

**NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2006 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER,  
BELFAST**

**PRESENT:**

**MEMBERS:**

Mr Barry Gilligan (Chairman)  
Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Vice-Chairman)  
(1) Mr Fred Cobain  
(1) Ms Deirdre Mac Bride  
Mrs Pauline McCabe  
Ms Dawn Purvis

**OPONI REPRESENTATIVES  
IN ATTENDANCE:**

(3) Mr Sam Pollock, Chief Executive  
(3) Mr Greg Mullan, Director of Policy and Practice

**OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

Dr Debbie Donnelly, Deputy Chief Executive  
Mr David Jackson, Director of Community  
Engagement  
Mrs Sinead Simpson, Director of Policy  
4 Officials

- (1) Item number 11 and 13 to close
- (2) Item number 5 to close
- (3) Item number 12 & 18

**1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies received.

**2. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2006**

It was:

**AGREED:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community and Human Rights Committee held on 12 October 2006 be agreed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2006**

**3.1 Coalition Of Sexual Orientation (CoSO) Meeting (Item 4.4 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee was advised that a letter had been sent to CoSO setting out the Board's position. NOTED.

The Committee was advised that ACC Criminal Justice would be invited to a future CHR Committee meeting to give an update on policing a diverse society, particularly LGBT. NOTED.

**3.2 District Policing Partnership Training & Events Plan – January – March 2007 (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee was advised that a record of political Members' attendance at training courses and DPP meetings was made available to political parties at HQ level. NOTED.

It was:

**AGREED:**

That all DPP managers would be advised that this information was being made available to Political Parties at HQ Level.

**3.3 Policing With The Community (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee was advised that officers would liaise with the Head of Policing with the Community (PwC) Branch on the development of PwC and a monitoring framework. NOTED.

The Committee was advised that officials would arrange a briefing for DPPs to update them on progress of Policing with the Community and consider the role in the implementation of the Strategy.

**3.4 Development and Implementation Of The Board's Initial Community Engagement Strategy** (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that the Director of Community Engagement had liaised with a Member to discuss ethnic minority groups. This will now be dealt with under item 7. NOTED.

**3.5 Any Other Business**

**3.5.1 Less Lethal Weapons** (Item 15.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that the Board had nominated Barry Gilligan as the Lead Member for Less Lethal. NOTED.

**3.5.2 DPP Members' Allowances** (Item 15.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a paper has been prepared on DPP Members' Allowances. This will now be dealt under item 6. NOTED.

**3.6 Matters To Be Raised With The Chief Constable At The Next Board Meeting**  
(Item 12 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a question had been drafted and would be put to the Chief Constable at the November Board meeting.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

**4.1 PSNI – Professional Standards Department**

The Committee was advised that PSNI Internal Investigations Branch (IIB) had been renamed 'Professional Standards Department'. The Committee was advised that a visit to, and a briefing by, the Professional Standards Department was being arranged for early 2007.

#### **4.2 Community Engagement Working Group**

The Chairman advised the Committee of a sub-group meeting held on 18 October 2006 at which two presentations were given, one on Community TV and one by the Northern Ireland Youth Forum (NIYF). NOTED.

Following discussion the working group noted the value of using community TV to get a message to a wide and diverse audience.

It was:

#### **AGREED**

- That the PSNI come back to the committee before any further decisions are made.

The Committee considered a paper which sought Members' approval to commission NIYF to facilitate the process whereby the Board engages with young people.

It was:

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

That NIYF be commissioned to undertake the work detailed in their proposal.

#### **4.3 Economic Crime Briefing – 12 October 2006**

The Chairman updated Members on the briefing which was attended by DPP members from Strabane and Derry.

#### **4.4 Omagh Support And Self Help Group**

The Chairman updated Members on the meeting he attended on 17 October 2006 with the Omagh Support and Self Help Group.

#### **4.5 Northern Ireland Council For Children And Young People (NICCY) Meeting 6 November 2006**

The Chairman updated Members on the meeting he chaired with NICCY, PSNI and NIO on 6 November 2006 and noted the offer made by PSNI to NICCY to attend AEP Training. A further meeting is to be arranged for early December.

#### **4.6 Less Lethal Technology**

The Chairman advised the Committee that he had been appointed by the Board as Lead Member on Less Lethal Technology.

### **5. ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs) DURING THE YEAR 2005/2006**

The Committee considered an assessment paper on the effectiveness of DPPs during the year 2005/2006.

It was:

#### **AGREED:**

- To arrange a workshop for the Community and Human Rights Committee Members, to discuss effectiveness issues of DPPs.
- To write to DPP Chairmen providing feedback on the assessment for each DPP.

- To write to the DPP's who did not provide input to the Annual Policing Plan this year.

Following a discussion:-

It was:

**AGREED:**

- To award a one off 5% increase to DPP Members' allowances, back dated to April 2006.
- That the Board would make representation to the NIO re an inflationary increase. Officials to advise DPP Chairmen of this development.

**6. DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP (DDP) MEMBER'S ATTENDANCE – CRAIGAVON**

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members of a DPP Member's attendance level during a 6 month period. This follows a decision by the Committee in June 2006 to review the situation within a subsequent 6 month period. The Committee were satisfied with the Member's attendance during the review period. NOTED.

**7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY INITIAL KPIS**

The Committee considered a paper which sought Members' approval for an overall approach to the evaluation of the Board's Community Engagement Strategy.

Following a discussion:-

It was:

**AGREED:**

- That a broad evaluation framework, focusing on the people aspect at this stage of the process, would be useful to consider as an effective approach to the implementation of the Community Engagement Strategy.
- A short paper should be prepared for the December Board meeting advising Members of the Community Engagement Strategy.
- That feedback be provided to DPPs on their inputs to the NI Policing Plan, giving an explanation of the proposed targets and any impact this may have on the development of local policing plans.

## **8. PARADES COMMISSION REVIEW OF PROCEDURES AND FORWARD REVIEW**

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members of the Parades Commission's Forward View and Review of Procedures. Following discussion:-

It was:

### **AGREED:**

- That the Parades Commission, NIO, PSNI and the Community Relations Council, be invited to meet with Committee Members to discuss the parades issue.
- Officials to ascertain how much funding is in the PwC budget and to outline how this money has been used.

## **9. PACE 1/TA STOP AND SEARCH INFORMATION PAPER**

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with information on what statistics are currently available in relation to PACE 1/TACT Stop and Search. NOTED.

**10. PACE 1/TA STOP AND SEARCHES Q2 2006/07**

The Committee considered a paper which provided a quarterly return of the PACE 1/TACT Stop and Search statistics. The Chairman asked that if Members had any questions regarding this paper, they should be brought to the December Committee meeting. NOTED.

**11. USE OF CS INCAPACITANT SPRAY – STATISTICS Q2 2006/07**

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with quarterly statistics on the use of CS Incapacitant Spray. The Chairman asked that if Members had any questions regarding this paper, they should be brought to the December Committee meeting.

It was:

**AGREED:**

That a question on CS Incapacitant Spray should be drafted and put to the Chief Constable at the December Board meeting.

**12. COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE**

This paper was dealt with under item 18.

**13. DIRECTION AND CONTROL COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE PSNI**

The Committee considered a paper which details Direction and Control Complaints made against the PSNI. NOTED.

#### **14. CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AGAINST PSNI OFFICERS**

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members on statistics relating to criminal convictions against PSNI officers.

It was:

**AGREED:**

- That this paper be submitted every 3 months.
- That officials should obtain a copy of the letter issued to all PSNI officers advising them of the new procedures.

#### **15. PSNI OFFICERS ON SUSPENSION**

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with statistics on PSNI officers on suspension.

It was:

**AGREED:**

That Members would be updated on the review of the regulations.

#### **16. COMPENSATION CLAIMS**

The Committee considered a paper which provided statistics on compensation claims for September 2006. Following discussion:-

It was:

**AGREED:**

- That the issue of the growing number of out of court settlements should be brought to the attention of officials of the Resources & Improvement Committee.
- Officials to write to PSNI requesting what action was taken against the officers in the discrimination cases; what action the service was taking, where training issues engaged or where cases had to be settled because of the unavailability of officers.
- Details of the compensation cases should be referred to officials of the Human Resources Committee as this may be relevant to cases where officers have applied for Injury on Duty awards.

#### **17. CUSTODY VISITORS STATISTICS FOR JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2006**

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with a statistical summary of custody visits carried out during July to September 2006.

A verbal comment was added to draw Members attention to concerns regarding ligature points and the increasing number of occasions when custody visitors did not get access to Custody Suites. Officials had already pursued these issues and will feedback progress to the Committee. NOTED

#### **18. PRESENTATION – OFFICE OF THE POLICE OMBUDSMAN FOR NORTHERN IRELAND (OPONI)**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Sam Pollock, Chief Executive and Mr Greg Mullan, Director of Policy and Practice, OPONI to the meeting and invited them to present their statistics on complaints and allegations, for Quarters 1 and 2 of the year 2006/07.

The Committee was advised that during the first and second quarters of this year:-

## Item No:

- A total of 1,696 complaints against the police had been received, giving rise to 2,867 allegations. There had been 28 Police Ombudsman call-ins and 15 Chief Constable non-complaint referrals.
- 34% of complaints were as a result of criminal investigations, 22% as a result of arrest, 14% due to traffic incidents, 7% search, 2% as a result of parade/demonstration and 21% other.
- 36% of the incidents took place in a police station, 31% on the street/road, 18% at domestic residences, 5% in a police vehicle and 10% other.
- Allegations involving the use of weapons and other equipment indicated that the largest number of these related to the use of handcuffs and batons.
- Statistics for the first and second quarter showed that 31% of all complaints closed were due to non co-operation by the complainant.

The Committee were also advised on the following:-

- Recommendations made to PSNI Professional Standards Department (PSD).
- Allegations made in each DCU.
- Files submitted to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS).

The Committee were also advised on a Complainant Satisfaction Survey which showed 30% of complaints were satisfied and 29% were very satisfied with the services received from OPONI.

They were also advised of a Police Officer Satisfaction Survey which showed 50% of officers were satisfied and 21% were very satisfied with OPONI investigations.

Following the presentation, Mr Pollock and Mr Mullan spoke on several other issues. Among the issues discussed were:-

- A new case handling system for OPONI due to go live in March 2007.
- Historical Enquiries Team being a resource pressure to OPONI.

- Retired officers not assisting with OPONI enquiries.

Following the presentation and discussion:-

It was:

**AGREED:**

- That the Committee should receive further information on the progress of investigations in relation to allegations which had a sectarian or racist dimension.
- That the Board write to the NIO in support of resources issues for OPONI and in relation to the delay with the mediation legislation.

**19. CONSULTATION BY NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM (NIYF)**

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with the final report from the NIYF on the consultation they have undertaken regarding barriers to youth involvement in the Board's Volunteer Schemes.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To accept the following 4 recommendations:-

1. To reflect in the Community Engagement Strategy issues affecting the involvement of young people within the ICO and Custody Visiting Schemes.
2. That payment or incentives are not offered as this is contrary to existing policy and practice for schemes.

3. Identify relevant organisations within the Community Engagement Strategy to whom publicity and awareness raising information should be targeted.
4. Ensure that youth issues are encapsulated with the Policing with the Community and Community Engagement strategies.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the Committee revisit the policy regarding paying volunteers prior to the next recruitment campaign.

**20. INFORMATION PAPERS**

The Committee considered a paper which informed Members on current information papers and publications. NOTED.

**21. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

It was:

**AGREED:**

That a question on CS Incapacitant Spray would be put to the Chief Constable at the December Board meeting.

**22. PRESS ISSUES**

The Committee noted the following press issues:-

- Meeting with NICCY/PSNI.

## **23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **23.1 Gay Police Advertisement**

At the Board meeting on 5 October 2006, Members asked for a copy of the above advertisement.

It was:

#### **AGREED:**

To defer this until the December meeting of the Community and Human Rights Committee.

### **23.2 Correspondence In Relation To The Proposed Introduction Of TASER To the Police Service Of Northern Ireland**

The Committee considered correspondence in relation to the proposed introduction of TASER. NOTED.

## **24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 14 December 2006 in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed at 1:05 pm).

**Secretariat**

**November 2006**

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**Chairman**