

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS & PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

- (1)** Mr Basil McCrea (Chair)
- (2)** Ms Mary McKee (Vice Chair)  
Ms Martina Anderson
- (3)** Mr Suneil Sharma

#### **POLICE OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:**

- (4)** Mr Greg Mullan, Director of Policy & Practice
- (4)** 2 Representatives, OPONI

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISOR IN ATTENDANCE**

- (5)** Ms Jane Gordon

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

Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)  
4 Board Officials

- (1)** Item number Part Item 4-13
- (2)** Item number 1-9
- (3)** Item number 1 – Part Item 5
- (4)** Item number 6
- (5)** Item number 7 & 8

#### **1. APOLOGIES, ETC**

Apologies were received on behalf of Gearóid Ó hEára, Brian Rea, Rosaleen Moore.  
NOTED.

#### **2. MINUTES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS & PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 AUGUST 2008**

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the draft minutes of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee meeting held on 27 August 2008 be agreed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 AUGUST 2008**

It was:

**AGREED**

That the matters arising from 27 August Committee be dealt with at the November Committee meeting.

**4. CHAIR'S / DIRECTOR OF POLICY'S BUSINESS**

**4.1 Costs associated with the provision of Human Rights advice 2008/2009.**

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with indicative costing of 3 options for the future provision of Human Rights advice.

Following discussion it was:

**AGREED**

That the Director of Policy would prepare a comprehensive paper on the procurement and recruitment process for the various options, and present it to Members at the November Committee meeting.

## **5. TRENDS AND PATTERNS IN COMPLAINTS AND ALLEGATIONS IN NORTH BELFAST**

The Committee considered a confidential report from OPONI on trends and patterns in complaints and allegations in North Belfast.

Members posed various questions and relayed a number of concerns

- about the high Percentage of use of force,
- the number of complaints upheld,
- the number of allegations Substantiated,
- whether or not this report could be used to make comparisons with other DCUs.

It was:

### **AGREED**

That officials write to PSNI in relation to the report seeking their views and further expansion of the issues contained within the report.

## **6. BRIEFING FROM OPONI**

The Chair of the Committee welcomed Mr Greg Mullan and his colleagues to the meeting.

The Committee was briefed on the OPONI Pilot Mediation Project which will run in District A.

The project to run from September 2008 to February 2009. Members were advised that initially OPONI hoped to attempt to mediate in the region of 30 complaints. Members raised several questions with OPONI surrounding;

- Training for OPONI staff;

- Whether or not the Mediation Project would involve any legislative change;
- Whether the details of the project had been made public.

It was:

### **AGREED**

That the Board would issue a press release detailing the briefing the Committee had received on this project.

## **7. OPERATION BALLAST UPDATE**

The Board's Human Rights Advisor updated the Committee on the PSNI progress towards implementation of the recommendations in the Police Ombudsman's Operation Ballast Report.

Following the briefing Members raised concerns regarding staffing arrangements within the Historical Enquiries Team, and the need to ensure its independence in investigations.

Following discussion it was:

### **AGREED**

- The Human Rights Advisor would consider reflecting concerns raised by Members within wording of recommendations;
- That the Human Rights Advisor would prepare a question for the Chief Constable at the October Board meeting on the Operation Ballast Report.

It was also:

### **AGREED**

To seek the Board's agreement, on 2 October 2008, to publication of the report update.

## **8. HUMAN RIGHTS ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

The Board's Human Rights Advisor briefed Members on the remaining Chapters of the Board's Human Rights Annual Report. The Chapters presented were 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15.

The Committee considered each Chapter and made a number of recommendations regarding its content and style. It was:

**AGREED** While the Committee was quorate :

That the Human Rights report be published subject to any concerns by Members individually, and that the Director of Policy would contact all Members requesting feedback by Monday 15 September 2008. After this date it was:

**AGREED**

This report be processed for publication.

## **9. INFORMATION PAPERS**

The following information papers were considered:-

### **9.1 Executive Summary OPONI Report On The Police Use Of Handcuffs**

**NOTED**

## **9.2 PSNI Response to Freedom Of Information Request**

**NOTED**

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

As previously discussed, officials undertook to draft questions to the Chief Constable in respect of:-

- The Operation Ballast update Report.

## **11. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES**

it was:

**AGREED**

To issue a press release on foot of OPONI Mediation Pilot Project briefing to Committee

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No matters arising.

## **13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next regular meeting was agreed for Wednesday, 12 November 2008 at 2:00pm in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed at 2.00pm).

**Secretariat**  
**September 2008**

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**Chair**