

**NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS & PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS  
COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 MARCH 2010 AT 9:30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER,  
BELFAST**

**PRESENT:**

**MEMBERS:**

Mr Basil McCrea (Chairperson)  
(1) Ms Martina Anderson  
Mr Suneil Sharma

**PSNI REPRESENTATIVES IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

(2) Chief Superintendent Tom Haylett  
(2) Superintendent Colin Taylor  
(2) Superintendent George Clarke

**OFFICE OF THE POLICE  
OMBUDSMAN IN ATTENDANCE:**

(3) Mr Sam Pollock, Chief Executive  
(3) Mr Greg Mullan, Director of Policy and  
Practice  
(3) One Official, Police Ombudsman's Office

**POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION  
FOR SCOTLAND IN ATTENDANCE:**

(4) Mr John McNeill

**SLUGGER O'TOOLE LTD IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

(5) Mr Paul Evans  
(5) Mr Mick Fealty

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

Ms Alyson Kilpatrick

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Peter Gilleece, Director of Policy  
6 Board Officials

- (1) Item numbers 1- 4, 6,7 and part 9
- (2) Item number 6 only
- (3) Item number 7 only
- (4) Item numbers 6 and 7
- (5) Item number 8 only

## **1. APOLOGIES, ETC**

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Gearóid Ó hEára, Mrs Rosaleen Moore and Ms Mary McKee (Vice Chairperson). NOTED.

No conflicts of interest arising from the agenda were declared by Members.

## **2. MINUTES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2010**

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the Committee meeting held on 10 February 2010.

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

That the draft minutes of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee meeting held on 10 February 2010 be agreed.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2010**

### **3.1 Treatment Of Immigration Detainees In Custody (Item 3.1.1 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee was advised that the UK Border Agency (UKBA) had attended a meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee on 18 March 2010, and discussed the detention of Immigration Detainees in Police Custody suites. A summary of the issues discussed was presented to Members.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That officials should draft a letter to UKBA regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between UKBA and PSNI for the treatment of immigration detainees in custody.

**3.2 Stop And Search (Item 3.2.1 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee considered the Terms of Reference for the Board's review of Stop and Search. A discussion took place on the ongoing review of the PSNI's use of Stop and Search powers and it was:-

**AGREED:**

- that a round table meeting should be arranged with key stakeholders to seek the views of the public with respect to the terms of reference for the review;
- that this meeting should take place in Derry/Londonderry;
- that Foyle Women's Aid should be invited to this meeting to discuss PSNI progress with the recommendations of the Committee's thematic report on domestic abuse.

**3.3 Inquest Into The Deaths Of The McElhill / McGovern Family (Item 3.2.3 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee had asked for an update in respect of recommendation 54 in the Toner Report regarding the secondment of a Social Services Staff Members to each of the 8 Public Prosecution Units in the PSNI.

The Committee was advised that an update was provided with the information papers.

NOTED.

### **3.4 Committee Programme Of Work (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee was advised that the Programme of Work for 2010/11 would be dealt with under agenda item 5. NOTED.

### **3.5 Briefing Paper on the Commission for Victims and Survivors (Item 7 of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee considered a letter issued to the Commission for Victims and Survivors dated 19 February 2010, from the Director of Policy, in respect of their attendance at the 10 February Committee meeting. NOTED.

### **3.6 Failure By The PSNI To Locate A Body (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee had requested further information regarding the disciplinary action taken against the officers who had been involved in an investigation and failed to locate a body in Derry/Londonderry on 15 September 2008.

Members were advised that this information was provided by the PSNI at the March 2010 Policing Board meeting. NOTED.

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

### **4.1 Briefing Paper On A Meeting Between The Chairperson And Vice Chairperson Of The Human Rights And Professional Standards Committee, And The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission**

The Chairperson advised the Committee of a meeting that had taken place on 19 February 2010. The Committee considered:-

- a summary of issues discussed at the meeting;
- an outline of the Bill of Rights;
- an overview of NIO consultation on a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland which the Chief Commissioner had asked the Committee to consider;
- the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission's (NIHRC) response.

Following discussion, it was:-

**AGREED:**

That Members would reply individually to the NIO consultation document.

**4.2 Research Into The Views Of People With Disabilities On Policing And Police Oversight Arrangements In Northern Ireland**

The Committee considered a paper on a proposed research project between the Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPONI) and the Board to examine the views of people with disabilities on policing and policing oversight arrangements in Northern Ireland. NOTED.

Following discussion, it was:-

**AGREED:**

That following the outcome of the research project the Committee would consider whether a Thematic Inquiry should follow.

**5. COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK 2010/11**

This item was deferred to a future Committee meeting.

## **6. COMPLAINTS MADE AGAINST THE PSNI BETWEEN 2004/05 AND 2008/09**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Sam Pollock, Mr Greg Mullan, one OPONI official and Mr John McNeill, Police Complaints Commissioner for Scotland to the meeting.

Members considered a briefing paper which provided an analysis of complaints received and completed between the period 2004/05 and 2008/09. The statistics provided included:-

- factors underlying complaints/non complaint referrals;
- completed complaints and outcomes;
- officers with 3 or more complaints;
- types of allegations;
- allegations involving use of weapons or other equipment;
- number of allegations in each District Command Unit.

Members sought and received further information from OPONI officials regarding:-

- complaints regarding officers 'failure of duty' and whether this is a PSNI training issue;
- local resolution and mediation.

In response to an enquiry from a Member about allegations being made mainly against newly appointed officers, OPONI officials advised members that they now have the capability to produce further information about the characteristics of officers against whom allegations were made. OPONI officials committed to research this over the coming months.

OPONI also advised Members of a pilot project in 'D' District in relation to local resolution of complaints which it was anticipated would improve complainant satisfaction, speed up resolution and reduce bureaucracy. This project is due to commence in June 2010.

Members were further advised of a report to be published in 4 – 6 weeks to examine incidences of incivility by police officers.

The OPONI Director of Policy and Practice committed to examine benchmarking opportunities with other police services and report back to the Director of Policy in due course.

The Chairperson and OPONI officials thanked staff in the Board for the preparation of the Statistics Information paper which both Members and OPONI officials suggested provided a useful basis for discussion.

The Chairperson then thanked the OPONI officials and they left the meeting.

## **7. MONITORING PSNI PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

The Chairperson welcomed the PSNI Professional Standards Department (PSD) representatives to the meeting.

Chief Superintendent Haylett briefed the Committee on the Professional Standards Department and outlined the following:-

- the Department's aims;
- functions of the PSD;
- criteria for fast tracking misconduct cases;
- proposed effects of Taylor reforms once they are introduced to PSNI.

Chief Superintendent Haylett also provided the Committee with information on;

- cases received;
- cases processed;
- case preparation;
- regulation 20 reports;

- informal resolution; and,
- suspended officers.

Members expressed a number of concerns around the role of frontline supervisors and sought information on how PSD monitor their role.

PSD advised the Committee about the chain of command within the Department and their respective responsibilities. Following discussion, it was:-

**AGREED:**

That the Director of Policy would draft questions for the Chief Constable on:

- training and role of supervising officers;
- ownership of Professional Standards;
- responsibility for the strategic oversight and review of Professional Standards;

The Chairperson thanked the PSD representatives and they left the Committee

**8. UPDATE ON A CONFERENCE EXAMINING THE TAYLOR REFORMS ONE YEAR ON AND HOW DEVELOPMENTS RELATE TO THE INTRODUCTION OF TAYLOR WITHIN PSNI**

The Committee considered a paper which updated Members on issues arising from a conference held in London on 21 January 2010 which examined the Taylor reforms one year after they were implemented in England and Wales. NOTED.

## **9. BRIEFING PAPER ON THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON LINE COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Paul Evans and Mr Mick Fealty representatives from Slugger O'Toole Ltd to the meeting.

Mr Evans and Mr Fealty briefed the Committee on the potential of social media as a means of;

- increasing the Committee's engagement with stakeholders;
- making the existing engagement more inclusive;
- tapping into the views of a wider range of stakeholders; and
- developing policy where appropriate.

A copy of the slides used in the presentation is attached at Appendix 'A'.

Members discussed the use of social media and online communications to facilitate consultation on policing in Northern Ireland. They discussed timescales for implementation of this activity and the potential for a pilot scheme, subject to procurement.

Following discussion, it was:-

### **AGREED:**

- that Slugger O'Toole Ltd would provide a report to be brought to the May 2010 Committee meeting stating timescales, technical specifications, IT requirements etc;
- that a workshop should be arranged by Paul Evans, Slugger O'Toole Ltd for Board staff and Members.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives from Slugger O'Toole Ltd and they left the meeting.

**10. MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 75 OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND ACT 1998 WITHIN THE PSNI**

Members were reminded of this item in correspondence issued on 2 April 2010. NOTED.

**11. INFORMATION PAPERS**

**11.1 Forfeiture Of Police Pension**

Members were reminded of this item in correspondence issued on 2 April 2010. NOTED.

**11.2 PB1 Report – 27 February 2010**

NOTED.

**11.3 News Release Regarding Roundtable As Part Of Children And Young Person's Human Rights Thematic**

NOTED.

**11.4 Letter From The Northern Ireland Office Regarding Board's 5<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Annual Report**

NOTED.

**11.5 Letter From Parades Commission Regarding Issues Arising From The Human Rights And Professional Standards Committee Meeting On 14 October 2009**

NOTED.

## **11.6 Letter To Historical Enquiries Team**

NOTED.

## **11.7 Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Report – Omagh Bombing: Some Remaining Questions**

NOTED.

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

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

That questions should be drafted to be put to the Chief Constable in relation to:-

- training and role of supervising officers;
- ownership of Professional Standards;
- responsibility for the strategic oversight and review of professional standards.

## **13. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

There were no matters arising.

## **14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **14.1 Women's Aid**

The Committee considered a letter from Women's Aid requesting funding for childcare while Women, who are the subject of domestic violence, attend court.

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

That a draft response would be prepared.

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

The date of the next meeting was agreed for Wednesday, 21 April at 10:00am in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 1:30pm).

**Secretariat**

**March 2010**

---

**Chairperson**