

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 9:30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
- Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)
- Ms Martina Anderson
- (1) Mr Tom Buchanan
- Mr Leslie Cree
- (2) Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson
- (3) Mrs Dolores Kelly
- Mr Alex Maskey
- (4) Mr Basil McCrea
- Mr Daithí McKay
- Ms Mary McKee
- (5) Mr Gearóid Ó hEára
- Mr Brian Rea
- Mr Trevor Ringland
- (6) Mr David Rose
- Mr Suneil Sharma
- (1) Mr Peter Weir

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (7) Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
- (7) Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)
- (7) Mrs Judith Gillespie (ACC Rural Region)
- (7) Mr Peter Sheridan (ACC Crime Operations)
- (7) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Criminal Justice)
- (7) Mr Alistair Finlay (ACC Crime Support)
- (7) Ms Sinead McSweeney (Director of Media and Communications)
- (7) Mr Joe Stewart (Director of Human Resources)
- (7) Ms Donna Scott, PSNI Legal Adviser
- (7) Chief Superintendent Bill Woodside, Urban Region
- (7) Chief Inspector, Command Secretariat
- (7) 5 PSNI personnel

- OFFICE OF THE POLICE OMBUDSMAN FOR NORTHERN IRELAND:**
- (8) Mrs Nuala O'Loan, Police Ombudsman
 - (8) Mr Sam Pollock, Chief Executive
 - (8) Mr John Larkin, Senior Director of Investigations
 - (8) 1 OPONI official
- HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISOR:**
- (9) Ms Jane Gordon
- OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**
- Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
 - Dr Debbie Donnelly (Deputy Chief Executive)
 - (1) Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)
 - (10) Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Engagement)
 - (11) Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
 - Mrs Sinead Simpson (Director of Policy)
 - 4 Board Officials

- (1) Except item number 18
- (2) Item numbers 4, 5, 7 and 15
- (3) Item number 4 to close
- (4) Except item numbers 1 to 3.4 and 18
- (5) Item numbers 1 to 5, 7 and 15
- (6) Except item numbers 1 to 3.4
- (7) Item 15 only
- (8) Item 18 only
- (9) Item 9.3 only
- (10) Except item numbers 8 to 12 and 18
- (11) Except item numbers 8 to 13 and 18

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Mrs Rosaleen Moore. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE POLICING BOARD

Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 5 July 2007

The Board considered the draft minutes of the meeting and made 2 amendments:-

2.1.1 Item 6.1.1 – Briefings On Crime Operation Issues

- to include a sentence “the Sinn Fein Members recorded their opposition to the mechanism”;
- to amend the second bullet point from “by ACC Crime Operations, with the Director” to read “by ACC Crime Operations, supported by the Director”.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 5 July 2007 be approved.

2.2 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting In Public Held On 5 July 2007

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting in public held on 5 July 2007 be approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

3.1 New Police College (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive referred Members to a paper that provided an overview and chronology of the new police college project. NOTED.

The Vice Chairman of the Board gave a verbal update of the current position regarding the College Programme Board involving the PSNI, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Northern Ireland Prison Service. NOTED.

3.2 Historical Enquiries Team (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials informed Members that a further letter had been sent to NIO seeking information regarding the scope of the proposed review of the Historical Enquiries Team (HET). Officials advised that terms of reference for the review were being considered by the PSNI and the Police Ombudsman (OPONI) and that once these were drafted, NIO would forward the terms of reference for the review to the Board for comment. NOTED.

The Chairman informed Members that he had received a letter from the Director of the HET advising that any Member interested in seeing HET operations at first hand was welcome to visit Sprucefield. The Chairman asked any Members who were interested in visiting the HET to contact Secretariat. NOTED.

3.3 RUC GC Foundation (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive informed Members that a decision was awaited from the Secretary of State concerning the appointment of Trustees of the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Foundation. NOTED.

3.4 Meeting With The Chairman Of The Parades Commission And PSNI (Item 4.7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman informed Members that the issue of concern regarding the PSNI and the Parades Commission referred to at the previous meeting had been resolved and that the need for the proposed meeting between the Chairman of the Board, the Chairman of the Parades Commission and PSNI had not been required. NOTED.

The Chairman suggested that it would be useful for the Board to meet with the Parades Commission at a future date.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Board's Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee should consider the arrangement of a meeting with the Parades Commission.

3.5 Research Support For Political Members Of The Board (Item 6.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive confirmed that a submission had been made to the Secretary of State requesting the provision of research support to assist Members of the Board in carrying out their duties as Board Members. A response was awaited from the NIO. NOTED.

3.6 Policing Board Meetings In Public – Questions From Members Of The Public Attending Board Meetings/Locations And Timings Of Meetings (Item 6.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive informed Members that following the resolutions made by the Board at its meeting in July 2007, arrangements had been made for the October 2007 Board meeting to be held in Bangor, with the private session starting at 4pm and the Board meeting in public from 7 – 8:30pm. NOTED.

The Deputy Chief Executive informed Members that, with regard to the resolution to hold one or 2 public meetings in each year to take questions from members of the public and listen to community concerns and views on policing, that it was planned to hold such a meeting before Christmas 2007. The Chief Constable had confirmed that he was content to participate in such meetings. Proposals would be brought to the next Board meeting regarding the date, venue and theme of the meeting. NOTED.

Members discussed the theme and officials were asked to further consider the topic of the Community Engagement Programme, a number of Members also suggested that the topic of ethnic minorities could be included in the overall theme.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials should prepare proposals for the next meeting.

3.7 Membership Of Board Committees (Item 12 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive informed Members that Mr Leslie Cree had agreed to serve on the Audit and Risk Management Committee. NOTED.

The Chief Executive advised Members that no volunteers had come forward to replace Ms Mary McKee on the Human Resources Committee. He indicated that the Committee could continue to work effectively with its current membership and that the matter would be kept under review. NOTED.

3.8 Oversight Of Covert Policing Matters (Item 14.1 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials informed Members that they were awaiting a copy of the protocols referred to at the Assembly and Executive Review Committee and that the matter would be progressed once these were received. NOTED.

3.9 Minutes Of The Policing Board

A Member referred to a perceived lack of consistency in the minuting of the previous meeting in relation to the inclusion of Members names and their opposition to Board decisions.

The Chief Executive advised the Board that it had been previous practice to identify a Member in the minutes only when the Member specifically asked for this to be recorded. It had been normal practice not to record the name of individual Members in respect of their agreement or opposition to decisions made at Board or Committee meetings.

It was:-

AGREED:

That:-

- the Chief Executive should consult with the leaders of the political parties on the Board and with independent Members regarding this matter; and
- that subsequent to this discussion, a paper should be brought to a future meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee regarding the minuting of Members names.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

The Chairman highlighted the following engagements which he had undertaken on behalf of the Board:-

- meeting with Victims and Survivors Trust – Belfast – 19 July 2007;
- meeting with Polish Vice Consul – Belfast – 27 July 2007;
- meeting with Students from USA – Belfast – 29 August 2007;
- opening of Michaelmass sittings of Royal Courts of Justice – Belfast – 5 September 2007.

NOTED.

4.2 Publications

The Chairman highlighted the following publications that had been received:-

- Independent Assessor of Military Complaints Procedures in Northern Ireland – 14th Annual Report – 1 January – 31 December 2006;
- Research and Statistical Bulletin 6/2007: ‘Public Attitudes Towards Sex Offenders in Northern Ireland – NIO;
- Experiences of Domestic Violence Findings from the 2005 Northern Ireland Crime Survey – NIO;
- Criminal Cases Review Commission Annual Report and Accounts 2006/07;
- Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 31 March 2007 – Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland;
- Information Pack – Forum for action on substance abuse;
- Annual Report - 25 September 2006 – 31 March 2007 – Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Ombudsman.

NOTED.

4.3 Correspondence

The Chairman informed Members that the following correspondence had been received:-

- letter dated 5 July 2007 from PSNI regarding Registered Sex Offenders;
- letter dated 16 July 2007 from British Irish Rights Watch regarding TASERS;
- letter dated 17 July 2007 from PSNI regarding Home Office Consultation – Counter Terrorism Bill.

Sinn Fein Members stated that they could not support all of the views expressed by the Chief Constable in his response to the consultation. The consultation and the Chief Constable’s response were noted;

- letter from NIO regarding the end of the military operation in Northern Ireland;
- letter dated 29 August 2007 from Police Ombudsman regarding an assault by a Police Officer at Strand Road, Londonderry on 4 February 2005.

NOTED.

4.4 News Releases

The Chairman highlighted the following news releases:-

- Minister Announces Transitional Arrangements For Security Industry – NIO – 26 July 2007;
- We're Taking Away More Criminal Assets – Goggins – Organised Crime Task Force – 30 July 2007;
- Conflict Transformation In Loyalist Areas – Farset Youth & Community Development – 3 August 2007;
- Irish News Article - 2 June 2007.

NOTED.

4.5 Invitation To Meet With Disabled Police Officers Association

The Chairman informed the Board that Members had been invited to meet with the Disabled Police Officers Association (DPOA) at their offices at Seapark. He asked any Members who were interested to contact the Secretariat. NOTED.

4.6 Meetings With The Strategic Review Of Parades Panel

The Chairman asked all Members to advise Secretariat of their availability to meet with the Strategic Review of Parades Panel on 15 October 2007 at 4:30/5pm. NOTED.

4.7 Media Coverage Of Police Ombudsman For Northern Ireland Re-Investigation Of Controversial Killings

The Chairman advised the Board that he had written to the Police Ombudsman to clarify the nature of her investigation of the alleged "shoot to kill" policy and that he had received a detailed response. He reminded Members that the Ombudsman would join the Board meeting later in the day and noted that this was one of the issues she might address and which Members might wish to discuss. NOTED.

4.8 Away Day for the Development of Northern Ireland Policing Board Corporate Plan 2008 – 2011

The Chairman referred to an Away Day which had been held for Members in Belfast on 30 August 2007 regarding the Development of the Board's Corporate Plan 2008 – 2011. He stated that this was a useful event and thanked officials for their work in this regard.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 District Command Unit Accountability Meetings

The Chief Executive outlined the background to the regular accountability meetings which Assistant Chief Constables had with their District Command Units. He advised the Board that Members were welcome to attend these meetings and that the schedule of dates would be circulated to all Members in due course. NOTED.

5.2 Complaint Against The Board

The Chief Executive reminded Members about a complaint which had been made against the Board and was currently the subject of an industrial tribunal. He advised that in parallel with the matter being dealt with by the Industrial Tribunal, the complainant had also made allegations to the PSNI relating to a criminal matter concerning the Board. The PSNI had investigated the allegations and had prepared a file for the Public Prosecution Service. Following consideration of the papers in the case, the Public Prosecution Service had decided that there were no grounds for prosecution. NOTED.

5.3 Delays In Security Clearance

The Board considered a letter forwarded to the Chief Executive by ACC Criminal Justice concerning delays in the processing of security clearances by PSNI, for government and other agencies. NOTED.

A Member queried whether the content of the letter could be passed on to other interested parties. The Chief Executive undertook to obtain clarification and advise Members accordingly.

A Member indicated that he would consider raising the matter with the Chief Constable at a future Board meeting. NOTED.

5.4 Board Staffing Arrangements

The Chief Executive informed Members that Mrs Sinead Simpson, Director of Policy would be leaving the Board for a 12 month period on secondment. Mrs Simpson was being replaced for the secondment period by Mr Peter Gilleece. NOTED.

The Chairman and Members paid tribute to the exemplary standard of work carried out by Mrs Simpson throughout her period of service with the Board.

The Chief Executive also informed Members that Mr Sam Hagen, Director of Corporate Services, had been successful in a recent appointment board and would shortly be leaving the Board. Arrangements were in hand to find a replacement. The Chairman paid tribute to his quiet effectiveness and efficiency NOTED.

5.5 Members' Training And Development Requirements

The Chief Executive reminded Members who had not returned the questionnaire issued in July 2007 regarding training and development requirements to do so. A training event had been provisionally scheduled for Members for the afternoon of 10 October 2007. NOTED.

5.6 Conference - Understanding Terrorism In The UK

The Chief Executive gave Members details of a conference to be held in London on 25/26 September 2007 entitled "Understanding Terrorism in the UK". Any Member interested in attending the conference was asked to contact Secretariat. NOTED.

5.7 Invitation To Dinner Hosted By The Secretary Of State

The Chief Executive advised the Board about a dinner which the Secretary of State planned to host for Members in Hillsborough Castle on 22 October 2007 at 6:30pm for 7pm. The Secretary of State will formally write to Members in due course. NOTED.

5.8 Association Of Police Authorities - National Representative Roles

The Chief Executive outlined the background to an invitation for Members to apply for Association of Police Authorities National Representative Roles, any Member wishing to participate was asked to contact the Secretariat. NOTED.

6. CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

6.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee Held On 19 July 2007

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee held on 19 July 2007.

6.2 Monitoring Of Blakey, Crompton And Stevens 3

Members considered a paper regarding the future monitoring process for the outstanding recommendations in the Blakey, Crompton and Stevens 3 reports as outlined by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC). The HMIC's conclusions were as follows:-

- (1) HMIC recommended that a pre-requisite for selection to Special Branch* should be evidence of investigative experience;

- (2) HMIC recommended that the PSNI should carry out a full review of all its methods and processes of exhibit management;
- (3) HMIC recommended:-
 - the employment of civilian staff at DCU level to manage all property issues;
 - the improvement of property storage facilities at DCU level;
 - the introduction of a regional/central exhibit store; and
 - the provision of suitable facilities for handling hazardous material.
- (4) HMIC recommended that the monitoring of monthly profiles as a means of screening forensic submissions should cease and that an alternative means of managing the budget should be sought.

**This recommendation was made prior to the establishment of Crime Operations Department.*

HMIC's conclusion was, that recommendation 1 was not likely to move to a point where he could recommend "sign off" for a protracted period of time and he recommended that the ongoing oversight required should be monitored directly by the Board. Recommendations 2, 3 and 4 have been subsumed by the Joint CJINI/HMIC Review of Scientific Support Services within PSNI. HMIC recommended that future monitoring and updates on progress should be by way of joint implementation reports undertaken with the CJINI and reported to the Board and the Chief Constable by a separate process.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the future monitoring arrangements recommended by HMIC were accepted by the Board.

During discussion of this item, a Member requested copies of the Blakey, Crompton and Stevens 3 reports. The Chief Executive informed Members that the reports had not been previously circulated and that he would seek clearance to circulate the reports.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

7.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Community Engagement Committee Held On 16 August 2007

The Chair of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined the Committee discussions/recommendations:-

- 7.1.1 Response To NIO Draft Code Of Practice On The Appointment Of Independent Members And Belfast District Policing Partnership Sub-Groups** (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)
- 7.1.2 Revised Code Of Practice On The Functions And Responsibilities Of The District Policing Partnerships And Belfast District Policing Partnership Sub-Groups** (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)
- 7.1.3 Allowances For Members Of Belfast District Policing Partnerships And Belfast District Policing Partnership Sub-Groups** (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)
- 7.1.4 District Policing Partnerships Members' Attendance** (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)
- 7.1.5 District Policing Partnerships Effectiveness – Key Performance Indicators** (Item 14 Of Minutes Refers)
- 7.1.6 Policing With The Community – PSNI Report** (Item 16 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman of the Committee highlighted the briefing received from ACC Criminal Justice regarding the development of a framework for the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement Committee held on 16 August 2007.

7.2 Response To NIO Draft Code Of Practice On the Appointment Of Independent Members Of District Policing Partnerships And Belfast District Policing Partnership Sub-Groups

The Community Engagement Committee had considered a draft response to the NIO's consultation on the Code of Practice on the Appointment of Independent Members to DPPs and Belfast DPP Sub-Groups at its meeting on 16 August 2007. The Committee recommended that the Board should send a response to the Minister of State. Members considered a draft response prepared by officials following the discussion at the Committee meeting.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft response to the NIO's draft Code of Practice on the Appointment of Independent Members of DPPs and Belfast DPP Sub-Groups should be forwarded to the NIO.

7.3 Revised Code Of Practice On The Functions and Responsibilities Of The District Policing Partnerships (DPP) And Belfast District Policing Partnership Sub-Groups

The Community Engagement Committee at its meeting on 16 August 2007 had considered a revised Code of Practice on the functions and responsibilities of DPPs. The revised Code amended the earlier version, issued in draft form in 2006. The current Code of Practice continued to remain in draft form as the NIO had not agreed with the wording in paragraph 5.3 "the formation of multi agency partnerships". The Community Engagement Committee had considered this and were firmly of the view that the current wording in paragraph 5.3 should be retained in the draft Code.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Board should commence a formal consultation with key stakeholders on the revised DPP Code of Practice on the functions and responsibilities of DPPs.

7.4 Allowances For Members Of Belfast District Policing Partnership And Belfast District Policing Partnership Sub-Groups

The Board considered a paper regarding the basis for a revision of the allowances for Members of Belfast DPP and its sub-groups, following the appointment of political Members at the political appointment date and independent Members at reconstitution date.

Following discussion:-

It was:-

RESOLVED:

- to revise the allowances for Belfast DPP and Sub-Groups in line with option 5* and an outline of the rates shown in Table 3;
- the new rates would apply from the political appointment date for Councillors and the reconstitution date for independent members.

** Option 5 allows for the non-Belfast rate to form the basis for member allowance, it provides for each member of the Belfast DPP to sit on one sub-group and it recognises the additional work element of the Belfast DPP members who also sit on a sub-group. The proportionate enhancement is based on half of the existing enhancement for members who sit on 2 sub-groups.*

Table 3: Option 5 Revised Annual Allowances for Belfast DPP and Sub-Groups

Principal DPP Members on Principal DPP plus one sub-group These rates apply regardless of the number of sub-groups a member is on:	Annual Allowances £
Chair	6900
Vice Chair	5180
Members	3450
Principal DPP Members on Principal DPP only	
Chair	5040
Vice Chair	3780
Members	2520
Belfast Sub-groups Members on sub-groups only These rates apply regardless of the number of sub-groups a member is on:	
Chair	5040
Vice Chair	3780
Members	2520

7.5 Request For Funding Towards A Firework Safety Awareness Campaign 2007

The Board considered a request for funding from the NIO towards a Firework Safety Campaign.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

Not to support the request for funding on this occasion.

7.6 Reconstitution Of District Policing Partnerships

The Deputy Chief Executive referred Members to a paper which provided background information on the reconstitution of District Policing Partnerships and the decisions required of the Board to ensure that it meets its legislative responsibilities under the Northern Ireland (St Andrew's Agreement) Act 2006. The Deputy Chief Executive also

referred Members to a paper tabled at the meeting containing an appendix which provided the political composition of each District Council and DPP on 4 September 2007 and the calculated composition using the Board's agreed method of D'Hondt. The summary analysis indicated that 23 of the 26 DPPs did not meet the political condition as their political composition did not reflect the balance of parties on the councils on 4 September 2007 and, therefore, required reconstitution.

Following discussion, the matter was adjourned to allow the political party members to discuss the matter.

Following the adjournment and further discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED:

- that 23 DPPs listed did not meet the political condition on 4 September 2007 and therefore required to be reconstituted;
- that 3 DPPs listed met the political condition on 4 September 2007 and therefore did not require to be reconstituted;
- to publish this decision and notify the Secretary of State and district councils in accordance with the legislation.

Mr Cree asked that it be recorded that he dissented from the decision.

The Board considered the wording of the letter to notify the decision.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the letter should include a paragraph stating "We, the Board, continue to desire that DPPs are as representative and inclusive of the whole community as practicable in your Council area".

8. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

8.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Meeting Held On 9 August 2007

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, a Member presented the minutes and highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined the Committee discussions/recommendations:-

8.1.1 Draft Police Support Staff (Suitability) Regulations (NI) 2007 (Item 5.1 Of Minutes Refers)

8.1.2 Consultation On The Draft Police Trainee (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2007 (Item 5.2 Of Minutes Refers)

Mr Daithí McKay referred to item 5.2 of the minutes – Consultation on the Draft Trainee (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 and indicated that he wished to record his opposition to the resolutions made by the Committee in respect of the regulations. NOTED.

8.1.3 Briefings By HMIC And PSNI Regarding PSNI Human Resources Inspection Report (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

8.1.4 Briefing By PSNI On The LINKS Project (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 9 August 2007.

8.2 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Resources (Quorum) Committee Held On 9 August 2007

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources (Quorum) Committee held on 9 August 2007.

9. HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

9.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Rights And Professional Standards Committee Held On 18 July 2007

There were no matters arising.

9.2 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Rights And Professional Standards Committee Held On 8 August 2007

The Chair of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined the Committee discussions/recommendations:-

9.2.1 Human Rights Annual Report (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 9.3.

9.2.2 TASER (Item 14 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chair of the Committee highlighted that following the June 2007 meeting of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee at which the PSNI presented a case for the purchase and use of TASER, PSNI had now indicated that they would return to the Committee on 12 September 2007 to update Members on their plans.
NOTED.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meetings of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee held on 18 July 2007 and 8 August 2007.

9.3 Policing Board 3rd Human Rights Annual Report

The Chairman referred Members to the final draft of the Board's 3rd Human Rights Annual Report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Board's Human Rights Advisors had attended the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee meeting on 8 August 2007 to advise Members on the content of the report. Following consideration of the report, the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee recommended that the Board should accept the recommendations contained within the report. Some Members indicated that they might have further issues to raise.

The Chairman welcomed one of the Board's Human Rights Advisors, Ms Jane Gordon to the meeting.

Members discussed the report. During discussion, a Member proposed that the report should be published without the recommendations and that the recommendations should be reviewed and information taken from other agencies and interested parties before their publication.

Other Members drew attention to the consideration that the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee had already given to the document and its recommendation that the Board should accept the recommendations contained within the report.

The Chairman stated that the Board is a corporate body which makes decisions on that basis. The Board is reconstituted from time to time and he recognised that new Members may not support some of the decisions of a previous Board. The Chairman advised, that if a new Member wished to revisit such decisions, that this could be done by way of a motion brought forward in accordance with Standing Orders.

Following further discussion, it was resolved by a majority vote, following a show of hands:-

RESOLVED

That the Board should accept the recommendations contained within the Human Rights Annual Report 2007.

10 RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

10.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Resources And Improvement Committee Held On 17 August 2007

The Chair of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

10.1.1 Chief Constable's Letter On PSNI End Year Figures (Item 4.1 Of Minutes Refers)

10.1.2 Northern Ireland Sheet Metal Works (Item 4.2 Of Minutes Refers)

10.1.3 Presentation – PSNI – Project Initiation Document For The PSNI Best Value Review “Protecting Vulnerable People” (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

10.1.4 Presentation – KPMG – NIPB Best Value Review “Holding The Chief Constable To Account” (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

10.1.5 PSNI Management Report On Expenditure To July 2007 (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Resources and Improvement Committee held on 17 August 2007.

11 PROGRAMME OF BOARD MEETINGS 2008

The Board considered a programme of Policing Board meetings during the period January to December 2008.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the proposed programme of Policing Board meetings in 2008 and that the dates of meetings should be as follows:-

Thursday	7 February
Thursday	6 March
Thursday	3 April
Thursday	1 May
Thursday	5 June
Thursday	3 July
Thursday	7 August (provisional date)
Thursday	4 September
Thursday	2 October
Thursday	6 November
Thursday	4 December

12 JOINT PSNI/POLICING BOARD CHRISTMAS ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

The Board considered a paper regarding the part-funding of the 2007 Christmas Anti Burglary advertising campaign.

Since 2004 the Board has part-funded, with PSNI, the campaign to encourage householders to take responsibility for reducing and preventing domestic burglary during the festive period. The total cost of the campaign will be £90,000 and it was proposed that the Board contribution should be £40,000.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

- that the Board should part-fund the 2007 Christmas Anti Burglary advertising campaign with £40,000;
- that the Board's logo should appear on all of the campaign posters.

13 INFORMATION PAPERS

13.1 Board Members Links With District Policing Partnerships

At the July 2007 meeting of the Board, it had been resolved to continue the scheme involving Board Members linking with individual DPPs. Details of the final allocation of Board Members to individual DPPs were given to all Members. NOTED.

14 COMMUNICATION ISSUES

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Board should issue a news release regarding its decision to reconstitute 23 District Policing Partnerships.

15 QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

A Member expressed concern at the contents of a written response which had been received from the Chief Constable regarding a question he had raised at the last Board meeting in relation to the security of a PSNI station. Another Member raised concern at the final sentence in relation to a letter from the PSNI on security vetting. The

Chairman undertook to raise these matters with the PSNI and advise Members accordingly.

The Chairman welcomed the Chief Constable and other PSNI representatives to the meeting.

The Board received further information in relation to:-

- compensations claims against PSNI relating to hearing loss;
- police investigations into the murder of Thomas Devlin;
- a case involving the Witness Protection Scheme;
- the police investigation into a fatal road traffic accident in Belfast in 2006;
- an industrial tribunal case involving a PSNI forensic photographer.

The Board then moved into public session and following the Board meeting in public the PSNI representatives left the meeting.

16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 4 October 2007 at 4:00pm in the Marine Court Hotel, Bangor.

18. MEETING WITH THE POLICE OMBUDSMAN FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

The Chairman welcomed the Police Ombudsman and other representatives from the Ombudsman's Office to the meeting. The Police Ombudsman welcomed the opportunity to meet with the Board and expressed disappointment at Board Members attendance at the meeting.

The Police Ombudsman gave a presentation regarding the Office's Annual Report which had been published in July 2007. During her presentation, the Police Ombudsman outlined information regarding:-

- the number of complaints and allegations which had been received by the Office;
- the Chief Constable Referrals;
- the Chief Constable Historical Referrals;
- recommendations which had been made by the Office of the Police Ombudsman to the PSNI Professional Standards Department;
- files sent and charges recommended to the Public Prosecutions Service
- community views of the Police Ombudsman's Office;
- a complaints satisfaction survey which had been undertaken by the Office of the Police Ombudsman;
- police officers' views following investigations.

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

Following the presentation the Board and representatives from the Police Ombudsman's Office discussed a number of issues including:-

- complaint trends during the current year;
- the Community's views on the role of the Office of the Police Ombudsman.
- the review of the Code of Ethics;
- referral of cases to the Public Prosecution Service and the responses which had been made by the Service;
- the Criminal Justice Inspectorate Review of the Public Prosecution Service;

- regulation 20 reports which relate to the policy and practice investigations into various PSNI policies and practices;
- the refusal of the Central Committee of the Police Federation to meet the Police Ombudsman;
- the use of firearms by PSNI Officers in inappropriate circumstances;
- high profile Cases which were being investigated by the Police Ombudsman;
- the transfer of responsibilities from PSNI to the Security Service;
- ongoing work in the Office of the Ombudsman which would continue following the appointment of a new Ombudsman in November 2007.

The Chairman thanked the Police Ombudsman and her colleagues for attending the meeting and she and her staff left the meeting.

(Meeting closed 5:15pm)

Secretariat
September 2007

Chairman