

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 30th MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12 MAY 2004 AT 10:00 AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- (1)** Professor Desmond Rea (Chairman)
- (1)** Mr Denis Bradley (Vice-Chairman)
- Mr Alex Attwood
- (1)** Mr Joe Byrne
- Mr Fred Cobain
- Mr Brian Dougherty
- Mr Sam Foster
- Mr Barry Gilligan
- Mr William Hay
- Mr Tom Kelly
- Mrs Pauline McCabe
- Mr Alan McFarland
- Mr Eddie McGrady
- Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- Mr Ian Paisley
- Mr Suneil Sharma
- Mr Sammy Wilson

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (2)** Mr Hugh Orde, (Chief Constable)
- (2)** Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)
- (2)** Mr Sam Kinkaid (Assistant Chief Constable, Crime Operations)
- (2)** Mr Joe Stewart, (Director of Human Resources)
- (2)** Mr David Best, (Director of Finance and Support Services)
- (2)** Acting Director of Media
- (2)** Chief Inspector, Command Secretariat

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
Director of Community Affairs
Director of Corporate Services
Director of Policy and Accountability
Four Board Officials

- (1)** Items 1 to 8 and item 12
- (2)** Item 12 only

1. APOLOGIES ETC

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Viscount Brookeborough.

2. MINUTES OF THE 29TH MEETING OF THE POLICING BOARD

2.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Policing Board Held On 1 April 2004

The Board considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting and subject to one minor amendment the minutes were agreed.

2.2 Minutes Of The Public Session Of The Policing Board Held On 1 April 2004

The minutes were agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 29th MEETING OF THE POLICING BOARD

3.1 District Policing Partnerships (Items 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

3.1.1 Dungannon And South Tyrone DPP

The Board noted that the Secretary of State had agreed to an extension of time for the Dungannon and South Tyrone District Council to obtain further legal advice in relation to the establishment of a District Policing Partnership in the area.

3.1.2 District Policing Partnerships - Meeting With Boston Community Representatives

The Board noted that over 160 DPP members and senior police had met in Lisburn on 10 May 2004, with a number of leading community representatives from Boston who had worked to develop community policing groups in the city. The Board noted that the Boston group would join Members for a discussion later in the meeting.

3.1.3 Threats To DPP Members

The Board discussed threats to DPP members in Newry and the postponement of a DPP meeting in Forkhill. Members expressed concern about the incidents, the distress that such incidents caused to DPP members and their families and discussed how the Board could best assist DPP members in continuing their work.

3.2 Review of Remuneration Of Members (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that at its April 2004 meeting, the Corporate Policy Committee had considered a paper on the implementation of revised allowances for Members, which had been discussed at the April Board meeting. The Board noted that the Committee had considered a number of proposals and had agreed that a further paper should be brought back to the Committee concerning the distribution of Special Responsibility Allowance and that the views of the NIO should be sought regarding the allocation of allowances to Members serving on or chairing other groups / bodies.

3.3 Appointment Of Senior Board Staff (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that Mr David Wilson had been appointed to the post of Director of Service Delivery and would take up his new duties on 1 June 2004.

3.4 Code Of Practice On Reports And Enquiries (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that it had not been possible for the sub-group considering the Code of Practice on Reports and Enquiries to resolve a number of issues surrounding Section 59/60. The Board agreed that the matter should be brought back to the Corporate Policy Committee to see if the matter could be further progressed in this forum.

3.5 Tackling Organised Crime (Item 3.5 Of Minutes Refers)

Members noted that there had been no further developments regarding the arrangement of a presentation to the Board by the Criminal Assets Bureau in the Republic of Ireland. The Board agreed that the Chairman should pursue the matter with the Minister of Justice.

The Board noted that all Members would be invited to a briefing by the Minister of State concerning the fourth Threat Assessment. A copy of a booklet entitled "Confronting the Threat" was distributed to all Members.

3.6 Human Resources Strategy Review (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that a first draft of the revised HR Strategy was still being prepared and had not yet been received by the Board from PSNI.

3.7 Visit To Washington (Item 3.7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman gave Members a detailed report on meetings that he and Mr Tom Kelly had held with leading politicians and other opinion formers in Washington and New York, during their visit to the United States during week commencing 3 May 2004.

3.8 Meetings With OPONI (Item 3.9 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that a paper would be put to the May Corporate Policy Committee meeting regarding the frequency of meetings between the Board and the Office of the Police Ombudsman of Northern Ireland (OPONI).

3.9 Recruitment Of An Assistant Chief Constable (Item 3 11 And 12 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman reminded Members that an Appointment Board for an Assistant Chief Constable for PSNI would be held on Tuesday, 18 May 2004.

3.10 Chief Constable – Living Accommodation (Item 3.12 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board agreed to endorse the proposals outlined by the Chief Executive and directed that he proceed with the arrangements. A confidential report on the matter is attached at Appendix 'A'.

3.11 Cory Collusion Inquiry Reports (Item 4 6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that the Corporate Policy Committee, at its meeting on 22 April 2004, had noted 2 papers which summarised the key findings of the Cory Collusion Inquiry Reports.

In response to a request from a Member, it was agreed that a copy of the briefing papers should be circulated to all Members of the Board.

3.12 Selected Medical Practitioner Services 2004-05 (Item 8.5 Of Minutes Refers)

In response to a question raised at the previous meeting, the Chairperson of the Human Resources Committee confirmed that the Selected Medical Practitioner (SMP) was continuing to operate the same policy as had been applied by the Occupational Health Unit in respect of medical reviews. The medical reviews that

were being carried out by the SMP at present, had been initiated by the Occupational Health Unit.

In response to a further question from a Member, the Chairperson agreed to provide information to the Member concerning the percentage of medical discharge cases that were currently being reviewed by the Selected Medical Practitioner.

3.13 Questions For The Chief Constable – DCUs (Item 16 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board discussed a number of comments made by DPP members and comment in the media concerning proposals for the clustering of DCUs. Members discussed the background to the Review of Public Administration and the Chief Constable's previous statements that the current DPPs would remain in place.

Members discussed the impact that the relocation of a DCU Commander could have on a DPP and the need for DPPs to "bed in" before significant changes. Members also discussed the need for PSNI to secure efficiency savings and the need for full and effective communication between the Board, PSNI and local communities. The Board agreed to put a question to the Chief Constable about the matter.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

The Board noted that the Chairman had attended the following engagements:-

- RUC Athletic Club Dinner on 22 April 2004
- US Consulate Dinner for Mitchell Reiss on 27 April 2004
- DPP meeting with Boston group in Lisburn on 10 May 2004
- Defence Studies Dinner and talk to participants on 10 May 2004
- Policing With The Community Awards on 11 May 2004

Mr Foster reported of behalf of a number of Members who had visited Liverpool on 19 May 2004 to view an "Alley-Gating" system for housing in the city. The alley-gating scheme had led to a considerable reduction in the number of burglaries and anti-social behaviour in Merseyside.

A number of Members expressed disappointment that the 'Policing With The Community Awards' for PSNI officers had not received wider coverage in the media, particularly on television.

4.2 Strategy Days

The Board noted that a paper would be prepared for a future Corporate Policy Committee meeting based on the report of the facilitator of the Strategy Days for PSNI chief officers and Board Members which had been held on 28/29 April 2004. The Strategy Days had considered key issues facing PSNI.

A number of Members commented on the helpfulness of the event in maintaining and further developing professional working relationships between senior police officers and Board Members.

4.3 Ministerial Change

The Chairman advised Members that he had written, on behalf of the Board, thanking Jane Kennedy for her contribution to policing during her period of ministerial office. The Chairman had also written to the new Minister to welcome him to the post. The Board noted that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were due to meet with the Minister on 17 May 2004.

4.4 Study Visit From Brazil

The Chairman advised Members that Julita Lemgruber, Director of the Centre for Studies on Public Security and Citizenship in Brazil would be meeting with Board representatives on 13 May 2004 to discuss the role of the Policing Board in setting targets and mechanisms of accountability. The Chairman advised that all Members of the Board were welcome to attend the meeting.

4.5 UN Commission On Human Rights

The Board noted the content of a reply which the Chairman had received from Mr Brice Dickson, Chief Human Rights Commissioner, regarding an address which he had given to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on 14 April 2004.

During discussion of the correspondence, a Member commented that it appeared that a number of agencies had strayed outside their remit in commenting on issues associated with policing in Northern Ireland.

4.6 Publications

The Board noted receipt of the following publication:-

- Review of the Selection and Appointments Process of Independent Members of Police Authorities in England and Wales (Home Office Publication)

4.7 OPONI Section 55 Report

The Board noted that a Section 55 report had been received from the Police Ombudsman and that it would be passed to the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee for consideration.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Election of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees

The Chief Executive informed the Board that he had written to all Members concerning the election of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman for each Committee in accordance with Standing Order 19(f) and seeking views on Committee membership in advance of the election of Chairmen / Vice-Chairmen.

5.2 Vehicle Insurance

The Chief Executive reminded all Members to forward the appropriate vehicle insurance documentation to the Secretariat to assist the processing of travel claims in accordance with government regulations.

6. CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Ratified Minutes Of The 31st Meeting Of The Corporate Policy Committee Held On 24 March 2004

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 31st meeting held on 24 March 2004.

6.2 Ratified Minutes Of The 32nd Meeting Of The Corporate Policy Committee Held On 1 April 2004

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 32nd meeting held on 1 April 2004.

6.3 Draft Minutes Of The 33rd Meeting Of The Corporate Policy Committee Held On 22 April 2004

6.3.1 Accountability – Estates Review (Item 3.2.1 Of Minutes Refers)

Members discussed a number of issues arising from the Committee's consideration of key accountability issues, including the estates review and the need for the Board to adopt a strategic approach to the management of PSNI issues.

7. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

7.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 8th Meeting Of The Community Involvement Committee Held On 10 March 2004

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 8th meeting held on 10 March 2004.

7.2 Draft Minutes Of The 9th Meeting Of The Community Involvement Committee Meeting Held On 8 April 2004

There were no matters arising.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

8.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 13th Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 27 February 2004

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 13th meeting held on 27 February 2004.

8.2 Ratified Minutes Of The 14th Meeting (Quorum) Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 27 February 2004

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 14th meeting (Quorum) held on 27 February 2004.

8.3 Draft Minutes Of The 15th Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 26 March 2004

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 15th meeting held on 26 March 2004.

8.4 Ratified Minutes Of The 16th Meeting (Quorum) Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 26 March 2004

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 16th meeting (Quorum) held on 26 March 2004.

9. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

9.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 6th Meeting Of The Finance and General Purposes Committee Held On 26 February 2004

The Board adopted the minutes of the 6th meeting held on 26 February 2004.

9.2 Draft Minutes Of The 7th Meeting Of The Finance and General Purposes Committee Held On 16 April 2004

The Board adopted the minutes of the 7th meeting held on 16 April 2004.

9.3 Spending Review SR2004 (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that a copy of the PSNI Spending Review 2004 had been included in the papers for the meeting. The Board formally endorsed the PSNI SR 2004 bid. Members noted that a number of items included in the bid would require to be considered further e.g. the bid for 670 armed civilian guards would require to be considered as part of the revised HR Strategy, bids for IT projects would also require to be considered as part of the IT Strategy. It was agreed that the Chief Executive should liaise with the PSNI to ensure that the processing of the bid in future years was scheduled to give Members more advance notice of the projected expenditure and funding.

10. CONVICTION OF COUNCILLOR ARTHUR TEMPLETON – ELECTED MEMBER OF NEWTOWNABBEY DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP

The Chairman reminded Members that Councillor Templeton's position as a member of a District Policing Partnership would need to be considered by the Board in the light of his conviction under the Prevention of Harassment (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. The Chairman reminded Members that the matter had previously been discussed at the Board's Community Involvement Committee and at the Corporate Policy Committee. Having taken legal advice, the Corporate Policy Committee had agreed that before the Board reached any decision regarding the future position of Councillor Templeton that he must be given the opportunity to make representation to the Board, as to why the Board should not exercise its power under Schedule 3, paragraph 7(1) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000.

Members noted that Councillor Templeton had been informed that he would have the opportunity to make representation to the Board and he had been invited to do so at the Board meeting on 12 May 2004. Councillor Templeton had indicated that 12 May did not suit and it had been agreed that he would make representation to the Board at a special meeting on 20 May 2004. The Board agreed that a special meeting be arranged for 20 May 2004 for the sole purpose of considering Councillor Templeton's position as a political member of Newtownabbey DPP. Members discussed the format for the meeting.

11. POLICE NEGOTIATING BOARD (PNB) CHIEF OFFICERS AGREEMENT- IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board considered a paper reflecting recommendations contained in the Crompton / Williams confidential report and the recent PNB Agreement on chief officers pay and conditions. The Board agreed to adopt and implement a number of proposals relating to the pay of Assistant Chief Constable's in PSNI. Details of the new salaries are contained in the confidential Appendix attached at 'A'.

12. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Board agreed a number of questions to be put to the Chief Constable during the public session.

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

In response to a question from a Member, the Chief Constable briefly outlined the progress made by the PSNI and the family of Mr Sean Brown concerning the way in which the murder of Mr Brown would be re-investigated.

Members discussed the concerns raised by a number of DPP members concerning proposals about the clustering of DCUs. The Chief Constable emphasised that there was no intention to change the current DPP structure. He reminded Members of the need to ensure that DCUs were fit for purpose and that as previously discussed with the Board, consideration was being given to clustering smaller DCUs to increase overall efficiency. The Chief Constable recognised the need to reassure local communities that if any restructuring was to take place, that this would not adversely affect the efficiency of policing in the areas concerned and at the same time, provide information about the efficiency savings that would be gained.

In response to a question concerning the use of Gold Groups in the investigation of murders and other critical incidents, the Chief Constable confirmed that in certain cases these were a vital tool. In addition to Gold Groups, advisory groups were also setup to assist police, particularly in linked investigations.

In response to a number of questions about the recently published IMC Report, the Chief Constable emphasised the wide consultation that the IMC had engaged in when preparing their report. He advised that in broad terms he did not disagree with the overall content of the report.

A Member referred to discussion at the previous meeting concerning an “out of court “compensation case settlement to an officer, and sought further information about future steps to be taken regarding the case. The Deputy Chief Constable advised Members about the legal advice that PSNI had received regarding the case. He further advised Members that the officers involved in the case had all retired and that lessons learned arising from the case would be included in future training.

In response to a question from a Member concerning sentencing of convicted criminals, the Chief Constable advised the Board that he met with the Lord Chief Justice on a regular basis and that the relationship between the PSNI and the court service was positive. He advised that a number of appeal cases were pending regarding the sentence imposed on offenders and emphasised that the police were very aware of the adverse impact of crime on victims and the local community.

Members and the Chief Constable had a general discussion about the level of protection given to key persons in Northern Ireland, including the judiciary.

The Board moved to its meeting in public and following the completion of this session, the PSNI personnel left the meeting.

13. INFORMATION PAPERS

13.1 Tribunal Case - Compensation

The Committee noted a letter received from the PSNI Senior Director of Human Resources dated 21 April 2004 that provided further details about compensation in respect of a Tribunal case discussed at the previous meeting.

13.2 Sectarian Crimes

The Board noted a letter from the Acting Assistant Chief Constable, Criminal Justice, concerning the definition of sectarian crime. Following an enquiry from a Member, the Board agreed to consider if further clarification about the definition of political motivation was possible.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Meeting With Boston Community Representatives

The Chairman welcomed Mr Bill Walczak, Mr Chuck Wexler, Reverend Eugene Rivers III, Sergeant Herbert White and Mr Jim Evans to the meeting.

The Board discussed the work that the Boston team had carried out in the United States and their experiences during their week long visit to Northern Ireland to consider the implications of policing as a civic endeavour which supports reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

15. PRESS ISSUES

The Board agreed that the news releases concerning the following matters should be issued:-

- PSNI efficiency savings;
- PSNI Human Rights Training

The Board noted that new annual crime statistics would be published on 13 May 2004 by PSNI.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 3 June 2004.

(Meeting closed 3:00 pm).

Secretariat

May 2004

Chairman