

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 APRIL 2006 AT 12:00 NOON IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Barry Gilligan (Chair)
Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Vice
Chair)
Mr Brendan Duddy
Ms Arlene Foster
Mrs Dolores Kelly
Ms Deirdre Mac Bride
Mrs Pauline McCabe
Ms Dawn Purvis
Mrs Rosaleen Moore
Mr Brian Rea
Mr Trevor Ringland

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr David Jackson, Director of
Community Affairs
Mrs Sinead Simpson, Director of
Policy
8 Board Officials

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Ian Paisley Jnr and Mr Suneil Sharma. NOTED.

2. FIRST DAY BRIEF

The Director of Community Affairs introduced the officials present and referred Members to a paper which described the role of the Community and Human Rights Committee.

Officials briefed Members on the main responsibilities of the Committee, including:-

- Developing, promoting, supporting and monitoring the effectiveness of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs).
- The process for appointing independent members to DPPs.
- Providing support and guidance to DPPs through the issue of a Code of Practice; training and advice; and the provision of financial support to Councils to fund DPPs.
- Securing, supporting and monitoring the implementation of Policing the Community as the core function of the Police Service.
- Monitoring the implementation of Police Service strategies that impact on the community.
- Monitoring the work of the Independent Community Observer Scheme and Independent Custody Visiting Scheme.
- Monitoring the performance of the Police Service in complying with the Human Rights Act.
- Reviewing the PSNI Code of Ethics and its implementation.
- Liaison with the Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPONI) regarding trends and patterns in complaints, reports produced by OPONI under Section 61 of the Police Act 1998 and OPONI policy and practice in investigations.

During discussion of these and other issues, it was

AGREED:

- Consideration should be given to the publication of the attendance records of DPP members.
- That officials should provide proposals for a more structured approach to enable the Committee to better monitor key PSNI strategies to assess the impact on crime prevention, community safety and the community in general.
- That the Committee should receive a detailed briefing from the Police Ombudsman on the work of OPONI at an early opportunity.

- That the Committee should receive a detailed briefing from the Board's Human Rights Advisors on their work to date.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

3.1 Release Of District Commander's Reports To The Community

The Committee considered a paper which sought Members views on a request from the North and West Parades and Cultural Forum to have the District Commanders Report released to the community at the same time, as it is provided to the District Policing Partnership (DPP). Members discussed the circumstances surrounding the request, the role of the DPP in using the Commanders report to monitor the performance of the PSNI against the Policing Plan, relationships between police and the community in the area and the role of the Board in supporting the work of DPPs.

After discussion it was,

AGREED:

- That the role of the DPP would be undermined if the Commander's Report was released to the Community at the same time as it is given to the DPP.
- That consideration should be given as to how best the Community may be appraised as to the issues coming forward for discussion in the Commander's Report.
- That the Chairman of the Community and Human Rights Committee should meet with the office bearers and officials of Belfast DPP before replying to the North and West Belfast Parades and Cultural Forum.
- That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board should continue dialogue with the political party representatives on the Board regarding the matter of the withdrawal of unionist members from Belfast DPP.

3.2 Dates Of Committee Meetings – May To December 2006

The Committee considered a paper which gave dates and times for meetings of the Community and Human Rights Committee from May to December 2006.

It was:

AGREED:

That the programme of meetings should be as follows:

Thursday, 18 May 2006 (at 3:00pm)

Wednesday, 14 June 2006 (at 2:00pm)

Thursday, 10 August 2006

Thursday, 14 September 2006

Thursday, 12 October 2006

Thursday, 9 November 2006

Thursday, 14 December 2006

3.3 Questions For The Chief Constable For The Board Meeting On 3 May 2006

There were no questions for the Chief Constable.

4. ORGANISING THE BUSINESS OF THE COMMITTEE

Members considered the content of a paper regarding the methodology for organising the business of the Committee during the coming months.

Following discussion, it was:

AGREED:

- The Committee should allocate 2 half days for the briefing sessions detailed above and to develop a Strategic Plan for the Committee.

- To establish a sub-group to oversee the implementation of the Board's Community Engagement Strategy, to be chaired by the Chairman of the Committee with Members Dawn Purvis, Dolores Kelly and Suneil Sharma.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 18 May 2006 at 3:00pm.

(Meeting closed at 1:50pm).

Secretariat

April 2005

Chairman