

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 16 JUNE 2011 AT 4:15PM IN THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL ENTERPRISE, GREENMOUNT, ANTRIM

PRESENT:

- Mr Brian Rea (Chairperson)
- Mr Gearóid Ó hEára (Vice Chairperson)
- Mrs Anne Connolly
- Mr Jonathan Craig
- (1)** Mr Ryan Feeney
- Mr Gerry Kelly
- Mr Trevor Lunn
- Mr Conall McDevitt
- Mr Stuart MacDonnell
- Mr Robin Newton
- Ms Joan O'Hagan
- Mr Brian Rowntree
- Ms Caitríona Ruane
- Mr Pat Sheehan
- Mr Michael Wardlow
- (2)** Ms Deborah Watters

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr Edgar Jardine, (Interim Chief Executive)
- Dr Debbie Donnelly, (Deputy Chief Executive)
- Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)
- Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)
- Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
- Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)
- Two Officials

- (1) Item number 1 – Part number 2**
- (2) Item number 1 – Part number 3**

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Ian McCrea, Mr Ross Hussey and Mr Adrian McQuillan. NOTED.

The Chairperson of the Board asked Members to declare any conflicts of interest arising from the agenda. No conflicts of interest arising from the agenda were declared.

2. COMPETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISOR TO THE BOARD

The Board considered a paper in relation to a proposed competition to appoint a Human Rights Advisor to the Board.

Members noted the background to the Independent Commission for Policing for Northern Ireland's report, which recommended the performance of the Police Service as a whole in respect of human rights as in other respects, should be monitored closely by the Board. The recommendation was given effect by virtue of section 3(3)(b) of the Police (NI) Act 2000 which requires the Board to monitor the performance of the PSNI in complying with the Human Rights Act 1998.

Officials advised Members that in order to discharge its responsibilities in this area of work, the Board had secured the services of a Human Rights Advisor since 2003. The manner in which this monitoring took place had been agreed by the Board through the Human Rights and Professional Standards (HRPS) Committee as set out in the Human Rights Monitoring Framework.

Members discussed options outlined in the paper for securing human rights advice for the Board.

Subsequent issues discussed included:-

- The independent advice and guidance provided to the Board by the Human Rights Advisor and work of the HRPS Committee;
- The level of authority required by the Human Rights Advisor;
- The costs associated with the provision of human rights advice to the Board;
- Options for securing human rights advice;
- The appointment of a Human Rights Advisor on a competitive footing based on a public appointment process;

In conclusion, it was:-

AGREED:

That the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee should consider the process for procuring human rights advice and bring a further paper to the Board for consideration.

As the present Human Rights Advisor's contract ends in August 2011, it was:-

RESOLVED:

That an extension to the Board's Human Rights Advisor's contract should be sought from the Department of Justice for a further 3 months from August 2011.

3. PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC SESSION OF THE BOARD MEETING 7 JULY 2011

The Board considered a paper regarding a proposal in relation to the format for conducting the public session of the Board meeting on 7 July 2011.

Officials outlined details of the human rights thematic review carried out by the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee on domestic abuse. It was suggested that the Board meeting in public on 7 July 2011 should focus on the theme of domestic abuse and should include representation from stakeholders and police officers. The meeting should also make provision for Members to raise other issues of concern with the Chief Constable, outside the theme of the meeting.

The Board discussed proposals for the public session of the Board meeting on 7 July 2011, and the proposal regarding concentrating on a theme.

Subsequent issues discussed included:-

- Whether the theme for the public meeting could include sexual violence;
- The submission of questions from Members to ask the Chief Constable at Board meetings;
- The number of Chief Officers attending Board meetings;
- The programme for Board meetings;
- The engagement of members of the public in future Board meetings
- Holding Board meetings in public in other areas of Northern Ireland.

In conclusion, it was:-

AGREED:

- That the Board meeting scheduled for 30 June 2011 should be used to offer training for the Panel which has been appointed to take forward the appointment of an Assistant Chief Constable;
- That the Board meeting on 7 July 2011 should be held in private session and should include discussion with the Chief Constable and a media briefing;
- That the next Board meeting in public should be held in September 2011 and should focus on a theme and make provision for Members to raise other issues of concern with the Chief Constable.

4. BRIEFING FROM PSNI ON PARADING

This briefing was postponed until a later date.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The following were agreed:

- Training for Members of ACC Appointment Panel – 30 June 2011. All Members of Board invited to attend;
- Board meeting in private – 7 July 2011.

(Meeting closed 5:35pm).

Secretariat
June 2011

Chairperson