

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS & PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2007 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

Mr Basil McCrea (Chair)  
Ms Mary McKee (Vice Chair)  
Ms Martina Anderson  
Mr Gearóid Ó hEára  
Mr Suneil Sharma  
Mr Peter Weir

#### **BOARD'S HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISOR:**

(1) Ms Jane Gordon

#### **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)  
4 Board Officials

#### **POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:**

(2) Chief Superintendent, Head of Operations  
(2) 2 PSNI representatives

- (1) Item numbers 1 – 6
- (2) Item numbers 5 only

## **1. APOLOGIES, ETC**

Apologies were received from Mrs Rosaleen Moore and Mr Brian Rea. NOTED.

## **2. MINUTES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS & PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2007**

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 November 2007 be agreed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2007**

**3.1 TASER – Northern Ireland Council For Children And Young People (NICCY)**  
(Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that the legal advice received regarding TASER had been referred to the Board. NOTED.

**3.2 Attenuating Energy Projectile (AEP)** (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a chronological history for AEP as a less lethal weapon had been distributed to Members of the Committee on 16 November 2007. NOTED.

**3.3 Review Of The Provision Of Human Rights Advice** (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

This item was dealt with under item number 6.

**3.4 Amnesty International Report – Northern Ireland: Arming The World** (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that copies of the Amnesty International report had been distributed to Members. The Committee was also advised that officials had written to PSNI regarding recommendations 2, 3 and 4 and the PSNI reply would be considered under item number 9.6.

### **3.5 Questions For The Chief Constable (Item 13 Of Minutes Refers)**

The questions agreed by the Committee at the November meeting had been put to the Chief Constable at the December 2007 Board meeting. NOTED.

### **3.6 Communications Issues (Item 14 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee was advised that in future all papers would have a communications option. NOTED.

### **3.7 Presentation On Armed Response Vehicles (Item 17 Of Minutes Refers)**

This item was dealt with by way of a presentation under item number 5.

## **4. CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Launch Of Code Of Ethics**

The Committee was reminded that the PSNI Code of Ethics would be launched at the Long Gallery, Stormont on 6 February 2008. NOTED

## **5. BACKGROUND TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ARMED RESPONSE VEHICLES (ARVs)**

The Committee received a presentation by PSNI in 2 parts, on the Establishment of Armed Response Vehicles (ARVs). The first part dealt with the rationale and mechanics for ARVs. The second part dealt with training.

The PSNI Head of Operations, with the aid of slides, briefed Members on the background to the ARVs. He advised Members that the use of ARVs was a recommendation of HMIC in his review of the PSNI Use of Firearms and Less Lethal Weapons. The Head of Operations briefed the Committee on the following:-

- The rationale for ARV system in PSNI;
- The threat and risk analysis;
- The location of ARVs;
- The Human Resources implications;
- command and control;
- Implementation to service.

A copy of the slides used in this part of the presentation is attached at appendix A.

Following this part of the presentation, Members asked questions and sought clarification regarding statistics surrounding the threat and risk assessment.

Members also expressed concerns surrounding the capability gap and if there had been any discussions with the Board's Human Rights Advisors on this issue.

The second part of the presentation was delivered by an Inspector from PSNI Training Branch. With the aid of slides, the 7 week training cycle for ARV officers was described in detail. The training cycle was outlined as follows:-

<b>Week 1</b>	First Aid Method of Entry Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Education and Prevention
<b>Week 2 and 3</b>	Human Rights and Police Use of Force Command and Control Initial Negotiations Advanced Firearms Training Post Incident Procedures Judgement and Firearms Training
<b>Week 4</b>	Personal Safety Programme
<b>Week 5 and 6</b>	Tactics Module
<b>Week 7</b>	Armed Suspects on Foot Consolidation of Skills Individual and Group Assessment Final Assessment Exercise

A copy of the slides used in this part of the presentation is attached at appendix B.

Following the presentation, a discussion took place between with Board Members and the PSNI representatives. The main questions and concerns discussed were as follows:-

- Areas from which ARV officers will be recruited from, and the psychological profiling of these officers;
- how the use of ARVs would be monitored;
- training for ARV officers in light of the fact that training was identified as a weakness in the Human Rights Advisors' Annual Report;
- The timeline between receipt of a call and the actual call out.

Following the discussion:-

It was:-

**AGREED:**

- that PSNI would arrange for Members to observe the scenario based training;
- officials would obtain from PSNI, details of where the ARV officers come from within the PSNI;
- PSNI would provide Members with a copy of the training timetable;
- The Board's Human Rights Advisors would monitor the training for ARV Personnel.

## **6. REVIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING STRATEGY**

The Committee considered a paper on the review of the Human Rights Monitoring Strategy.

Members discussed the 5 different options with the Human Rights Advisor. Generally, Members considered that the 5<sup>th</sup> model was the most appropriate, however, some Members raised some concerns regarding this option in particular, the monitoring of human rights.

Following discussion, it was:-

### **RECOMMENDED:**

That the Board accept Model No 5 Hybrid – Annual Report plus the Matrix Report, with an agreement that it will be reviewed in 6 months time.

## **7. REGULATION 20 REPORT – MURDER OF MARY TRAVERS AND THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF THOMAS TRAVERS ON 8 APRIL 1984**

The Committee considered a report under Regulation 20 of the RUC (Complaints etc) Regulations 2000. The investigative report concerned allegations that the RUC protected a Special Branch informant by failing to properly investigate the murder of Mary Travers and the attempted murder of Thomas Travers on 8 April 1984. NOTED.

A Member drew attention to the Ombudsman's comments that a number of retired former police officers chose not to co-operate with the investigation. The Committee requested officials to ensure that the issue of former retired / police officers co-operating with Police Ombudsman investigations was included in the agenda for a future meeting with the new Police Ombudsman.

## **8. POLICE OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT UNDER SECTION 62 REGARDING THE MURDERS OF GERARD AND RORY CAIRNS**

The Committee considered a report under Section 62 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, into allegations that the police had not conducted an investigation into the murders of Gerard and Rory Cairns in October 1993 and that the RUC were involved. NOTED.

## **9. INFORMATION PAPERS**

The Committee noted the following information papers:-

### **9.1 UK Less Lethal Weaponry Steering Group Meeting – 21 November 2007**

The Chairman updated Members concerning a meeting of the UK Less Lethal Weaponry Steering Group and the development of a Discriminating Irritant Projectile. During discussion of the paper, the Committee requested that a copy of a table, detailing TASER usage in English and Welsh police forces which was expected to be published in the near future, should be circulated to all Members of the Committee.

### **9.2 AEPs As A Less Lethal Option In Non-Public Order Situations**

The paper informed Members of the background to the introduction of PSNI General Order 57/2007 entitled "Guidelines on AEPs as a Less Lethal Option in Non-Public Order Situations". The Committee asked officials to ensure that such General Orders be highlighted to the Committee in future.

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

That the Board's Human Rights Advisors be asked to consider PSNI General Order 57/2007 and their comments brought back to a future Committee meeting.

### **9.3 Update From Regulation 20 Review Panel Meeting**

In noting information relating to the Regulation 20 review panel meeting held on 8 November 2007, it was:-

#### **AGREED:**

That a reminder should be issued to PSNI regarding the formal response that was awaited on:-

- a fatal road traffic collision on 4 June 2005 and,
- The discharge of firearms at Glenshane Road on 24 February 2006.

### **9.4 PSNI Code Of Ethics 2008 – Consultation Update**

### **9.5 Custody Visitor Statistics For July To September 2007**

### **9.6 Response From PSNI To Amnesty International Report: Northern Ireland – Arming the World**

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

That the Committee should receive quarterly reports from PSNI relating to all outward training given by the PSNI.

### **9.7 Correspondence And Recent Press Coverage**

NOTED

## **10. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

The Chair reminded Members of discussion at the December 2007 Board meeting regarding the most efficient use of the time available for Members to put questions to

the Chief Constable. The Board had agreed that all Committees should be asked for their views. The following proposals were discussed:-

- a revised format for meetings whereby the Chief Constable was asked to report on different themes, receiving advanced notice of the theme to be discussed but not necessarily detailed questions;
- restricting the amount of time for each Member to put questions at each session, thereby reducing the overall number of questions;
- development of a 2 tier system whereby policy and strategic issues were given priority over local issues or requests for information;
- the benefits of giving priority to questions received from Committees;
- restricting the time allocations for presentations made by PSNI at the Board meeting in public;
- the circulation of questions to members of the public attending the meeting;
- allocating a specified amount of time for each Committee to put questions to the Chief Constable.

Members requested that officials draw together a paper based on the discussion for further consideration at the January 2008 Committee meeting.

## **11. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES**

The Committee requested officials to prepare a news release regarding Armed Response Vehicles (ARVs) and that it be circulated to Members in advance of publication.

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **12.1 Monitoring Of Country Of Origin Of PSNI Officers**

A Member referred to the monitoring of the religious background of PSNI officers and requested that further information be sought on the feasibility of also monitoring the country of origin of PSNI officers.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the Committee should request the Human Resources Committee to take forward the monitoring of country of origin in respect of PSNI officers.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Wednesday, 16 January 2008 at 2:00pm in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed at 12.25 pm).

**Secretariat**

**December 2007**

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**Chair**