

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS & PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2011 AT 9:30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Basil McCrea (Chairperson)

Ms Martina Anderson

(1) Mrs Rosaleen Moore

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

(2) Chief Superintendent Mark Hamilton, District
Commander 'A' District

(2) Chief Superintendent Stephen Martin,
District Commander 'G' District

(3) Inspector, Community Safety Department

ROUNDTABLE MEETING ON THEMATIC REVIEW:

(3) Mr John O'Doherty

(3) Mr Vincent Creelan

(3) Mr Matthew McDermott

(3) Ms Monica Fitzpatrick

(3) Mr Colin Flinn

(3) Mr Neil Jarmin

(3) Ms Etain O'Kane

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISOR IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms Alyson Kilpatrick

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Peter Gilleece, Director of Policy

(3) Mr David Jackson, Director of External
Relations

8 Board Officials

(1) Item numbers 1 – 10

(2) Item number 6 only

(3) Item number 5 only

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Ms Mary McKee and Mr Gearóid Ó hEára. NOTED.

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

2. MINUTES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING

2.1 Meeting of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee Held On 12 January 2011

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the Committee meeting held on 12 January 2011.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the draft minutes of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee meeting held on 12 January 2011 be agreed subject to an amendment, at the request of a Committee Member, regarding transfer of cases from HET to C2.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2011

3.1 Proposed Reforms to Police Discipline and Unsatisfactory Performance Procedures in Northern Ireland (Item 6 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted a letter from the Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) regarding the proposed Police Discipline reforms. The DCC in her letter extended an invite to Committee Members to attend the bi-monthly Professional Standards Champions meeting. Members considered the invitation and thought it appropriate that Dave Jones, Nightstick Consultants Ltd, should attend these meetings and report back to the Committee in his forthcoming report.

3.2 Meeting With ACC Crime Operations (Item 7 of Minutes Refers)

This item had been actioned.

3.3 Operation Exposure (Item 9.4 of Minutes Refers)

This item had been actioned.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 Correspondence from Commission for Victims and Survivors

The Committee considered a letter from the Commission for Victims and Survivors, and it was:-

AGREED:

That the Director of Policy would respond to the Commission for Victims and Survivors on behalf of the Committee.

4.2 Invitation – Children's Law Centre Annual Conference

This correspondence was noted by the Committee.

4.3 Operation Exposure – Minors Photographs

The Board's Human Rights Advisor briefed Members on the position regarding the publication of minors' photographs and the ongoing Judicial Review.

Members were advised that the Chief Constable had spoken on this during the launch of the Children and Young People Report and the Human Rights Annual Report.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials would provide a note to Members on the details of the ongoing Judicial review case to include recent comments in support of the children and young people thematic report recommendations by the Chief Constable and ACC Kerr.

4.4 LAUNCH OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE REPORT AND THE BOARD'S HUMAN RIGHTS ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairperson of the Committee congratulated the Director of Policy, the Board's Human Rights Advisor and staff on their work with both reports.

5. BRIEFING PAPER ON THE ROUNDTABLE MEETING REGARDING THE COMMITTEE'S THEMATIC REVIEW OF LGB&T ISSUES

The Chairperson welcomed the guests to the roundtable meeting.

Some of the issues discussed were:-

- The removal of the Hate Incident Minority Liaison Officers (HIMLO) role from Community Safety Officers to Neighbourhood Officers;
- The work of the PSNI Independent Advisory Groups;
- Lack of consultation with LGB&T Stakeholders regarding the removal of internal support role in PSNI;
- Recent consultation on the PSNI Diversity Strategy;
- Reporting of hate crime incidents and PSNI response.
- Training for PSNI frontline staff.

Members of the Reference Group and Committee Members recognised that there was an issue regarding PSNI training to officers on the ground and supervisory ranks.

The subject of how PSNI deal with hate crime was discussed and the comparison with other UK police services.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the review would include a review of good practice in other UK Police Services in terms of how they deal with incidents of hate crime.

Guests encouraged the Committee to engage with all sections of the LGB&T community and with those living in rural as well as urban areas.

The Board's Human Rights Advisor advised the group that she has a meeting arranged with transgender individuals, who were unable to attend today's meeting.

Mr John O'Doherty, Director of Rainbow, ended the discussion by acknowledging the excellent work by Policing Board staff, but stated that the Board needed to ensure a proper structure of engagement using the Board's Reference Groups.

6. DISCUSSION ON PARADING

The Chairperson welcomed Chief Superintendent Mark Hamilton and Chief Superintendent Stephen Martin to the meeting.

Members had received a paper which provided a background to this agenda item which followed up on the September 2010 Committee meeting attended by Chief Superintendent Hamilton and Chief Superintendent Martin.

At the September 2010 meeting, it had been agreed that the issues raised would be given further consideration in advance of the 2011 parading season.

During the meeting, issues discussed included:

- Different circumstances in Derry and Ardoyne;
- Traders intervention and involvement in resolving Parades disputes in Derry;
- Engagement with local resident groups and the Orange Order;

- The importance of PSNI's impartiality in respect of Parades Commission determinations.

7. INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME – SELF INTRODUCTION

The Committee considered a review of the Self Introduction pilot.

The Committee noted the reduction in refusal rates and it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Self Introduction process is permanently implemented on the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme from 1 April 2011.

The Committee was also advised of the dates of the various team meetings to which all Members are invited.

It was:-

AGREED:

That a list of team meeting dates would be issued to the Committee.

8. BRIEFING PAPER ON THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE THEMATIC REVIEW LAUNCH EVENT – 26 JANUARY 2011

The Committee considered a paper which provided an overview of the launch of the Children and Young People Thematic Review. NOTED.

9. MEETING WITH JUSTICE REVIEW TEAM TAKING FORWARD THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REVIEW

The Committee noted a paper, which advised that the review team taking forward the Department of Justice's review of Youth Justice is currently interviewing the relevant organisations and stakeholders.

The Committee was advised that if they wished to meet with the Review Team, they should advise the Director of Policy as soon as possible. NOTED.

10. POLICE POWERS: STOP, SEARCH AND QUESTION UNDER TERRORISM ACT 2000 AND JUSTICE AND SECURITY (NORTHERN IRELAND) ACT 2007

The Committee noted the Board's press release following the Secretary of State's written Ministerial statement on the use of Stop and Search Powers under the Justice and Security (NI) Act 2007. NOTED.

It was:-

AGREED:

That a further roundtable would inform the Board's Stop and Search report and the report would be taken forward with a newly constituted Committee.

AFTER THIS AGENDA ITEM THE COMMITTEE WAS NO LONGER QUORATE.

11. FUTURE HUMAN RIGHTS THEMATIC REVIEWS

Due to the Committee no longer being quorate, this paper was deferred.

12. INFORMATION PAPERS

- 12.1 Update on Public Inquiries**
- 12.2 Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland Inspection Programme**
- 12.3 Parliamentary Question on a National DNA Database**
- 12.4 Regulation 20 Report - Investigation into the discharge of a firearm at Old Golf Course Road, Belfast on 22 July 2006**
- 12.5 Correspondence and Press Articles**
- 12.6 PSNI Use of Force Report: 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010**
- 12.7 Review of Counter Terrorism and Security Powers**
- 12.8 PB1 Report – 29 January 2011**

The information papers were noted.

13. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

There were no matters arising.

14. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Inquests

This item was discussed during Item 2 of the agenda.

The Committee discussed the issue of inquests with particular attention to the Deputy Chief Constable's remarks at the February 2011 Board meeting, where she indicated that there were 12 inquest cases where disclosure was not requested.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials would obtain a list of these 12 cases.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed for Wednesday, 23 March 2011 at 9:30am in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 2:25pm).

Secretariat

February 2011

Chairperson