

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS & PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2009 AT 1:30PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

Mr Basil McCrea (Chairperson)  
Ms Martina Anderson  
Ms Mary McKee  
Mrs Rosaleen Moore

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

- (1) Mr Will Kerr, Assistant Chief Constable Criminal Justice Department
- (1) Superintendent Alister Wallace (Criminal Justice Department)

#### **CO-OPERATION IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:**

- (2) Mr Peter Sheridan, Chief Executive,

#### **PUBLIC ACHIEVEMENT IN ATTENDANCE:**

- (2) Mr Paul Smyth
- (2) Dr Neil Jarman, Director – Institute of Conflict Research
- (2) Ms Liz Nelson

#### **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISOR IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms Alyson Kilpatrick

#### **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Peter Gilleece, Director of Policy  
4 Board Officials

- (1) Item numbers 5 and 11
- (2) Item number 5 only

## **1. APOLOGIES, ETC**

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Gearóid Ó hEára. NOTED.

## **2. MINUTES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS & PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2009**

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

That the draft minutes of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee meeting held on 11 November 2009 be agreed.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **3.1 Matters Arising From The Minutes Of The Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee Meeting Held On 14 October 2009**

#### **3.1.1 Disciplinary Issues** (Item 8.2 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted correspondence received from PSNI on disciplinary issues.

NOTED

#### **3.1.2 Evidence of Learning** (Item 8.4 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted the correspondence received from PSNI.

#### **3.1.3 Breach of Non Molestation Orders**

The Committee noted correspondence from PSNI Professional Standards Department.

NOTED.

## **3.2 Matters Arising From the Minutes of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee Held On 11 November 2009**

### **3.2.1 Stop And Search** (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted correspondence from the Director of Policy to ACC Operational Support and advised that a response was awaited. NOTED.

### **3.2.2 Historical Enquiries Team** (Item 6 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Board to the Director of the Historical Enquiries Team (HET).

A discussion was then opened on the PSNI role with regard to HET following a discussion at a recent Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee. Some Members of the Committee expressed concerns regarding this recent development.

The Board's Human Rights Advisor advised the Committee that she was due to have a meeting with ACC Crime Operations regarding this matter and she would report back to the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee in January 2010.

During discussion, the Committee discussed the possibility of a special meeting of the Committee prior to the February 2010 Committee meeting to discuss this matter.

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

The Director of Policy would write to all Members, following the Human Rights Advisor's meeting with ACC Crime Operations, should there be a need to hold a one item agenda meeting of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee in January 2010.

### **3.2.3 Committee Programme of Work 2009 – Submission from Stakeholders**

(Item 8 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that the Director of Policy had written to stakeholders to thank them and advise they would be considered by the Human Rights Advisor as part of the Human Rights Annual Report.

### **3.2.4 Appeal regarding Application To Register A Business Interest (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)**

This item was actioned.

### **3.2.5 Any Other Business (Item 13 of Minutes Refers)**

This item was actioned.

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

### **4.1 Multi Agency Risk Assessment Committee (MARAC) Conference – 14 December 2009**

The Committee was advised of the launch of MARAC which had taken place on 16 December 2009 at Hillsborough Castle. NOTED.

## **5. BRIEFING PAPER ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE THEMATIC INQUIRY**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Paul Smyth, Director of Public Achievement, his colleague Ms Liz Nelson and Dr Neil Jarman, Director, Institute of Conflict Research. Mr Peter Sheridan, Chief Executive of Co-operation Ireland was also welcomed to the meeting.

Mr Sheridan began by discussing the role of Co-operation Ireland in relation to a developing project working with children and young people.

The Public Achievement representatives presented a short film which showed young people's views on policing in their particular areas and their personal experiences.

Following the film, the Committee discussed various issues, some of which included:-

- use of social media;
- use of trusted intermediaries such as 'Include Youth';
- class issue;
- Linking with Policing with the Community.

Following the discussion, it was:-

**AGREED:**

That Mr Sheridan would write to the Committee setting out Co-operation Ireland's proposals regarding the issue of children and young people.

**6. BRIEFING PAPER ON THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON LINE COMMUNICATION**

The views of the Committee was sought on the proposal for setting out ideas for the introduction of Social Media and On Line Communication.

Following a discussion, it was:-

**AGREED:**

To proceed with developing this concept and to run a procurement exercise.

## **7. HUMAN RIGHTS ANNUAL REPORT**

The Board's Human Rights Advisor presented draft Chapters 2, 3, 7, 8 and 10 of the Human Rights Annual Report 2009.

The Committee considered each Chapter and made a number of recommendations regarding content and style.

The Human Rights Advisor undertook to further revise the draft Human Rights Annual Report in accordance with the Committee's recommendations.

### **Chapter 2**

5 recommendations made. Some of last year's recommendations have now been withdrawn.

### **Chapter 3**

Minor amendments to the wording of the recommendations were agreed.

### **Chapter 8**

Minor amendments to the wording of recommendations were agreed.

The Committee was advised that any additional comments they wished to make on the Chapters were required by 23 December 2009.

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

- To sign off on the report for publication, subject to any additional comments received by 23 December 2009.

- That the remaining Chapters (9 and 14) would be forwarded to Members for their consideration, with any comments to be received by 31 December 2009.

## **8. INFORMATION PAPERS**

The Chairperson highlighted the following information papers:-

- 8.1 Police Service of Northern Ireland, Professional Standards Department Statistics**
- 8.2 PSNI Use of Force Report: 1 April to 30 September 2009**
- 8.3 Stop and Search Statistics for July to September 2009**
- 8.4 Update on Public Inquiries**
- 8.5 Update on PSNI Firearms Policy**
- 8.6 Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary Report: Adapting To Protest**
- 8.7 NSPCC Traveller Children and Domestic Abuse Workshop**
- 8.8 Best Practice Review of Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee and Assessment of Committee Effectiveness**
- 8.9 Regulation 20 Reports**

### **Correspondence and Press Articles**

- 8.10 Correspondence into Concerns That a Police Officer Attempted To Pervert the Course of Justice – February 2007**
- 8.11 Northern Ireland Commissioner For Children And Young People (NICCY) Submission On The Committee's Thematic Inquiry On Children And Young People Dated 4 December 2009**
- 8.12 Correspondence From Mark Thompson, Relatives For Justice, Enclosing Two Articles For The Andersonstown News In Relation To Payments To The PSNI Part Time Reserve And Legal Action Against The British Government; A Briefing Document In Relation To Proposed Legal Action Against The British Government And The Libya Compensation Bid; A**

**Letter From John Magee of RFJ's Board Of Directors Re BBC Policy On Wearing Poppies; And The RFJ Response To The Consultative Group On The Past Recommendations**

- 8.13 Correspondence from Clara Reilly, Chairperson, Relatives for Justice & United Campaign against Plastic Bullets (UCAPB) To the Chief Constable Dated 2 December 2009 In Relation To the Use of Plastic Bullets**
- 8.14 Irish News Article: Victim's Family Breaks All Links to HET Inquiry Published 1 December 2009**
- 8.15 TASER International Guidance**
- 8.16 Recommendations Arising From the Thematic Inquiry on Domestic Abuse Report**

**PSNI Freedom of Information Requests Received**

- 8.17 F2009 – 02682 – Police Officers with Criminal Convictions – Cookstown and Magherafelt**
- 8.18 F2009 – 03336 – Serving Police Officers Convicted Of Dangerous Driving**
- 8.19 F2009 – 03429 – Various Questions on Police Officers from the Constabulary Who Have Tested Positive for Illegal Drug Use (Whatever the Substance May Be)**

The Committee noted the attached information papers. NOTED.

**9. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

There were no matters arising.

**10. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

There were no matters arising.

## 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 11.1 Inquest into the Deaths of the McElhill/McGovern Family

ACC Criminal Justice, briefed the Committee on details of the inquest into the death of the McElhill/McGovern family.

ACC Criminal Justice stated that the PSNI did not accept there were serious failings on the part of PSNI; that the system failed in their collective responsibility.

ACC Criminal Justice referred to 2 additional independent reports in respect of the deaths of the McElhill/ McGovern Family:-

- Watkins report;
- Toner report.

In the Toner report, there were 2 recommendations for the PSNI:-

- Recommendation 53 – *‘The present PSNI policies in respect of child protection and domestic violence matters should be reinforced within the PSNI by appropriate means and in particular the PSNI should ensure that their sex offenders data base is routinely checked when their officers are called to family situations where there are child protection issues.’*
- Recommendation 54 – *‘The PSNI in collaboration with the Boards and Trusts should consider the secondment of a Social Services staff member, as appropriate, to each of the eight PSNI Public Protection Units operating across Northern Ireland.’*

The Committee felt that Recommendation 54 was quite a significant recommendation.

Following a discussion, it was:-

**AGREED:**

- That PSNI would be asked to provide details of how Recommendation 54 is being implemented;
- That the Committee would request a copy of the Watkins report from PSNI; and
- That ACC Criminal Justice would report to CPPPC in relation to his role as Chair of PPANI and in particular whether the Chair of PPANI should take lead responsibility in any communications issues.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was agreed for Wednesday, 10 February 2010 at 10:00am in Waterside Tower, Belfast

(Meeting closed at 4:40pm).

**Secretariat**

**December 2009**

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**Chairperson**