

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2008 AT 9:30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)

Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)

Ms Martina Anderson

Mr Tom Buchanan

(1) Mr Leslie Cree

(2) Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson

Mrs Dolores Kelly

Mr Alex Maskey

Mr Basil McCrea

Mr Daithí McKay

(3) Ms Mary McKee

(4) Mrs Rosaleen Moore

Mr Gearóid Ó hÉara

Mr Brian Rea

Mr Trevor Ringland

Mr David Rose

(5) Mr Suneil Sharma

Mr David Simpson

(6) 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 Drew Harris (ACC Criminal Justice)

(7) Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Urban Region)

(7) Mr Peter Sheridan (ACC Crime Operations)

(7) Mr Roy Toner (ACC Operational Support)

(7) Mr David Best (Director of Finance and
Support Services)

(7) Mr Joe Stewart (Director of Human
Resources)

(7) Ms Gail McGreevy, A/ Head of Media &
Communications

(7) C/Inspector, Command Secretariat

(7) 2 PSNI Personnel

**POLICING BOARD
HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVISORS:**

- (8)** Mr Keir Starmer
- (8)** Ms Jane Gordon

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Trevor Reaney (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)
Three Board Officials

- (1)** Part item number 6.3 to close
- (2)** Item number 3.1.9 to part 6.3 and 14
- (3)** Item number 1 to part item 6.3, 6.4 to 6.8, part 10.3 and 14
- (4)** Item number 1 to part item 6.3, 6.4 to 6.8 and 14
- (5)** Item number 1 to part item 6.3
- (6)** Item number 1 to 6.2, part item 6.3 and part item 14
- (7)** Item number 14 only
- (8)** Except item numbers 7 – 11, 15 & 16

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

There were no apologies received. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE POLICING BOARD

2.1 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 6 December 2007

The Board considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 6 December 2007
be approved.

2.2 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting In Public Held On 6 December 2007

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting in public held on 6 December 2007 be approved.

2.3 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 3 January 2008

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 3 January 2008 be approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

3.1 Meeting Held On 6 December 2007

3.1.1 Historical Enquiries Team (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

This issue was dealt with under item 12.1.

3.1.2 Monitoring Of Blakey, Crompton & Stevens 3 Reports (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board was advised that a response had been received from the PSNI regarding the status of the Stevens Inquiry 3 Overview and that the Overview and

recommendations had been circulated to all Board Members on 31 December 2007.
NOTED.

3.1.3 Members' Training And Development (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The programme for the Briefing Session had been issued to all Members. Part 1 of the Briefing Session which had been held on 3 January 2008 had been completed. Part 2 had been postponed to facilitate a Special Board meeting on 3 January 2008 and a new date for the session was being finalised. Members would be advised of the new date in due course. NOTED.

3.1.4 Consultative Group On The Past (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)

This issue was dealt with under item 4.1.

3.1.5 TASER (Item 3.5 Of Minutes Refers)

This issue was dealt with under items 10.3 and 14.

3.1.6 Public Engagement Meetings (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)

This issue was dealt with under item 8.

3.1.7 Format Of Board Papers (Item 3.8 Of Minutes Refers)

The Director of Corporate Services reminded the Board that Officials had issued a pro-forma seeking Members' views on the format for Board papers. On the basis of the information received, papers for Board meetings would continue to be issued to Members in a loose leaf format unless individual Members indicated they wished the papers to be bound. Any Member who had not returned their pro-forma was asked to inform Secretariat of their preference. NOTED.

During consideration of this item, a Member referred to a number of papers being tabled at meetings and requested that these be kept to the absolute minimum.

3.1.8 Northern Ireland Policing Board Languages Policy (Item 3.9 Of Minutes Refers)

This issue was dealt with under item 6.8.

3.1.9 Engagements – Meeting With Surveillance Commissioner (Item 4.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive advised he had been informed by PSNI that the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act governed the management of all Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS) and that CHIS handled by the Security Service, were subject to the same standard of oversight as those handled by PSNI. He also advised that the Chief Surveillance Commissioner reported to the Prime Minister and that there was no formal method for the Commissioner to report to the Policing Board.

It was:-

AGREED:

- that ACC Crime Operations should be invited to a future meeting to update the Board in relation to CHIS and the transfer of responsibility for National Security;
- that information should be sought on whether the Anti Terrorism legislation which was currently being considered in Parliament would apply to Northern Ireland.

3.1.10 Northern Ireland Affairs Committee (NIAC) – Inquiry Into Policing And Criminal Justice In Northern Ireland (Item 5.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee had agreed a response at its January 2008 meeting to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee (NIAC) Inquiry into Policing and Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland. NOTED.

3.1.11 Proposal For A Study Visit By Board Members (Item 5.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board was advised that the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee had agreed at its January 2008 meeting that a study visit for all Members should be arranged to Edinburgh on 26 - 27 February 2008. NOTED.

A programme for the study visit was dealt with under item 5.5.

3.1.12 Research Support For Political Members (Item 7.1.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board was advised that following receipt of the CSRO7 settlement, the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee had agreed in principle at its January 2008 meeting that the Board should provide funding from its budget for research support for political Members. A paper would be prepared for the Committee in relation to funding and administrative arrangements for research support. NOTED.

3.1.13 Request For Financial Support For Legal Action (Item 7.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive informed the Board that further information had been sought in relation to a request for financial support for a legal action and when a response was received it would be brought to the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee. NOTED.

3.1.14 Future Of District Policing Partnerships And Community Safety Partnerships (Item 8.1.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board had written to the NIO regarding the review on the future of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) and Community Safety Partnerships. A response was awaited.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the response from the NIO should be expedited.

3.1.15 Briefing – Policing With The Community – ‘Seeing is Believing’ Visits (Item 8.2.1 Of Minutes Refers)

This issue was dealt with under item 8.2.

3.1.16 Reconstitution Of DPPs And Appointment Of Political Members (Item 8.2.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that a list of the names and political party of each appointee to DPPs had been circulated to Members on 12 December 2007. NOTED.

In response to a query from a Member, the Deputy Chief Executive advised the Board that guidance had been issued to DPPs regarding the election of Vice Chairs of the Partnerships both during the briefing sessions organised by the Board and in written form. NOTED.

3.1.17 The Board’s Role In The Appointment Of District Policing Partnership (DPP) Independent Members (Item 8.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Deputy Chief Executive updated the Board in relation to the establishment of Panels to appoint Independent Members to DPPs and the Sub-Groups to Belfast DPP.

Members were reminded to provide Secretariat with details of their availability to sit on the Panels. NOTED.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the schedule of dates of Panel meetings should be re-issued to Members who had not yet provided details of their availability.

3.1.18 Police Negotiating Board – Briefing Paper (Item 9.1.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that a news release had been issued on 6 December 2007 regarding the police pay award. The Human Resources Committee had considered the recommendations of the Booth II review of police pay arrangements at its meeting on 10 January 2008 and had accepted the pay award. NOTED.

3.1.19 LINKS Project – Making The Break With The Northern Ireland Civil Service
(Item 9.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board was advised that a letter had been received from the Minister of State approving the introduction of legislation to facilitate the break in the PSNI secondment arrangements with the Northern Ireland Civil Service, from 1 October 2008. NOTED.

3.2 Meeting Held On 3 January 2008

3.2.1 Judgement In The Case Of R – v –Sean Hoey – Omagh Bombing 1998 (Item 2 Of Minutes Refers)

This issue was dealt with under item 6.3.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

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

- Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland – Stakeholder Conference – Belfast – 17 January 2008;
- Dinner in honour of Kathleen H Allengrone, Director, Western European Affairs, US Department of State – Belfast – 17 January 2008;
- Association of Police Authorities Plenary Meeting – London – 23 January 2008;
- Meeting with Consultative Group on the Past – Belfast – 23 January 2008; (The Chairman and Vice Chairman met with the Group in a private capacity)
- Annual PSNI Award and Recognition Ceremony – Lunch – Cultra Manor – 29 January 2008.
- Presentation of cheque to North Belfast Suicide Support Group RAYS Crisis Centre – Belfast – 5 February 2008.
- Conference – “Taking forward the Programme for Government and Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland” –Belfast – 5 February 2008.
- Launch of PSNI Code of Ethics – Belfast – 6 February 2008.

4.2 Publications

There were no matters arising.

4.3 Correspondence

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

- letter from NIO dated 16 January 2008 regarding the Board's 3rd Annual Human Rights Report;
- card from Fachtna Murphy regarding a letter of thanks from the Board regarding his appointment as Commissioner of An Garda Siochana.

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

- letter to Chief Constable dated 22 January 2008 regarding the Financial Investigations Unit's notable success in winning the Keith Hughes Team Award for excellence in financial investigation.

4.4 News Releases

The Chairman highlighted the following news releases:-

- Theft of Laptop Computer – NIO – 21 January 2008.
- Goggins announces asset disruptons; seizures and settlements of over £13.18m in latest Assets Recovery Success – Organised Crime Task Force – 4 February 2008.

It was:-

AGREED:

That representatives from the Serious and Organised Crime Agency should be invited to meet the Corporate, Policy, Planning and Performance Committee.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Members Attendance At Meetings And Events – 30 May – 31 December 2007

The Chief Executive referred Members to a paper detailing their attendance at meetings and events during the period 30 May to 31 December 2007. He asked Members to advise Secretariat by 14 February 2008 of any inaccuracy or omission, prior to publication of the schedule on the Board's website. NOTED.

5.2 Data Handling Arrangements In Government

The Chief Executive advised the Board about data handling arrangements in Government and the position regarding the Board's Data Handling Compliance. NOTED.

5.3 Freedom Of Information Requests

The Chief Executive informed the Board about Freedom of Information (FOI) requests which had been received in relation to the attendance of Members at Board and Committee meetings and to the expenses which had been paid to Members and Staff during the past three years. NOTED.

It was:-

AGREED:

- that officials should consider whether names of applicants who requested information under FOI could be released to Members with the applicant's consent;
- that details of Members' expenses should be placed on the Board website.

5.4 Expenses Claims By Board Members

The Chief Executive reminded the Board of the need to reimburse Members' travel expenses during the current financial year and asked Members to submit any outstanding claims to Secretariat. Any Member who did not intend to submit expenses claims at present was also asked to advise Secretariat. NOTED.

5.5 Study Visit By Board Members

The Board noted details of the programme for a study visit to Edinburgh on 26 - 27 February 2008. NOTED.

It was:-

AGREED:

That officials should consider if it would be feasible for an additional study visit to be arranged for Members who were unable to attend the February 2008 visit.

5.6 Police Pay – Judicial Review

The Chief Executive informed the Board that notification had been received that the Board had been included as an interested party in an application for a Judicial Review of the determination by the Home Secretary regarding police pay. 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 13 December 2007

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee held on 13 December 2007.

6.2 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Corporate Policy, Planning And Performance Committee Held on 17 January 2008

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee held on 17 January 2008.

6.3 Terms Of Reference For Independent External Review – Omagh Bombing Investigations

The Board considered a paper in relation to feedback from a meeting on 30 January 2008 between Board Members and some families bereaved by the Omagh bombing. The paper set out issues raised by the families; the Terms of Reference for the Independent External Review of the Omagh bombing investigations; and the appointment of an independent expert(s) to undertake the review.

The Board discussed the views expressed by the families during the meeting and by the Chief Constable regarding the proposed independent external review. Members discussed other issues, including the PSNI attendance at court on the final day of the case; the ongoing civil action; and the view expressed by the families that there should be an international public inquiry. Following the debate, the consensus view of the Board was that taking forward the review was a critical element in holding the Chief Constable to account in respect of the Omagh investigation.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Board should carry out an independent external review.

The Board discussed draft Terms of Reference for the review. Following discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED:

That having regard to the Judgement of Mr Justice Weir in the case of R – v – Sean Hoey, by way of independent external review, the Board wished:-

- to review the prosecution evidence offered during the trial to determine what, if any, grounds may exist [eg. residual issues, uncontested evidence or other used or unused evidence (forensic or otherwise)] which would justify further action by the PSNI by way of prosecution process;
- to consider the various reports and recommendations arising from the deficiencies of the initial investigation; the status of the recommendations and the progress made by PSNI in developing best practice in homicide investigation and forensic evidence gathering and handling;
- in the context of the outcome of the Police Ombudsman's investigation and report into the conduct of two PSNI officers (whose evidence was adversely commented upon by Mr. Justice Weir), to consider if there are any issues – procedural, administrative or policy – which require further action;
- in the context of clarification and amplification of Mr. Justice Weir's comments inferring that "others may also have played a part", to comment on any further action which may be required; and
- to identify any lessons, not covered under the above points, which can be learned from this case by the PSNI and other agencies. [The Board recognises that other agencies are not accountable to the Board.]

The Board considered the appointment of independent expertise with the appropriate knowledge, skills and experience to carry out the review. Two named individuals who

had previously carried out work for the Board were proposed. Members discussed the assistance that would be required by the individuals.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the 2 named individuals be asked to confirm that they would undertake the review.

The Board considered the timescale and process arrangements for the review.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

- that a final report should be presented to the Board by the end of May 2008, with an interim progress report at the end of March 2008; and
- that the independent experts(s) should report to the full Board and liaise with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board as necessary during the course of the review.

During discussion, it was further:-

AGREED:

- to write to the Chief Constable regarding his non-attendance at court when the Judgement in the Hoey case was announced;
- to write to the families bereaved by the Omagh Bomb regarding the Independent External Review and to Mr Barker in response to his letter of 28 January 2008.

6.4 PSNI Powers To Suspend Officers From Duty

The Board noted the content of a paper which gave information in relation to the PSNI's powers to suspend police officers from duty.

Members discussed the Chief Constable's decision not to suspend 2 officers named by Mr Justice Weir in the case of R – v – Sean Hoey.

The Chairman outlined details of a meeting which he had attended with the Chief Constable and the Police Ombudsman on 1 February 2008 to clarify the PSNI's policy and practice in respect of the suspension or repositioning of Officers who were subject to a Police Ombudsman's investigation.

It was:-

AGREED:

That a copy of the note of the Chairman's meeting with the Chief Constable and the Police Ombudsman should be issued to all Members.

6.5 Board Representation At St Patrick's Day Celebrations – Washington 2008

The Chief Executive informed the Board about an invitation for Members to visit Washington for the St Patrick's Day celebrations.

Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

That 6 Members should represent the Board in Washington. (Chair and Vice Chair plus one representative from each of the political parties).

6.6 Final Draft – Northern Ireland Policing Board Corporate Plan 2008 - 2011

The Board considered the final draft of the Northern Ireland Policing Board Corporate Plan 2008 – 2011.

Following discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the final draft of the Board's Corporate Plan 2008 – 2011.

6.7 Questions At Board Meetings

The Board considered a paper regarding the most effective use of the opportunity to question the Chief Constable at Board meetings. The paper summarised the main points of discussion arising from Committee consideration of these issues.

Members discussed:-

- the need for more time to be allocated at the Board meeting in public to thematic issues, topical issues and questions from Committees;
- the adoption of a more structured and strategic approach in the Board meeting in public.

It was:-

AGREED:

That a further paper should be prepared for the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee to consider.

6.8 Northern Ireland Policing Board Languages Policy

The Board considered a paper regarding the Board's revised draft policy and guidance relating to "Carrying out the work of the Board in languages other than English", which had been forwarded to Foras na Gaeilge and the Ulster Scots Agency for comment.

Following discussion and a show of hands, by a majority of Members, it was:-

AGREED:

That Mr Gearóid Ó hEára should provide comments regarding the draft policy relating to carrying out the work of the Board in languages other than English.

6.9 Change Of Time Of February 2008 Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee

It was:-

AGREED:

That the time of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee on 21 February 2008 should be changed from 2.00pm to 9.30am, to facilitate the Chairman's attendance at another event in the afternoon.

7. AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

7.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Audit And Risk Management Committee Held On 14 December 2007

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

- 7.1.1 Internal Audit Annual Progress Report 2007 – 2008** (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)
- 7.1.2 Status Report On Ballynahinch CCTV Scheme** (Item 8.1 Of Minutes Refers)
- 7.1.3 Discussion With The Chair Of The PSNI Audit And Risk Committee** (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Management Committee held on 14 December 2007.

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

8.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Community Engagement Committee Held On 24 January 2008

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

- 8.1.1 Round Table Discussion** (Item 4.2 Of Minutes Refers)
- 8.1.2 Revised Code Of Practice On Functions And Responsibilities Of District Policing Partnerships And Belfast Sub Groups** (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)
- 8.1.3 District Policing Partnerships Members' Attendance: Belfast, Coleraine, Dungannon and South Tyrone and Fermanagh DPPs** (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)
- 8.1.4 Discussion With Deputy Chief Constable Regarding Developing A Monitoring Framework In Relation To Policing With The Community** (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

8.1.5 Discussion With The Northern Ireland Youth Forum Recommending A Process To Support The Board's Future Engagement With Children And Young People (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement Committee held on 24 January 2008.

8.2 'Seeing Is Believing' Visits

The Chair of the Committee informed Members that "Seeing is Believing" visits were being organised in the York Road (Belfast), Bangor and Carrickfergus areas in February 2008, and recommended that all Board Members should attend if they were interested/available. NOTED.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

9.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Meeting Held On 10 January 2008

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

9.1.1 Strategic Monitoring Framework Of The PSNI Human Resources Function (Item 4 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.2 Revised Gender Action Plan (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board considered the revised PSNI Gender Action Plan and it was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the Revised Gender Action Plan for publication.

9.1.3 Conduct of Committee Business (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 10 January 2008.

A Member referred to item 7 of the minutes regarding the HMIC PSNI Human Resources Inspection Report and asked to be provided with information regarding the PSNI's response to a number of recommendations in the report.

10. HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING

10.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Rights And Professional Standards Committee Held On 12 December 2007

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee held on 12 December 2007.

10.2 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Rights And Professional Standards Committee Held On 16 January 2008

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee held on 16 January 2008.

10.3 PSNI Deployment Of TASER

The Board considered a paper which provided updated information relating to the PSNI's decision to deploy TASER. The Board also considered correspondence dated 4 February 2008 from the Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and the Children's Law Centre dated 20 December 2007, relating to the introduction of TASER.

Members were reminded, that at a Board meeting on 4 October 2007, a statement was agreed on the PSNI's proposed deployment of TASER in which a number of concerns were expressed. The Board's Human Rights Advisors updated the meeting about the action taken in respect of each of the concerns:-

- agreement on the proper legal text for the use of TASER, this had now been signed off by the Advisors. NOTED.
- identification of the 'capability gap' based on the agreed legal text, this had now been signed off by the Advisors. NOTED.
- efficacy of the policy, guidance and training regarding the use of TASER, and that there remained unresolved concerns specifically with respect to training. NOTED.

Members discussed the verbal report received from the Human Rights Advisors and received further information in response to questions regarding the capability gap; concerns in relation to training scenarios; ACPO guidance; the deployment of TASER during the pilot project; and the flow of information between the Advisors and Members.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Chairman should write to the Chief Constable highlighting the concerns raised by the Human Rights Advisors with regard to the operational deployment of TASER during the pilot study, the need to resolve the outstanding training issues and in respect of human rights and equality issues raised by Non-Governmental Organisations and Statutory Bodies.

The Chairman reminded Members that the Board had previously agreed that the Board's statement issued in October 2007, was without prejudice and that the Board would take its final decision following the results of the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA). Members were advised that the EQIA consultation document had been launched by PSNI on 18 January 2008 and the estimated completion date was June 2008. NOTED.

10.4 Police Ombudsman's Operation Ballast Report – Status Report To The Policing Board On Implementation Of Recommendations

The Board noted the Board's Human Rights Advisors' confidential status report on the implementation of the PSNI's recommendations arising from the Police Ombudsman's Operation Ballast report.

It was:-

AGREED:

- that the Human Rights Advisor's status report should be considered by the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee and that all Board Members should be invited to attend;
- that Mr McCord Senior should be kept updated.

11. RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

11.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Resources And Improvement Committee Held On 14 December 2007

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Resources and Improvement Committee held on 14 December 2007.

11.2 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Resources And Improvement Committee Held On 18 January 2008

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

11.2.1 PSNI – Outcome Of Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (Item 11.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that a paper would shortly be provided by the PSNI for consideration by the Committee regarding the CSR 2007 settlement.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the meeting of the Resources and Improvement Committee held on 18 January 2008.

11.3 Change Of Date Of February 2008 Resources and Improvement Committee

It was:-

AGREED:

That the date of the Resources and Improvement Committee on 15 February 2008 should be changed to 22 February 2008 to enable consideration of the detail of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (CSR07).

11.4 Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 – Police Grant

This issue was dealt with under item 11.2.

12. INFORMATION PAPERS

12.1 Historical Enquiries Team – Stocktake – Terms Of Reference

The Board noted the content of a paper indicating the Minister of State's response regarding the Historical Enquiries Team Stocktake Terms of Reference. NOTED.

12.2 Finalised Secretary Of State's Long Term Policing Objectives

The Board noted the content of a paper regarding the finalised Secretary of State's Long Term Policing Objectives. NOTED.

13. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

Following discussion of a number of draft statements, it was:-

AGREED:

To issue a news release in respect of the Terms of Reference for the independent external review of the Omagh bombing investigation.

14. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

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

The Board received further information in relation to:-

- the PSNI response to death threats to a number of councillors in rural region;
- PSNI/Garda Siochana investigations into the murder of Mr Paul Quinn;
- the rank of the Commander in Banbridge;
- the provision of mobile police stations in Omagh and other DCUs;
- the PSNI approach to dealing with the risks of trailers parked on the hard shoulder of major roads;
- PSNI operations following the release of a convicted rapist from prison.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Meeting with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

The Chairman of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee gave a report to the Board on the meeting which he had attended with representatives from Non-Governmental Organisations on 6 February 2008. NOTED.

15.2 Fixed Penalty Tickets

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Board should consider the introduction of similar legislation to that which empowers the police in England and Wales to issue fixed penalty tickets for a range of offences.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 6 March 2008 at Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 5:20pm)

Secretariat

February 2008

Chairman