

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE HELD AT 2:00PM ON 14 JUNE 2006 IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

Mr Barry Gilligan (Chairman)  
Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Vice  
Chairman)

- (3) Ms Arlene Foster  
Mrs Dolores Kelly  
Ms Deirdre Mac Bride  
Mrs Pauline McCabe  
Ms Dawn Purvis
- (3) Mr Suneil Sharma
- (2) Mr Alex Attwood
- (2) Mr Peter Weir
- (2) Mr Brian Rea

#### **PSNI REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:**

- (1) 2 PSNI representatives Community  
Safety Branch

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- (2) Mr Keir Starmer
- (2) Ms Jane Gordon

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

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

- (1) Item number 4.17
- (2) Item number 2
- (3) Item numbers 1 – 7, 21

## **1. APOLOGIES**

An apology was received from Mr Ian Paisley Jnr.

## **2. PRESENTATION – 2006 HUMAN RIGHTS ANNUAL REPORT**

The Board's Human Rights Advisors, Mr Keir Starmer and Ms Jane Gordon, presented the 2006 Annual Report to the Committee. The Advisors described in detail their monitoring activity, observations and conclusions in respect of the following issues:

- The PSNI programme of action
- Training
- Policy
- Operations
- Code of Ethics
- Complaints, Discipline and Civil Actions
- Public Order
- Use of Force
- Victims
- Treatment of suspects
- Human Rights Awareness in PSNI
- Policing with the Community

Members noted that the final report will be presented to the August 2006 Committee for final consideration before publication in September 2006.

## **3. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2006**

It was:

### **AGREED:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community and Human Rights Committee held on 17 May 2006 be agreed.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2006**

##### **4.1 Presentation – Office Of The Police Ombudsman For Northern Ireland (OPONI) Quarterly Statistics (Item 2 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee had requested a further breakdown of statistics arising from the Police Ombudsman's presentation to the Community and Human Rights Committee on 17 May 2006. This was provided. NOTED.

##### **4.2 First Day Brief (Item 4.1 Of Minutes Refers)**

This referred to the record of attendance by DPP members and officials will arrange for the publication of attendance records. NOTED.

##### **4.3 Release Of District Commanders' Reports To The Community (Item 4.2 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee considered a paper that updated Members on the initial thinking of what could be done to more fully engage the community in the work of the DPPs and how to progress these ideas with DPPs.

It was:

#### **AGREED**

- That officials should further develop the ideas set out in the paper,
- That Officials should also check with DPP managers the process that each DPP follows when taking questions from the public.

##### **4.4 Publicising the Board's Human Rights Work (Item 6.2 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee considered a paper regarding the focus of the Board's Human Rights monitoring activity in the coming 12 – 24 months.

Following consideration of the paper:

It was:

**RESOLVED:**

- To extend the contract of the Human Rights Advisors until November 2006.

It was:

**AGREED:**

- That a future programme of work for the advisors would be considered at a meeting to be held on 8 August 2006.

**4.5 Police Officers On Suspension (Item 6.3 Of Minutes Refers)**

Officials were asked to obtain further information from PSNI regarding police officers on suspension.

It was:

**AGREED:**

That this information is circulated to the Committee on a monthly basis.

**4.6 Registration Of Notifiable Membership (Item 6.4 Of Minutes Refers)**

Officials had written to PSNI advising that the Committee had accepted the result of the process as reflective of Notifiable Membership within PSNI. NOTED.

**4.7 AEPs And Children And Young People (Item 6.5 Of Minutes Refers)**

Officials had written to the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) to establish if they were content with the PSNI monitoring system

currently in place, with the guidance produced and if their views have been reflected regarding the use of AEPs and children. NOTED.

#### **4.8 Quarterly Statistics On The Use Of CS Incapacitant Spray (Item 2 Of Minutes Refers)**

Officials had advised PSNI that the Committee had requested that the PSNI response be sent to the relevant DPPs. Copy replies had then been forwarded to DPPs. NOTED.

#### **4.9 Police Identification In Northern Ireland (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)**

Officials had written to PSNI seeking a response on how the recommendations contained in the report on Police Identification in Northern Ireland would be progressed. This was actioned. A full copy of the report will be provided to Members on request. NOTED.

#### **4.10 Monitoring Sectarian, Racist And Holding Centre Complaints (Item 2 Of Minutes Refers)**

This item was dealt with under item 4.1.

#### **4.11 Public Consultation – Draft Police And Criminal Evidence (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 And Associated Codes Of Practice (Item 2 Of Minutes Refers)**

Officials had previously been asked to contact NIO seeking an extension to the 14 June 2006 deadline and to circulate a draft response on the Order and Code of Practice to the Committee. In addition, clarification had been sought on arrangements between UK Immigration and PSNI on the detention of foreign nationals and numbers of foreign nationals detained.

It was:

**AGREED:**

That the proposed draft letter be sent to the NIO with an additional request for comments on concerns about Health and Safety issues and, in particular, ligature points in custody suites.

**4.12 Update On Recommendations In North Belfast Research Project (Item 15.2 Of Minutes Refers)**

A copy of the report had been issued to all Members of the Committee. NOTED.

**4.13 Programme For A Strategic Planning Event (Item 19 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee considered holding a special meeting to deal with planning the work of the Committee.

It was:

**AGREED**

- That a special planning meeting should be arranged, subject to the outcome of the Board Planning day.

**4.14 Correspondence From NIO – Message In A Bottle Scheme (Item 20 Of Minutes Refers)**

At its meeting on 17 May 2006 the Committee had recommended that the Board should not support a financial contribution towards the 'Message in a bottle scheme'. The Board had adopted this recommendation at its meeting on 1 June 2006. The Committee considered further representation from the NIO regarding this decision and reflected on the opportunities presented to engage with a diverse public.

It was:

**RECOMMENDED**

That it was appropriate to support the request from NIO for a financial contribution of £10,000 towards the scheme.

#### **4.15 Board Members Support For DPPs (Item 22 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee considered a draft letter informing DPPs about the proposal for each Board Member to support a particular DPP.

It was:

#### **AGREED**

- That the letter should be issued to DPPs
- That officials should provide Members with a monthly briefing detailing the key issues in their DPP, to enable Members to engage with DPPs on an informed basis.

#### **4.16 Honorarium To The Chief Executive Of A District Council For Work In Setting Up The DPP (Item 23 Of Minutes Refers)**

Officials had written to the relevant District Council advising that the Board had not approved the request. NOTED.

#### **4.17 PSNI Outreach Programme In Schools (Item 24.2 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chairman of the Community and Human Rights Committee welcomed two representatives from PSNI Community Safety Branch and invited them to update Members on the Citizenship and Safety Education, (CASE). Members were advised that although CASE was requested by 505 schools just 350 schools had offered the programme resulting in a shortfall of 155 schools. Members were also advised that as CASE does not appear in the Annual Policing Plan it is perceived not to be a DCU priority and CASE resources are redeployed when other priorities arise. Members were offered the opportunity to observe a CASE module being delivered within a school.

It was:

## **AGREED**

- To pursue the issue of the shortfall in the delivery of the CASE programme with the Chief Constable.
- To consider how CASE may be reflected in the Annual Policing Plan.

### **4.18 Consultation On Parades Commission Review Of Its Statutory Documents** (Item 25 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials confirmed that the agreed response had been issued to the Parades Commission along with a letter detailing the need for user friendly language in such Documents. NOTED.

### **4.19 Report Into The Circumstances Surrounding The Death Of Alice McLoughlin At Portadown On 6 July 1991** (Item 26 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials had been asked to draft a letter to the Office of the Police Ombudsman supporting its position, for consideration at 1 June 2006 Board meeting. This was achieved and the Director of Policy advised Members of the Board's consideration of the matter. NOTED.

## **5. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

The Chairman had no business to report.

## **6. LEAD MEMBERS**

Members considered a paper setting out the proposed role of various Lead Members relevant to the work of the C & HR Committee. The concept of Lead Members would assist the Chairs of Committees in managing the increasingly complex range of issues being addressed at Committees, and also assist in integrating new Members into the

work of the Board. The Lead Member would act on behalf of the Board and in accordance with the corporate position of the Board in respect of the issue in question.

It was:

## **AGREED**

That the following Members be nominated as Lead Members:

- Policing in the Community Steering Committee (PSNI) – Barry Gilligan
- APA Neighbourhood Policing Group – Dolores Kelly and Arlene Foster (to rotate on a monthly basis)
- APA Community Engagement Network – Deirdre Mac Bride
- Race and Diversity / Community – Suneil Sharma
- Race and Diversity / PSNI – Deirdre Mac Bride
- Custody Visitors – Ian Paisley Jnr
- Independent Community Observers – Suneil Sharma and Dawn Purvis

## **7. CONSIDERATION OF THE REMOVAL FROM OFFICE OF A DPP MEMBER**

The Committee considered whether the removal of a Councillor from Moyle DPP should be subject to further consideration by the Policing Board, under the terms of the Board's Policy on the Removal of a DPP Member from Office.

It was:

## **RECOMMENDED**

- That the matter be put to the Board for further consideration.

The Committee considered the case of a DPP member from Craigavon and accepted that their absence was due to good reason.

It was:

### **RECOMMENDED**

- That no immediate action was needed but that the case should be reviewed in six months.

It was:

### **AGREED**

- To give further consideration to the process that is needed to enable confidential information to be provided in such cases.

## **8. ACCEPTABILITY OF DPP MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE – BELFAST DPP**

The Committee considered a request from Belfast DPP officials that the Board should amend the existing policy stipulating the level of absence in Belfast DPP that should trigger referral to the Board. The Committee discussed the matter, recognising the different meeting structures in Belfast.

It was:

### **RESOLVED**

- That Belfast Members should be liable to be referred to the Board if they miss three private and three public meetings in a rolling six month period.

It was:

**AGREED**

- That the matter be reviewed in six months time.

**9. REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
SUB - GROUP**

The Committee considered a paper that provided an update on the work of the Community Engagement Sub-Group.

It was:

**AGREED**

- That officials invite all Board Members to attend a presentation from the Deputy Chief Constable on community engagement. This presentation will take place at Belfast Castle on 28 June 2006 from 4:00pm to 5:30pm.
- That a summary of the work of the sub Group to date to be brought to the Committee in September 2006.

**10. BID TO THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND (IFI) FOR FUNDING TO  
SUPPORT ADDITIONAL TRAINING FOR THE DPPs**

The Committee considered a paper regarding a bid to the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) to obtain funding to support additional training for the DPPs. NOTED.

**11. NIO CONSULTATION ON DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE  
DETENTION, TREATMENT AND QUESTIONING OF PERSONS ARRESTED  
UNDER SECTION 41 AND SCHEDULE 8 OF THE TERRORISM ACT 2000**

The Committee considered a draft response to the NIO consultation document on the Codes of Practice for dealing with persons detained under the Terrorism Act 2000.

It was:

**RESOLVED**

To write to the NIO as outlined in the draft provided.

**12. REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY OBSERVER SCHEME**

The Committee considered a paper outlining a number of recommendations for the improvement of the Independent Community Observer (ICO) Scheme. In particular, Members were asked to note the desire of ICOs to meet with Board Members on the occasion of their AGM in September 2006.

It was:

**RESOLVED**

- That the recommendations for the improvement of the ICO scheme be adopted.

It was also:

**AGREED**

- That the implementation of one ICO team be considered in light of the needs of new POPT and PCSO recruitment.
- That research be conducted on the possible extension of the ICO role referring to the relevant legislation.

- That research is conducted on remuneration options to ICOs and CVs.
- That the current maximum 6 year term for ICOs and CVs should not be extended.

### **13. RECRUITMENT OF CUSTODY VISITORS AND INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY OBSERVERS**

The Committee considered the proposed process for the recruitment of Custody Visitors and Independent Community Observers. The Committee was asked to approve the recruitment process, to appoint panel members and to assist in the process.

It was:

#### **RESOLVED**

- To approve recommendations 1,2,4 and 5, i.e
  - To recruit new volunteers for the Custody Visitor and ICO scheme and to commence the recruitment process in June 2006 and August 2006 respectively.
  - To appoint members to the interview panels for these appointments (i.e. 2 panels for Custody Visitors and 2 for ICO = 4 Board members
  - To select the preferred Board member make up of the selection panels(there would be a requirement for at least 2 female personnel to be selected)
  - To schedule a briefing meeting in early August for all panel members to address the process for the Custody Visitors and in November for ICOs.

It was:

#### **AGREED**

- That recommendation 3 regarding, Board members to chair panels, be deferred for the panels agreement in August.
- That Ian Paisley, Dawn Purvis and Suneil Sharma be appointed as the Board's representatives on the Community Observer Regional Committee.
- That Officials should arrange a preparation meeting in August and interview dates in September.
- That the Committee appoint one further female panel member at its next meeting.

#### **14. UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PATTEN 64**

The Committee considered a paper which provided an update on the implementation of Patten Recommendation 64 which enabled Custody Visitors to observe interviews with terrorist's suspects on camera. Members noted that this extension to the role of Custody Visitors was implemented in October 2005 with a recommendation for a three month review. This review has just taken place and Board officials are satisfied with the processes and practices around this area of work. NOTED

The Committee considered the engagement of the members of the Belfast and Antrim teams.

It was:

#### **AGREED:**

- That the current arrangements for visits under Patten 64 remain in place until such times as changes are made to the location of custody provision under the Estates Strategy and RPA.

- That, in respect of the issue of pay and allowances for Custody Visitors, an allowance should not be paid, as it was considered that this would compromise their perceived independence.
- That officials should consider other ways of demonstrating the value the Board places on the work undertaken by Custody Visitors.

## **15. CUSTODY VISITORS TEAM STRUCTURE**

This paper was withdrawn.

## **16. CUSTODY VISITOR STATISTICS (APRIL 2006)**

The Committee considered a paper which summarised the key points of the information contained in the statistical summary of custody visits carried out during April 2006.

NOTED.

## **17. RESEARCH INTO THE VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEMES IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

This paper was deferred and will be submitted to the July meeting of the Corporate, Policy, Planning and Performance Committee.

## **18. COST OF DRINK RELATED CRIME TO POLICING**

This paper was deferred and will be submitted to the August meeting of the C&HR Committee meeting.

**19. NORTHERN IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION EVALUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN POLICE TRAINING – REPORT 5 – TUTOR CONSTABLES SCHEME**

The Committee considered a report from the Human Rights Commission entitled Evaluation of Human Rights in Police Training – Tutor Constables scheme.

It was highlighted that this report will be commented on in the Board’s Human Rights Advisors 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report. NOTED.

It was:

**AGREED**

That officials should ask PSNI how they plan to respond to the recommendations in the NIHRC Report.

**20. PSNI OFFICERS ON SUSPENSION**

The Committee considered a paper which provided a statistical summary of PSNI officers on suspension. NOTED

**21. QUARTERLY STATISTICS ON THE USE OF CS INCAPACITANT SPRAY**

The Committee considered a paper detailing quarterly statistics on the use of CS Incapacitant Spray.

It was:

**AGREED:**

That officials should seek further clarification on a number of issues.

## **22. QUARTERLY PACE 1/TA STOP AND SEARCH RETURNS**

This paper was deferred to the August meeting of the Committee.

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

It was:

### **AGREED**

That a question is to be put to the Chief Constable seeking clarification on how CASE contributes to Policing with the Community being the core function of policing.

## **24. PRESS ISSUES**

It was:

### **AGREED**

That a news release should be issued on the statistics provided on the use of CS Incapacitant Spray should.

## **25. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was brought forward from Thursday, 10 August to Tuesday, 8 August 2006 at 10:00am.

(Meeting closed 6:00pm).

## **SECRETARIAT**

**June 2006**

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**Chairman**