

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 13 JUNE 2008 AT 1:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER,
BELFAST**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Trevor Ringland (Chairman)
Mr Daithí McKay (Vice-Chairman)
Mr Leslie Cree
Mrs Dolores Kelly
(1) Mr Suneil Sharma
(1) Mr Peter Weir

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

(2) Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
Two Board Officials

NORTHERN IRELAND AUDIT OFFICE (NIAO) IN ATTENDANCE:

One representative

PRICE WATERHOUSECOOPERS (PWC) IN ATTENDANCE:

One representative

- (1) Item numbers 5 – 7, 9 and part number 10 to close
- (2) Item numbers 1 – 4, 8 and 10

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr David Rose. NOTED.

The Chairman congratulated Mr Leslie Cree on his appointment as Mayor of North Down. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 2 MAY 2008

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2008.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the draft minutes of the Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting held on 2 May 2008 should be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING

3.1 Best Practice For Audit Committees In Government (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

A paper regarding the issue was considered at item number 6.

3.2 Use Of Consultants In PSNI (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that:-

- the Independent Consultant's final report regarding the review of consultancy and contracted out services in PSNI would be presented to Members for consideration at the September 2008 meeting;
- the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland review of consultants throughout the criminal justice system, would not duplicate the work which had already been carried out in relation to the PSNI Review; but would instead be taking assurance by the Board's report.

NOTED.

3.3 PSNI Corporate Risk Register (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that:-

- the Human Resources Committee had been advised of the risks associated with crime investigation as a result of a loss of specific skills due to the impact of severance;
- that the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee would be asked to consider the 9 corporate risks identified by the PSNI.

NOTED.

3.4 Police Recruitment Business Case Overspend 2006 – 2007 (Item 3.5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that a response had been sent to the Deputy Chief Constable regarding an overspend in respect of a Business Case for Police Recruitment Services covering the years 2004/05 to 2006/07. NOTED.

3.5 Discussion With Chair Of The PSNI Audit And Risk Committee (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

The minutes of the PSNI Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 19 February 2008 were considered at item 9.

3.6 Call Handling (Item 4.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that a paper would be considered at the Resources and Improvement Committee meeting on 20 June 2008 on the chronology of events in relation to call handling in PSNI. NOTED.

3.7 PWC Internal Audit Progress Report, Annual Report And Periodic Work Plan 2008 – 2009 (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that the Internal Audit Report of the External Relations Directorate had been issued to the Community Engagement Committee for information. NOTED.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman had no business to raise with the Committee.

5. AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT TRAINING

The representative from PWC gave a presentation to the Committee on the role of the Audit Committee. A copy of the slides used during the presentation is attached at Appendix 'A'.

Subsequent discussion focused around Members' corporate responsibility within the Board and as Members of the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

In conclusion it was:-

AGREED:

That the Committee should consider at its next meeting, how to better carry out its role in relation to oversight of PSNI corporate governance issues.

6. BEST PRACTICE FOR AUDIT COMMITTEES IN GOVERNMENT

The Committee noted the content of the following documents:-

- Helping your Audit Committee to Add Value;

- Audit Committee Handbook.

NOTED.

7. PWC INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2008 – 2009 AND RESULTS OF THE CLIENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

The representative from PWC presented a paper which outlined details of:-

- The developments and progress of the Internal Audit Periodic Work Plan for 2008 – 2009;
- The results of a client satisfaction survey in respect of the quality of service provided by PWC in its role as the Board's Internal Auditors.

NOTED.

8. NIPB STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL 2007 – 2008

The Committee considered the content of the Northern Ireland Policing Board's Statement on Internal Control for 2007 – 2008.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the Board's Statement on Internal Control for 2007 – 2008.

The representative from the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) advised the Committee that the audit of the Board's financial statement for 2007 – 2008 had been completed with only a few minor issues arising.

NOTED.

9. MINUTES OF PSNI AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

The Committee noted the content of the minutes of a meeting of the PSNI Audit and Risk Committee which had been held on 19 February 2008. NOTED.

Members referred to information in the minutes regarding non-compliance of PSNI Districts in relation to confidential waste and it was:-

AGREED:

That a letter should be sent to PSNI requesting details of the remedial action which was being undertaken to address the issue.

10. STATUS REPORT ON BALLYNAHINCH CCTV SCHEME

The Committee noted:-

- the content of a paper which outlined the position in respect of the funding of Ballynahinch CCTV Partnership;
- details of a settlement which had been reached with Down District Council regarding the financial liability of the Ballynahinch CCTV Partnership.

In response to a question from a Member, officials explained that documents in relation to the management of grants to the Board and PSNI were being reviewed.

The Committee discussed the matter and it was:-

AGREED:

- that information regarding the governance arrangements relating to the Board, PSNI and DPPs should be brought to the Committee;

- that the management letter and conditions of grant should be issued to the Committee before it was signed off.

11. MATTERS TO BE RAISED WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

There were no issues to raise with the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting arising from the meeting.

12. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no communication issues arising from the meeting.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Board's 2007 – 2008 Annual Financial Statement.

The representative from NIAO updated the Committee on the signing off of the financial audit which had been carried out by NIAO on the Board's 2007 – 2008 Annual Financial Statement.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Audit and Risk Management Committee would be held on 19 September 2008.

(Meeting closed 2.25pm).

SECRETARIAT

June 2008

CHAIRMAN