

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS & PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2011 AT 2:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Ryan Feeney (Vice Chairperson)
Mr Gerry Kelly
Mrs Joan O'Hagan
Mr Robin Newton
Ms Caitriona Ruane
Ms Deborah Watters

PSNI IN ATTENDANCE:

(1) Mr Alistair Finlay, ACC Operational Support

PARADES COMMISSION IN ATTENDANCE:

(2) Dr Michael Boyle
(2) Ms Frances Nolan
(2) Mr Robin Percival

BOARD'S HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISOR IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms Alyson Kilpatrick

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Peter Gilleece, Director of Policy
5 Board Officials

- (1) Item number 3
- (2) Item number 2

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Conall McDevitt (Chairperson). NOTED.

As the Chairperson of the Committee was not in attendance, the meeting was chaired by the Vice Chairperson, Mr Ryan Feeney.

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

2. MEETING WITH THE PARADES COMMISSION

The Chairperson welcomed Dr Michael Boyle, Ms Frances Nolan and Mr Robin Percival to the meeting.

Ms Nolan then advised Members that from 1 January 2011 there had been 4,000 parades with 212 being deemed contentious, 60 of which refer to the on-going Drumcree notifications.

It was advised to the Committee in the first instance the Commission facilitate mediation to try and reach an agreement locally, and if this fails, the Commission will intervene and issue a determination.

When intervention occurs there are several factors which have to be taken into account:-

- The likelihood of a riot occurring;
- Disruption to communities;
- Impact on community relations;
- Failure to comply with the Commission's Code of Conduct or past failure to comply; and
- Human Rights considerations.

It was advised that the cost of parading cannot be taken into consideration by the Commission when issuing determinations. Members raised concern that the cost of policing parades is not included within the legislation. The Commission advised they would be taking this forward to the Secretary of State with respect to their briefings on any changes needed in the Legislation.

Members raised various concerns and questions with the Parades Commission, some of which were around:-

- Parading costs;
- Specific parades, in particular contentious parades;

- Dialogue with the PSNI and the lack of dialogue generally;
- Mediation;
- If further information could be provided by PSNI prior to the determination;
- The issue of Duty of Care and Human Rights considerations with respect to PSNI Officers and members of the public across districts;
- Neutrality of opinion and consistency in the sharing of information;
- Breaches of determinations and sanctions;
- Parades Commission debrief with PSNI following 2011 parading season.

Following discussion, Members thanked the Parades Commission representatives for attending and they left the meeting.

It was:-

AGREED:

The Committee would meet again with the Parades Commission after the debrief with PSNI.

3. MEETING WITH ACC FINLAY, OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

The Chairperson welcomed ACC Finlay to the meeting to discuss the PSNI review of Public Order policing.

ACC Finlay began by discussing the in-depth review of the public order response by the PSNI and stated that PSNI had written to the Board regarding a debrief due to take place with stakeholders on 23 and 24 November 2011.

ACC Finlay then spoke of the review of Public Order policing, and advised the Committee that he would provide a list of the stakeholders to this review.

ACC Finlay referred to the riots that had taken place in England and advised that the situation and context in England was very different. In England the riots had been more

widespread with the primary aim of looting shops, whereas in Northern Ireland, it is more localised arising out of inter-community tensions and more confrontational with police.

Members asked various questions on the following issues:-

- AEPs and alternative weapons for use in situations;
- Operation Exposure and the publication of photographs of under 18s;
- The review into Ballyclare and East Belfast rioting;
- Consistency of the PSNI approach across Districts to public order situations;
- Costs of parading;
- Collaborative working between PSNI and other agencies.

Following the discussion, the Committee thanked ACC Finlay for his attendance and he left the meeting.

It was:-

AGREED:

- PSNI would provide a breakdown of the costs associated with parading in relation to the following:-
 - Loyalist disorder;
 - Republican disorder; and
 - Other costs.
- To consider holding a joint meeting between the PSNI and the Parades Commission in future.

4. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

It was:-

AGREED:

To issue a media release on the Committee meeting with the Parades Commission.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

(Meeting closed 4:30pm).

**Members Services
November 2011**

Chairperson