

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 15TH PUBLIC MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 5 JUNE 2003 AT 12:00 NOON IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Professor Desmond Rea (Chairman)
Mr Denis Bradley (Vice-Chairman)
Mr Alex Attwood
Viscount Brookeborough
Mr Joe Byrne
Mr Fred Cobain
Mr Brian Dougherty
Mr Sam Foster
Mr Barry Gilligan
Mr William Hay
Mrs Pauline McCabe
Mr Alan McFarland
Mr Eddie McGrady
Mr Suneil Sharma
Mr Sammy Wilson

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief
Constable)
Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC
Operations)
Mr Roy Toner (ACC Corporate
Management)
Mr Austin Hunter, Director of Media and
Public Relations
D/Chief Inspector McAuley, CARE
Chief Inspector, Command Secretariat

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Bob McCann (Chief Executive)
Head of Business Affairs
Head of Policy and Accountability
Head of Training and Community
Consultation
Acting Head of Audit Services
Two Board Officials

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Mr Kelly, Lord Kilclooney, Mrs Moore and Mr Paisley Jnr.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

I would like to welcome members of the public and media to the public session.

I would also welcome the Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable and colleagues to the meeting. We will start with a presentation regarding the Victoria Climbié inquiry.

Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:

Two officers are here to give an update on the results of the Victoria Climbié inquiry that was undertaken in England and how we are driving the recommendations forward in Northern Ireland.

Chief Inspector McAuley, PSNI CARE Co-ordinator

Ladies and gentlemen, the protection of children is one of the most important responsibilities of modern society. Police, as a child protection agency, carry much of that responsibility. The many pressing issues faced by police often result in the issues of child protection being obscured and falling off the agenda. Public order and serious crime are very important priorities, they should never, however, replace the issue of child protection.

The case of Victoria Climbié is one of the most heart rending and horrific examples of what can happen when those tasked with the responsibility of child protection fail to meet their responsibilities. No child protection agency can choose to ignore the lessons that emanate from this inquiry report. The inquiry report has implications for police, not only in Northern Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom, but also for policing throughout Europe and I would argue throughout the whole of the world.

Victoria Climbié was a beautiful, vibrant little girl, who had everything to live for. Society's failure to provide her with adequate protection resulted in one of her most basic human rights being violated, that of her life and that failure resulted, as we have said, in her death. I want to give you just a brief background to the Victoria Climbié inquiry before I go into detail.

On 25 February 2000, Victoria Climbié died in the intensive care unit at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, London. She died as a result of months of appalling ill treatment at the hands of the two individuals who were supposed to be caring for her. On 12 January 2001 at the Central Criminal Court, two people Marie Therese Kouao and Carl John Manning were convicted of Victoria's murder and both were sentenced to life imprisonment. The following is the background to the case.

Victoria was born in the Ivory Coast in November 1991. She had a healthy and happy early childhood with her parents and at school showed herself to be intelligent and articulate. Her father's aunt offered to take Victoria to France to be educated in November 1998. She was brought to London on the 24 April 1999 on a falsified French passport, in the name of Kouao's deceased daughter Anna. Victoria was known as Anna throughout her short time in the United Kingdom.

Concerns about Victoria were first expressed during May 1999, when a social worker said that she looked like "*an advertisement for action aid*". Further concerns were expressed by a number of people over the following weeks when bruises and other injuries were noticed on Victoria's person. She was referred to hospital in July 1999 where a paediatric registrar stated that there was a strong possibility that there was a case of non-accidental injury. Those

concerns did not catalyst any child protection arrangements and Victoria was released back to Kouao after having been released from hospital. Just over one week later, she was back in hospital with a serious scald to her face and despite various concerns, Victoria was later again returned to Kouao and her boyfriend Manning.

When she was admitted to hospital on the 24 February 2000 she was desperately ill, she was bruised, deformed, malnourished and the consultant paediatrician said he had never seen a case like it before, it was the worst case of child abuse and neglect that he had ever seen. Victoria tragically died on the afternoon of the 25 February 2000. A post-mortem examination carried out on Victoria's' body revealed that no less than 128 separate serious injuries had been caused to the little girl's body. Victoria spent much of her last days during the winter of 1999/2000 sleeping in a bath in an unheated bathroom, bound hand and foot inside a bin-liner, lying in her own urine and faeces. At his trial Manning said that Kouao would strike Victoria on a daily basis with a shoe, coat-hanger, wooden spoon and with a hammer. He admitted that he would hit her with a bicycle chain. He said you could beat her and she would not cry, she could take the beatings and the pain like anything. The question then arises is, what went wrong?

This is the statement of Lord Laming, who chaired the inquiry team. *"The suffering and death of Victoria was a gross failure of the system and was inexcusable. It is clear to me that the agencies with responsibility for Victoria gave a low priority to the task of protecting children."*

We have to ask the question, could this happen here in Northern Ireland. I think we would be very arrogant and very foolish if we were to answer that question, no. Although we have not had such a high profile case resulting in a full public inquiry, a number of children have died in Northern Ireland over recent months and over recent years and they have died at the hands of carers, in what are only to be described as horrific circumstances.

The Victoria Climbié inquiry makes 108 recommendations in relation to child protection under the headings of general recommendations, those relating to social care, those relating to healthcare and 18 recommendations relating to police. We have set timescales for action in relation to those recommendations, 5 of the police recommendations are to be implemented in 3 months, 6 in 6 months and 7 in twelve months. The recommendations that relate to the police have been detailed in the handout that I have provided.

The Association of Chief Police Officers of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, whose lead is Mr Terrance Grains, Chief Constable of Dyfed-Powys Police in Wales, has taken the responsibility of carrying out a standardised response to the whole issue of child protection and to the recommendations in the Climbié inquiry. The Association is working on professional operating standards for child protection and the Police Service of Northern Ireland are represented on that working group and are taking steps to implement the various steps that are identified as being needed for policing in that respect. Each of the recommendations have been considered carefully by the Police Service of Northern Ireland and a full report compiled in relation to each. Many of the things recommended by the inquiry team, we are happy to say, are already in place in Northern Ireland, for example the specialist units, which we call CARE units, staffed with detective officers with the responsibility of the investigation of child abuse. A number of actions are presently being considered in relation to some of the other recommendations aimed at ensuring that the Police Service of Northern Ireland comply with each and every one of the inquiry recommendations.

Victoria Climbié was let down by the police, the health service and by social services and that has implications for policing right across the United Kingdom, but we have to ask ourselves, what are the implications directly for the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

I have identified four that I think are the priorities.

First of all, we must put child protection at the very top of our policing priorities. That includes regional policing priority for the full policing plan, local policing priority, as far as the District Command Units are concerned, and I would suggest it should also be high on the Policing Board agenda. We must raise the profile of the issue by raising awareness of child protection issues, both internally within the Police Service and externally with those who we interface with.

There needs to be clear identification of where child protection should fit in our policing structure and there are discussions and deliberations going on about that at the moment. Should, for example, child protection lie at a DCU level as is the case in the Metropolitan Police at present, or should it be at headquarters level in the same sort of sense as drug squad, or some of those specialist units, those decisions have to be made and those questions must be answered.

There is also a need for an information technology system that integrates information from each of the statutory agencies, social services, health, police and any other agency who impacts or interacts with children and that might include education. There should be clear, easily available information in relation to any concern about children, or particularly in relation to abuse of children.

The fourth priority is one of accommodation. We suggest that accommodation in relation to child protection and the whole area of child protection should not be tagged onto general policing but should be part of a carefully planned arrangement and resource provision.

In conclusion, I would say that the Victoria Climbié inquiry report provides us with a valuable opportunity to reconsider the issue of child protection here in Northern Ireland and provides recommendations on how we can meet our

child protection responsibilities. As a Child Protection Officer, I would ask that you ensure this issue is not allowed to become obscured by other pressing policing needs and business, but that it is given the priority that it so much deserves.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Thank you very much for that very clear presentation. I should say to members of the public that upon receipt of this report, the Chairman on behalf of the Board wrote to the PSNI asking them what they were doing about the recommendations and thus you have the presentation today.

We will now move to questions. Mrs McCabe has a question on absenteeism.

Mrs Pauline McCabe:

Chief Constable, firstly we would like to welcome the progress that has been made on reducing police sickness absence which is very encouraging. We previously asked you about steps being taken to improve support staff sickness absence. We note that over the last three months, support staff sickness absence has been on average 6.7% working days lost per month and if in fact we look at police absence and exclude injury on duty, it is actually running at a lower figure of 5.7%.

It seemed to us that it was an important issue at this time. Firstly, because as part of our civilianisation programme we are currently reviewing all our civilian posts because we have to fund internally at least half of the posts that we are recruiting, the rest of them coming from Patten on severance. Secondly, we are conscious that over a three year period we are bringing 650 new civilians into the organisation, so the culture they come into and the standards that we set are obviously very important. We are also very conscious that this is not the job of the HR department that all of the police managers and civilian managers who have responsibility for civilian staff, that at the end of the day this is their responsibility, so we really wanted to get your views on this and to

see whether you feel that the level of priority that those managers are giving to it is sufficient?

Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:

Although it is not a human resources responsibility, I will ask Joe Stewart to explain in detail. In broad terms I think your observations on police sickness are gratefully received. We are now down this week to 649, substantially down from over 1,000 about a year ago. That shows that local devolvement of the power works and I think to a large extent the civilian side of our organisation, our civilian support colleagues, is very much work in progress, going along the same lines of reinforcing the message that this applies across the board. I will ask Joe to give some of the details and it is quite a positive story to be told.

Senior Director of Human Resources, Mr Joe Stewart

Chairman and Members, as far as civilian staff is concerned, we are as focused on that now as we have been on helping to find methodology to reduce police absenteeism.

The public service has very generous sick pay schemes and I am well aware that they are there to protect those who need protection and support, but there is a scope for abuse. What we are focusing on is getting greater attention on civilian absentees in the District Command Units and Headquarters Units, where, as you rightly indicated, ultimately responsibility lies. What we are about to do, is to launch on 7 July 2003, a joint civilian/police attendance policy. It will be a unified policy which will emphasis focus on support staff and police staff.

We have introduced case conferencing. We have restructured Occupational Health to provide named staff to provide each District Command Unit. We have held conferences with DCU command to discuss attendance issues both police and civilian and illustrate the nature and causes of absenteeism

and what can be done about it. We have held focus groups with all levels of staff, workshops for the stakeholders and we are now working on a detailed statistic analysis of individual causes of absence. We have plans to extend the occupational health service, produce more detailed information on a more regular basis about the natures and trends of civilian absence and begin specific targeting of identified causes of absence. We are doing some proactive work on stress management, which is partly responsible for a small percentage of the absenteeism.

One of the things we have not been able to do up until July of this year, is to use a direct referral method from DCUs direct to the Occupational Health Unit because the IT system has not been available to support it. Now, with the rollout of common terminals and a reconfiguration of our civilian staff software packages, DCU Commanders will be able to do direct referrals to Occupational Health.

You have mentioned police absence declining. One of the main factors we believe is the introduction of a direct referral system, which means that those who require attention or remedial treatment and assistance, are getting it much more quickly than was able before. I would expect to see an improvement in the absenteeism of civilian staff. I think it also should be borne in mind, that the composition of our civilian support staff is different in nature to that of police staff. There is a different age profile and different gender profile and all of these things play into the overall pattern, but we are alive to it and very keen to see it improve.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Mr McFarland has a question relating to the 'claims culture'.

Mr Alan McFarland:

Chief Constable, it was reported and you may have seen it in the Sunday Independent newspaper recently, how the Garda authorities have paid out over €7million in the last five years to settle complaints against individual officers. These relate to wrongful arrests, illegal searches, damage to property, trauma etc. It is of huge concern to the Board, that our own costs are running at £1.8 million per annum and that indeed there seems to be in the recent past a 'claims culture' having gathered, and that of cases concluded for example in 2002/2003, we only actually contested about 6% of those cases, which seems very low. Legal fees I think two years ago were £1.78 million, this is separate and last year £1.29 million. Can I ask whether you propose to take any action to reduce these costs?

Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:

We are always taking action to reduce the costs. In terms of legal fees, it is welcome news that they are dropping quite substantially between this year and last year. The harsh reality is that there still is a 'claims culture'. Where we have to get it right is by getting it right first time, we minimise the opportunity to those who seek to sue us for the interaction they have had with our officers. There is a lot of work going on in relation to learning from the cases where we have lost or where we have paid out.

You rightly identified the issue of arrest as being one of the key issues. It is often not the unlawfulness of the arrest, it is the amount of time people are detained post arrest, which is where we have been found wanting. There are not a lot of unlawful arrests per se going on in Northern Ireland, what the debate quite often is around is how long the people were kept. It is very much linked to human rights legalisation which has become a big industry in terms of holding the public sector to account and not just the police service.

In terms of what my Director of Legal Services has started, we do seek independent legal advice on cases that we think we can contest and we take that advice. You identified that the legal costs quite often almost mirror the

actual payments in compensation, so sometimes harsh economic decisions have to be made in terms of our liability, because it is a cheaper way of dealing with the case. There are very good reasons for tackling those cases which we feel we can properly defend and we do so where the legal advice says we have a decent chance of winning.

It is quite interesting that recently we have been far more successful at industrial tribunals, which again have an impact on our budget. We are fighting on average twelve cases per month through the courts so we are not rolling over and becoming a soft option, we are sending a very clear message. I think equally if we do get things wrong and a rapid conclusion can be bought then we should frankly admit our mistakes, but equally learn from them.

The new computerised station that we are now benefiting from and Joe has just mentioned in his previous reply, does now enable our legal services to very quickly send cases, lessons learned if you like, to all District Commanders when we have cases where observations are made so we make sure our practices are right. Equally, all the learning is now fed into the training, the TED strategy, to make sure that if there are learning issues we make sure our custody officers are fully aware of what makes them vulnerable.

There are some hard cases that we can now track through to show that we have learned. It has gone into the training system and we are therefore preventing these cases, in particular, length of detention, access to solicitors, those sorts of things happening in the future. So we are very much alive to it. I think it would be unrealistic to think that we can reduce this to zero. We can continue to try and drive it down but the culture in the human rights legalisation does make us quite an easy target for people.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Mr Foster has a question relating to public gatherings and marches.

Mr Sam Foster:

Chief Constable, in the interest of equity and traditions treated equally and that the law prevails throughout the land, can you inform the Board if the organisers of every demonstration, procession and gathering which takes place in a nationalist or republican area of Northern Ireland, which infringes upon the free flow of movement upon the Queen's Highway, ever give the statutory notice according to law, to the PSNI or the Parades Commission of their intention to so activate such activity. If not, what subsequent action is taken by the law enforcement authority of our land?

Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:

I think I will ask ACC Duncan McCausland to deal with some of the detail. As an overview, all parades by definition do cause some interference to the highway, whoever is marching. If you look at it in the context of Northern Ireland, well over two and a half thousand marches per annum. We always find ourselves in the difficult position of balancing peoples rights, in particular I suppose under 9, 10, 11 of Human Rights Act to move, associate and express their views with those who also want to get on with their ordinary lives. I know there is a system in place, it is enshrined in legalisation as you are fully aware, the Public Procession Act, Northern Ireland 1998. The overwhelming majority of processions not only pass of peacefully, but pass of in accordance with the law with proper notification and people taking notice of any determinations made by the Parades Commission. But it is not universal, there are a small minority that do operate outside the law and when that does happen we do take action and if Duncan wants to give a little more detail on some specific examples.

Assistant Chief Constable, Mr Duncan McCausland:

Very briefly Chairman, the Chief Constable has already mentioned the legislation, the notification for all parades must be provided in the appropriate statutory manner at least

28 days in advance of the proposed parade. Any late submissions must include the reasons for the delay. Applications are sent to the Parades Commission and a copy to all Parades Liaison Officers in each of the districts. The Parades Commission meets on a weekly basis and issues determinations where necessary for any contentious parades, or decides on any late submissions. Failure to provide the required notification means the parade is deemed illegal. Where the parade is deemed illegal, police advise the parade organisers of this fact and that they, the organisers, as well as the participants are liable to prosecution. Where an illegal parade takes place and the police are aware of its occurrence, the facts are reported to the Director of Public Prosecutions. It would be fair to say, in answer to the Member's question, that there are a number of cases currently with the Director of Public Prosecutions in relation to illegal parades.

Mr Sam Foster:

Chairman, just to come back, I just wanted to get some more confirmation on that because I think that some illegal parades have taken place in Fermanagh fairly recently, sort of spontaneous gatherings which have blocked the Queen's Highway and no action has been taken against them that I am aware of.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Can you take note of that?

Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:

Yes, we certainly can, we cannot police what we do not know, I suppose is the first observation. There are cases currently going through in advance stages of preparation that will be put to the DPP in terms of ones where we were aware and we did take action, we did get evidence, we did gather evidence, we did warn people and those will go to the Director for a decision.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Some questions now relating to the Stevens Report, Mr Attwood.

Mr Alex Attwood:

Chief Constable, there are two questions. Firstly, arising from the May public session of the Board meeting, could you indicate whether it is your intention to come back to the Board in July, outlining proposals in respect of the Stevens and Crompton Reports and outlining what you referred to in May as challenging timescales for the implementation of those outcomes of the Stevens and Crompton Reports?

Secondly, given that Stevens is now continuing to investigate certain matters, could you confirm that in relation to his continuing and future investigations that Sir John Stevens will, as in the past, be reporting to the Chief Constable of the PSNI in relation to those matters and that the funding for those further investigations are, as in the past, being provided from within the resources of the PSNI?

Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:

In relation to the first question, the short answer is yes. The agreement last month was that we would come to the Board in July and that is exactly what I intend to do, that does not mean that nothing has been going on. A substantial amount of work is underway and the timescales are challenging, the next major debate being taken forward as early as tomorrow, so yes that will be the case. I am not currently in any mind other than to come to the Board in July with that plan in place.

In terms of the second question, in terms of the Stevens 3, until Stevens 3 ends I see no change in the agreement, that was the terms of reference agreed by my colleague before me, Sir Ronnie Flanagan. The funding of it, you are right, comes from the police budget here. The investigation is reporting to me, that is how it is and that is how it will stay, I see no change in that under the Stevens 3 Terms of Reference.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

A more micro question relating to the Stevens Report, Mr McFarland.

Mr Alan McFarland:

Chief Constable, you will be aware this week that the first case arising out of Stevens has reached the courts. We have an alleged loyalist murderer, Mr Barrett who has appeared in court and has been remanded in custody. You will also be aware of the recently published government proposals on 'on the run' alleged republican terrorists and murderers. The system appears to be, or will be, that they will have an immediate release on bail, they will not have to appear in court in person and if found guilty will be released under licence. As guardian of the law in Northern Ireland, is it fair that different systems may exist for alleged loyalists and alleged republican murders?

Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:

I am guardian of the law in the sense that I am charged with enforcing the law and that is exactly what that Stevens team is doing. In terms of the first case, as a matter of accuracy, it is not the first case that the Stevens team has put before the court and people have already been convicted under Stevens 3 for terrorist offences. Mr Barrett was arrested by the Stevens team recently which, as a matter for public record, he is now currently going through the Court Service, so I certainly will not comment on individual cases.

Government proposals for 'on the run' are, simply, a matter for Government. My officers and I have to enforce the law as it currently stands and as it currently stands, a person suspected of murder must go through the legal system, I have no intention of stepping outside the law.

On a slightly wider point, I have made a number of observations publicly recently, which are all about how we deal effectively with history, to enable my officers to police the future. It is a simple fact that the number of officers I am currently deploying on historic murder investigations is getting to a stage where it is critical, in the sense it is preventing me investigating current crime, which is far more pressing for the current communities in Northern Ireland. So we are coming to a stage where some hard decisions are going to have to be made.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Mr Wilson has a follow up question to that of Mr McFarland.

Mr Sammy Wilson:

Chief Constable, after we had listened to the report from Stevens, I asked you to look at the implications of leaks from the Stevens enquiry, especially the way in which it had compromised a number of people who may have been intelligence sources and the effect

that that was likely to have on the ability to recruit intelligence sources in the future. You indicated that you had no evidence of that to me, in a letter. Perhaps you would like to comment on how you came to that conclusion and what enquiries or investigations had been made?

Secondly, in light of the way in which the arrest and the arrival of Mr Barrett into Northern Ireland, almost like a trophy by the Stevens team, where the media were briefed as to when he would be arriving and on what plane, so that they could be there, are you still of the opinion that the Stevens team does not leak and therefore does not, in any way, comprise the intelligence gathering operations in Northern Ireland?

Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:

In terms of the issues around Stevens and the press, I do not want to talk about particular intelligence issues in a public forum. There is an awful lot going round in the press at the moment that certainly cannot be attributed to the Stevens team and can be attributed to other security sources talking about a number of particular individuals and naming them as informants. It has become a worrying trend frankly, because it does not help in terms of intelligence gathering generally and it does not help in terms of individuals rights under Article 2, whatever their backgrounds.

In terms of the arrest of Mr Barrett, he was arrested in England, that was where he happened to be when they arrested him, he did come to Northern Ireland. In terms of how the press got to see him coming out of the airport I do not know and I will have a look into it, if that is what you want me to do.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Mr Wilson, do you have another question?

Mr Sammy Wilson:

Chief Constable, some time ago you raised the resource shortage that you had with the Board, specifically in relation to the way in which the exodus of police officers from the police had caused a difficulty when it came to detectives. The Board was sympathetic and

indeed we took quick action to make representation so that, included in the Police Bill could be amendments to the Police Act to include a provision for the recruitment of officers from other parts of the United Kingdom, without requiring the 50/50 rule to be applied. To date, as far as I know and maybe you will correct me, we have had no application from the police to recruit such detectives. Is that because the detective shortage has now disappeared or is it because the police are having some difficulty internally in making arrangements to make application to us, or will we expect an application to the Board soon? Given the fact that crime is rising in many of the DCUs and Commanders are saying that one of the problems in dealing with crime is a shortage of detectives, can we expect quick action on this?

Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:

The short answer again is yes you can. The ink is dry now on the Police Bill, but it is not that dry. It is extremely helpful that it does give me the opportunity to come to the Board and ask to select people due to a skills loss. We do have a gap in skills in detectives. We have 160 of our own officers currently being trained and that will take some time. I have already spoken to Joe Stewart and we will be looking to come to the Board with an application in the very near future. It is simply a matter of making

sure we get the numbers right and comply with the Bill which is slightly more specific, so when we do come to the Board we have a proper story to tell and all the details that you will need to make that decision, but it is sooner rather than later.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Mr Byrne with the final question.

Mr Joe Byrne:

Chief Constable, you will be aware that the Board today has ratified the decision to extend invitations for the new Police Training College to beyond the 45 mile limit in Northern Ireland. Can I take it that the police will welcome applications from throughout Northern Ireland?

Secondly, given that the Chilcot Report is charged with examining all the issues relating to the Castlereagh break-in and the implications, in relation to counter intelligence matters, does the senior management of the PSNI want to maintain and sustain the position of policing primacy in relation to security matters regarding the whole area of policing paramilitary controlled activities, given their great influence on organised crime here.

Can the Chief Constable publicly state the considered wisdom of the PSNI in what are the implications of the Chilcot Report for policing here in the future, particularly regarding different categories or classifications of intelligence and how that relates to counter intelligence work?

Chief Constable, Mr Hugh Orde:

I will deal with Chilcot and I will ask my Deputy, Paul Leighton to deal with the Police Training College as he leads on it.

First of all, as a matter of clarification, the Chilcot Report is not one commissioned by the Police Service Northern Ireland, it was commissioned by Government and it reports to Government. I am aware of the relevant parts in relation to my organisation which was the security review which we have briefed the Board on. If you need a further briefing, I am sure Duncan would certainly help and be prepared to

give one, but it is around target hardening and making sure that the situation that arose in Castlereagh does not happen again and that is very much underway, I chair the user group myself.

In terms of the wider issues around Chilcot, well, I cannot comment on Chilcot but in terms of policing, the Police Service of Northern Ireland is responsible for policing. I am also responsible for national security and at the moment that is exactly the situation and until someone tells me different, we will continue to police Northern Ireland in the way we are policing it.

Reference earlier was made to crime rising in some areas, crime is also dropping in some areas and intelligence led policing at the district end of the business is moving forward a pace with superb results, because we are now using our officers more efficiently and we are targeting the areas where the crime is being committed. It is not universal yet, but it is certainly moving in the right direction, so I am very confident about that. We need the intelligence and we do recognise the complexity around criminals and terrorists and the crossover, which is why currently we do have clear intentions to review our major crime investigation strategy to make sure that we can be as successful at the organised end of the business as some of our districts are being at the less organised, lower level side of the business.

Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Paul Leighton:

In respect of the Training College, just to confirm, yes we have made a decision in the Project Board that we would like to extend to the whole of Northern Ireland the invitation to tender and that will go out. The reason for that decision is very simply, that we are delighted to note that there are expressions of interest from all over the province with regards to the Police Training College. We thought it was fair that the invitation should be extended to the whole province.

Chairman, Professor Desmond Rea:

Could I say thank you to the Chief Constable and his colleagues, in particular

Detective Chief Inspector McCauley, the CARE Coordinator for the presentation in respect of Lord Laming's enquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié. Could I also say thank you to the members of the public and the media for their attention today.