

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMITTEE HELD AT 10:00AM ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2006 IN WATERSIDE
TOWER, BELFAST**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

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

**PSNI REPRESENTATIVE
IN ATTENDANCE:**

- (3) Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Urban Region)
(3) D/Superintendent, PSNI Crime Advisor, Urban
and Rural Regions
(3) One Representative

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

- Dr Debbie Donnelly, Deputy Chief Executive
Mrs Sinead Simpson, Director of Policy
(3) Mr David Jackson, Director of Community Affairs
6 Officials

- (1) Item number 3.6 – close
(2) Item number 3.5 – close
(3) Item number 11

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ms Arlene Foster, Ms Dolores Kelly and Mr Brendan Duddy.

**2. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 8 AUGUST 2006**

It was:

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community and Human Rights Committee held on 8 August 2006 be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 AUGUST 2006

3.1 Release Of District Commanders Reports To The Community (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

Members were advised that an information paper would be presented to the October 2006 Committee meeting. NOTED.

3.2 Police Officers On Suspension (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

At the August 2006 meeting, Members of the Committee agreed that officials should write to PSNI for further information. Members noted the response.

3.3 Quarterly Statistics on the Use of CS Incapacitant Spray (Item 3.16 Of Minutes Refers)

At the August 2006 meeting, Members requested that officials examine OPONI reports to ascertain if the use of CS Incapacitant Spray has ever been considered as inappropriate by OPONI. Officials advised Members that OPONI had produced a summary of all uses of CS Spray from August – December 2004 and had reported on main areas of concern which were subsequently addressed by PSNI.

3.4 Programme for a Strategic Planning Event (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman briefed the Committee on the subject of a planning day. The consensus view among Members was that there was no longer a need for a planning day. NOTED.

3.5 Report of The work of the Community Engagement Sub Group (Item 3.12 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman of the Committee advised Members that the next meeting of the Community Engagement Sub-Group would be 26 September 2006. Details of this meeting will be presented to the October meeting of the Committee. NOTED.

3.6 Quarterly PACE 1/TA Stop Search Returns: January to March 2006 (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

At the August 2006 Committee meeting, Members requested further details on the high number of 'Stop and Search' cases in Strabane DCU, and also a further breakdown of the figures by gender, age and ethnicity.

Members considered a paper which provided the PSNI response.

It was:

AGREED:

That the Board Statistics and Research Branch provide a full briefing paper to Members which would show what is available by way of statistics in respect of PACE/TACT Stop and Search.

3.7 PSNI Officers on Suspension (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

At the August 2006 Committee meeting, Members requested further details from PSNI on specific cases.

Members considered the PSNI response. NOTED.

Business Case For Financial Investigators – PSNI Economic Crime Bureau
(Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

At the August 2006 Committee meeting, Members sought additional funding from the Incentivisation Scheme to be returned to Northern Ireland.

The Chairman updated the Committee and advised that there will be a meeting with the Organised Crime Task Force Stakeholder Group within the next few weeks and that there may be an opportunity to raise this issue at that forum. NOTED

3.9 Cost of Drink Related Crime to Policing (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a paper will go to the October meeting. NOTED.

3.10 Complaint against Policing Board (Item 15 Of Minutes Refers)

The Director of Policy advised Members on the appeals procedure. Members were advised that the policy has always included an appeals procedure which had now been made explicit in the policy document. NOTED.

3.11 Attenuating Energy Projectiles (AEP) (Impact Rounds) Consideration of the Need for a Child Impact Assessment (Item 16 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a letter had been issued to all Members inviting them to a meeting on 6 November 2006 with the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People. NOTED.

3.12 Discussion paper for DPPs Future Structures Following Post RPA Re Structuring (Item 17 Of Minutes Refers)

This item was dealt with at Item 9.

3.13 Custody Visitors Statistics for May and June 2006 (Item 24)

The Committee was advised that officials had arranged to meet with PSNI to discuss outstanding issues with Antrim Serious Crime Suite. NOTED.

3.14 NICE Report – “The Next Stephen Lawrence” Racist Violence and Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland (Item 25 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that the final report was awaited from ACC Criminal Justice and that it will be put to the next meeting of the Community Engagement Sub-Group. NOTED.

3.15 Consultation by Northern Ireland Youth Forum (Item 26 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee was advised that a final report was awaited and this would be brought to the November meeting of the Committee. NOTED.

4. CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS

4.1 Correspondence From The Committee On The Administration Of Justice

The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ). Following a lengthy discussion:

It was:

AGREED:

That this correspondence would be discussed at the Community Engagement Sub-Group and that, the Chairman, and Vice Chairman will meet with CAJ.

**4.2 International Law Enforcement Forum (ILEF) Conference -
7 – 9 NOVEMBER 2006**

The Chairman advised Members about the above conference.

It was:

AGREED:

That the Director of Policy would bring a copy of the programme to the next Board meeting and that any Member wishing to attend the conference should contact Secretariat.

5. FUTURE HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING ACTIVITY & RESOURCING ISSUES

The Committee considered a paper which sought its views on the Board's human rights monitoring activity. Members were asked to agree the list of future areas for monitoring activity.

It was:

AGREED:

That the following could be realistically undertaken during the coming year.

- Ongoing monitoring of recommendations made to date.
- Advice on TASER.
- Advise on the transfer of responsibility for National Security.
- Advice of issues associated with Children and Young People.
- Advice on Review of the Code of Ethics.
- Advice on Special Victims issues, i.e. HET investigations.

The Chairman and the Communications Manager would meet and agree how best to publicise the Human Rights Report and come back to the Committee.

The Committee also noted the resourcing issues detailed in the paper. NOTED.

6. POLICE OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT INTO THE COMPLAINT REGARDING THE ABDUCTION AND MURDER OF MRS JEAN McCONVILLE

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members on the report from the Police Ombudsman regarding the complaint arising from the investigation into the abduction and murder of Mrs Jean McConville. Following a discussion:

It was:

AGREED:

That the Board write to the Police Ombudsman welcoming the report and noting its conclusions. The letter would also extend the Board's sympathy to the family for their continuing hurt.

7. CUSTODY VISITORS STATISTICS FOR JULY 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 July 2006.

It was:

AGREED:

That the Custody Visitors statistics would now be presented to the Committee on a quarterly basis, unless there were any issues that need to be brought to the attention of the Committee before then.

8. DPP MEMBERS ATTENDANCE – LISBURN DPP

The Committee considered a paper advising of the absence of a DPP member in a 6 month period.

It was:

AGREED:

To refer this case to the Board for consideration of removal from office.

9. FUTURE OF DPPs IN CONTEXT OF REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The Committee considered and discussed a paper which sought its agreement on a set of key principles that will underpin the Board's view on the future of DPPs. Following discussion:

The Committee:

AGREED:

1. Four key principles for providing a framework within which to consider the future of DPPs:
 1. Effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery,
 2. Impartiality and confidence building,
 3. Citizen Centred Service,
 4. Partnership working.

2. The preferred models for consultation.

It was:

AGREED

3. For the Chairman of the Committee to outline the Board's preferred approach on a way forward with the DPPs at the Chairmen's and Vice Chairmen's Forum on 28 September 2006.

4. To ensure Members receive a copy of RPA and other related research on Community Planning.
5. To bring a further paper to the Community and Human Rights Committee on an approach to consultation and engagement on the way forward.
6. To arrange a strategic visit to Strathclyde police, on Community Planning.

10. INFORMATION PAPERS

10.1 DPP Budget Underspend 2005 - 2006

The Committee noted a paper which informed Members of the DPP underspend during 2005 – 06.

It was:

AGREED:

That officials would bring a paper to the December Committee meeting which would review DPP expenditure during the first half of 2006/07

10.2 PSNI Recruitment Competition 11 – The Work Of The Independent community Observers

The Committee noted the contents of a paper which advised Members of the work carried out by the Independent Community Observers during the 11th PSNI Recruitment Campaign. NOTED.

10.3 Complaints Against The Police – Quarter 1 Of 2006/07

The Committee noted a paper which provided Members with a statistical summary of complaints against the police during the period April to June 2006. NOTED.

10.4 Monitoring Sectarian, Racist And Holding Centre Complaints – April to June 2006

The Committee noted a paper which provided Members with information on complaints against the PSNI which have a sectarian or racist dimension. NOTED.

10.5 Quarterly Statistics On The Use Of CS Incapacitant Spray

The Committee noted a paper which provided Members with quarterly statistics on the use of CS Incapacitant Spray. NOTED.

10.6 Quarterly PACE 1/TA Stop And Search Returns – April To June 2006

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with a quarterly statistical return of the PACE 1/TA Stop Searches. NOTED.

10.7 Information Papers

Members noted a list of current information papers of interest to the Committee. NOTED.

Members noted correspondence in relation to DPP Members allowance and requested that the draft response be issued.

11. BRIEFING ON KNIFE CRIME INITIATIVES

The Chairman welcomed ACC McCausland, D/Superintendent, Crime Advisor and a representative from Genesis to the Committee and invited them to update the Committee on the Knife Awareness and Disposal Campaign.

The PSNI Crime Advisor started the presentation by stating how successful the amnesty in May 2006 had been. He then advised the Committee that the next phase would commence on 20 November 2006.

He advised the Committee that the number of bins would be increased from 46 to 60 and that they would be accessible at council sites, shopping centres, ports and airports.

The PSNI Crime Advisor advised about a PSNI programme to provide the majority of post primary school pupils with a knife awareness lesson during 2006/07. The PSNI Crime Advisor then discussed the crime statistics in relation to knives.

A representative from Genesis then spoke to the Committee regarding the advertising campaign. He also spoke on a questionnaire which was developed to test a number of areas and the questionnaire was distributed to young people aged 11 to 18. A copy of the slides used in the presentation is attached at Appendix 'A'.

Following the presentation, the Chairman thanked the presenters and they left the meeting.

12. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

It was:

AGREED:

That two questions would be put to the Chief Constable at the October Board meeting regarding.

- The relationship between PACE Stop and Search and the use of CS Spray, if any.
- What measures are being taken to increase young people's sense of personal safety thereby helping to stop young people carrying knives.

13. PRESS ISSUES

The Committee noted the following press issues.

- Human Rights Report
- Knife Awareness Campaign

- ICO Campaign

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Community Engagement Working Group

It was:

AGREED:

That the date of this meeting would be rescheduled.

14.2 Community Based Restorative Justice Working Group

It was:

AGREED:

That Dawn Purvis and Brendan Duddy would be nominated as the independent Members of the Working Group.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday, 12 October 2006 in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed at 1:15pm).

Secretariat
September 2006

Chairman