREED:

- that the legal advice received should be copied to the PSNI with a recommendation that the issue of risk assessment in relation to both security and reputation be addressed;

- that the legal advice should also be referred to Crown Solicitor's Office (CSO) for further consideration, in light of the discussion that took place.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

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

- Farewell Reception and Dinner in honour of Chief Constable – Hillsborough – 23 June 2009;
- Meeting with Sanjaya Colonne, Strategic Affairs Advisor, Ministry of Public Security Law and Order Sri Lanka / Catherine Weiss FCO – Belfast -18 June 2009;
- Meeting with Vikky Courtney, Head of Political Team British Embassy Washington – Belfast – 24 June 2009.

NOTED.

4.2 Publications

There were no matters arising.

4.3 Correspondence

There were no matters arising.

4.4 News Releases

There were no matters arising.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Approval Of Temporary Acting Up Arrangements For Chief Officers On Departure Of Chief Constable

The Chief Executive informed Members that he had met with the Chief Constable in relation to the temporary acting up arrangements for Chief Officers following his departure to take up his new post with ACPO on 1 September 2009.

The Board considered correspondence from the Chief Constable in which he sought approval from the Board for Deputy Chief Constable Gillespie to act up to Chief Constable with effect from 1 September and for Assistant Chief Constable McCausland to act up to Deputy Chief Constable with effect from the same date.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the proposals received from the Chief Constable that:-

- Deputy Chief Constable Gillespie should act up to Chief Constable with effect from 1 September 2009 until Sir Hugh Orde's successor takes command;
- Assistant Chief Constable McCausland should act up to Deputy Chief Constable with effect from 1 September 2009 until Deputy Chief Constable Gillespie returns to her post.

6. CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

6.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee Held On 18 June 2009

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

6.1.1 Policing The Past (Item 4.3 Of Minutes Refers)

6.1.2 Personal Protection Weapon Policy Review (Item 5.1 Of Minutes Refers)

6.1.3 Date Of Next Meeting (Item 16 Of Minutes Refers)

The date of the next Committee meeting had been re-arranged to 30 July 2009 at 10.00am. NOTED

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee held on 18 June 2009.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

7.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Community Engagement Committee Held On 25 June 2009

As the minutes of the 25 June 2009 meeting were not yet available, the Chairperson of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussion/recommendations:-

7.1.1 Meeting With UPRG Representatives – 24 June 2009

7.1.2 PSNI Briefing On Neighbourhood Police Training Course

7.1.3 Refresh Of Policing With The Community Strategy

7.1.4 Community Engagement Action Plan 2009/10

7.1.5 Community Engagement Update

During discussion of this item it was proposed that, if available, a condensed version of a presentation given by ACC Gary Schewan from Cheshire Constabulary to the two main community restorative justice groups on the implementation of restorative justice in England and Wales be circulated to all Board Members.

7.1.6 Revised DPP Effectiveness Framework For 2009/10

7.1.7 DPP Annual Conference - November 2009

NOTED.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

8.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 18 June 2009

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

- 8.1.1 Extension Of The Selected Medical Practitioner Contract** (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)
- 8.1.2 Northern Ireland Transitional Allowance And Inspectors And Chief Inspectors Temporary Non Pensionable Supplement** (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)
- 8.1.3 Police Adult Survivors Payments** (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)
- 8.1.4 Police Pensions – Selected Medical Practitioner Statistics For April 2009 And Actions Taken By Officials Acting Under Delegated Authority** (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)
- 8.1.5 PSNI People Strategy** (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 18 June 2009.

9. RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

9.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Resources And Improvement Committee Held On 19 June 2009

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

9.1.1 Appointment Of Vice-Chair Of The Committee (Item 4.1 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.2 PSNI Report On Expenditure To May 2009 (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

A Member sought further information in relation to the projected PSNI budget deficit for 2009/10. Officials advised that a more accurate estimate would be available after the August monitoring review.

9.1.3 Police Property Fund (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.4 Independent Review From The NPIA OF The PSNI IS Strategy 'PSNI Connect' (Item 14 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Resources & Improvement Committee held on 19 June 2009.

10. MEETING TO DISCUSS AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The Chairperson of the Committee advised that the Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting scheduled for 12 June 2009 did not take place as a quorum of Members was not present. He suggested that the Board might wish to consider co-opting another Member to the Committee to ensure that in future a quorum could be achieved.

The Chair of the Committee reported to the Board that 2 decisions which could not be delayed were taken in accordance with Standing Order 21 and the Chairman of the Board was informed immediately following the discussion. The decisions were:-

- Approval of the 2008 - 2009 Northern Ireland Policing Board Year End Financial Statements.

- Approval of the Northern Ireland Policing Board's Draft Statement on Internal Control for 2008 - 2009.

11. HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

11.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Rights And Professional Standards Committee Held On 10 June 2009

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

11.1.1 Meeting With Parades Commission (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

11.1.2 Committee Inquiry Into The Views Of Children And Young People (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

11.1.3 The Best Practice Review Of The Committee (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Human Rights & Professional Standards Committee held on 10 June 2009.

11.2 Briefing On Government Proposals In Response To A Review Of PACE In Northern Ireland – NIO Consultation

The Board considered a paper which identified the significant issues arising from a proposed Government review of the Police and Criminal Evidence (NI) Order 1989 (PACE).

During discussion it was evident that while the Political Members of the Board had differing views there was consensus on a number of issues.

It was:

AGREED:

That a sub-group, comprising a representative from each political party and 2 independent Members, should consider the matter further and where agreement was reached forward a Board submission.

Officials reminded Members of the tight deadline for submissions and indicated that an extension would be sought.

11.3 Human Rights Advisor Review Of The NIHRC Report On A Visit To Antrim PSNI Station On 23 March And The PSNI Response

The Board considered a paper containing a review by the Board's Human Rights Advisor of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commissioner's (NIHRC) report on a visit to the Serious Crime Suite in Antrim PSNI station on 23 March 2009 and the PSNI's response.

It was:-

AGREED:

To share the views of the Board's Human Rights Advisor with the Human Rights Commission and PSNI (seeking specific responses from PSNI in relation to the comments on lighting and exercise) and to provide their responses to the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee for consideration.

12. OMNIBUS SURVEY QUESTIONS – SEPTEMBER 2009

The Board considered a paper containing proposed questions to be included in the September 2009 Omnibus Survey.

Following discussion in relation to the content and programme of surveys that the Board initiates or contributes questions to, it was:

RESOLVED:

To approve the list of proposed questions for inclusion in the September 2009 Omnibus Survey.

13. INFORMATION PAPERS

There were no matters arising.

14. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

15. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

Members considered a synopsis of the Chief Constable's monthly report and a copy of the slides of the presentation to be given at the Board meeting in public by the PSNI. Both documents had been tabled for Members.

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

Members discussed the PSNI's public/media response to two recent incidents, the murder in Coleraine and the racial attacks in south Belfast.

The Board sought and received further information in relation to:-

- a presentation to a recent Committee meeting on recommendations being considered for inclusion in the PSNI Strategic Review 2009;
- the percentage of time spent by PSNI officers in stations, in comparison with the time spent in stations by their colleagues in England and Wales;
- the threat posed by dissident republicans;
- the Personal Protection Weapon Policy Review and the retention of personal protection weapons by individuals who considered themselves to be at risk from terrorist attack;
- the legislative timetable for the introduction of fixed penalty tickets.

A letter from the Chief Constable dated 1 June 2009 regarding 'Policing the Past' was discussed. Part of the discussion focused on the budget deficit in relation to the funding of investigations by the Stevens Team. The Chief Constable indicated that further details requested during discussion would be supplied in a written response.

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

16. GENERIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROSECUTION SERVICE AND THE POLICE

The Chairman welcomed Mr Keir Starmer QC, Director of the Crown Prosecution Service for England and Wales to the meeting to brief Members on the generic relationship between the Crown Prosecution Service and Police Services in England and Wales. He also welcomed Sir Alasdair Frazer, Mr Al Hutchinson, Mr Ken Williams, Mr Brendan McGuigan and Sir Hugh Orde to the briefing.

Mr Starmer outlined the structure and organisation of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in England and Wales. He described the CPS interface with the police and other organisations e.g. SOCA, UK Borders Agency involved in the investigation of serious crime, highlighting the early involvement of CPS at the pre-charge stage and its close involvement throughout the process.

Mr Starmer set out the liaison arrangements that existed at local level between the 42 CPS local areas and the police services. He highlighted the changes brought about by the co-location of police and CPS offices, the prosecution function being taken forward by CPS (rather than the police) and the introduction of CPS Direct. Mr Starmer commented on the challenges for the future – the need for a 24 hour charge facility, the provision by CPS of real time advice, the use of a Community Prosecutor Team approach for volume lower level crime and the introduction of virtual courts. He also identified a number of ‘rubbing points’ that remained to be overcome e.g. the alignment of police and CPS targets, file quality standards and differing IT systems.

The meeting discussed a variety of issues, including the provision of pre-charge advice, the accountability of prosecutors, the provision of information on CPS decisions to the public, the role of the community prosecutor and his/her engagement with the public, preservation of independence within a system of co-located police/CPS offices and overall conviction rates.

The Chairman thanked Mr Starmer for his contribution and he left the meeting.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

17.1 Sub-Committee On The Restructuring Of Committees

A Member referred to a meeting of the Sub-Committee reviewing the membership and remit of the Board’s committees held on 26 June 2009. The Member expressed the view that there was a requirement for a fundamental review of the Board’s role and vision and that the full Board should have involvement in the process. The Chairman indicated that there was consensus at the Sub-Committee meeting that the Board

should hold an away day to consider future priorities and Committee restructuring.
NOTED.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting with the Chief Constable was arranged for 3 September 2009 at Waterside Tower, Belfast.

Members were reminded that arrangements had been made for a private Board meeting with PSNI representatives on 6 August 2009 to consider the PSNI Estate Strategy. In response to a question from a Member, the Board was assured that papers for the meeting regarding station reviews would be issued to all Members well in advance of the meeting.

(Meeting closed 3.25pm).

Secretariat

June 2009

Chairman