

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE 10th MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16 JUNE 2004 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS

- (1)** Mr Denis Bradley (Chairman)
- Mr Alex Attwood
- Mr Joe Byrne
- Mr Brian Dougherty
- (2)** Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
- Mr Suneil Sharma
- Professor Desmond Rea (Chairman of the Board)

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
Director of Policy and Accountability
Director of Community Affairs
Director of Service Delivery
Seven Board Officials

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND

- (2)** Superintendent, Community Safety Branch
- (2)** Director of Training, Education and Development

RESEARCHER:

- (3)** Dr Neil Jarman

- (1)** From part of item number 4 onwards
- (2)** Item numbers 1 - 3
- (3)** Item number 4

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Viscount Alan Brookeborough (Vice-Chairman) and Mr Sam Foster.

2. PRESENTATION BY THE POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND (PSNI) ON THE PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE IN RELATION TO THE MANAGEMENT OF CHANGE REGARDING POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY

The Chairman welcomed the Superintendent, Community Safety Branch and Director of Training, Education and Development (TED) to the meeting and invited the Superintendent to give a presentation to the Committee in relation to the management of change regarding Policing with the Community.

The Superintendent gave a presentation in relation to the Policing with the Community Awards 2004, during which he highlighted:-

- The categories of the awards.
- Details of the initiatives which had been put forward for the various awards.
- Details of the winning entries for the awards.

A copy of the slides which were used during the presentation is attached at Annex "A".

The Chairman thanked the Superintendent for his presentation.

3. PRESENTATION BY THE POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND (PSNI) REGARDING THE BENEFITS OF DAILY ACTIVITY REPORTING IN THE TRANSITION TO COMMUNITY BASED POLICING

The Chairman invited the PSNI Director of TED to give a presentation to the Committee in relation to Daily Activity Reporting.

The Director of TED gave a presentation in relation to the benefits of Daily Activity Reporting in the transition to Community Based Policing. A copy of the presentation is attached at Annex "B".

During a discussion on the subject the following issues were covered:-

- The Daily Activity Reporting System which was not considered to be bureaucratic.
- The system which was being piloted by PSNI Student Officers and Officers attending the Leadership Course.
- The proposals to introduce the system to the PSNI which would be put to the PSNI Chief Officer Team.
- The daily activity information which could be carried out either by individual officers or a team.
- The training which would be given to PSNI Training Officers on the system.
- The Personal Development Programme for Police Officers.

The Chairman thanked the Director of TED for his presentation.

4. PRESENTATION ON REPORT ON RACIST HARASSMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Chairman welcomed Dr Jarman to the meeting and invited him to address the Committee on research which he had carried out on racist harassment in Northern Ireland.

Dr Jarman then addressed the Committee on the research which he had carried out, during which he highlighted:-

- Details of the information which was contained in the report which covered racist incidents which had been recorded by the Police between 1996 and 2001.
- The scale of the incidents had increased since the research had been carried out.
- The need for a specialist Hate Crime Unit to be set up by the PSNI.
- The need for a more detailed analysis of the scale and nature of racist harassment and crime to be produced by the PSNI.
- The PSNI should monitor the level of recruitment of Officers from minority communities. As part of the process applications from minority ethnic communities should be a distinct category of their own.
- The role of PSNI Family Liaison Officers.

The Chairman thanked Dr Jarman for his presentation.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 APRIL 2004

The minutes of the Community Involvement Committee meeting held on 8 April 2004 were agreed and signed.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

6.1 Facilitating the Development of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) (Item 3 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted the contents of papers in relation to the process to select facilitators to undertake a development programme for the DPPs and PSNI.

The Committee noted the background to the advice which had been received by the Board which led to the Board running a procurement process through the Government Procurement Unit (GPU) for training for Members of DPPs.

The Committee discussed the training of Members of DPPs and agreed that:-

- The procurement process should run its course until the closing date for receipt of tenders. When the tenders were received they should not be opened.
- In addition to the procurement process through the GPU a public invitation should be placed in the local papers seeking tenders against the same specification for the procurement of training for Members of DPPs.
- Any tenders received through the public invitation should be placed with the tenders which were received through the GPU procurement process and opened and evaluated at the same time and against the same criteria.

Following discussion the Chief Executive undertook to arrange a meeting with Mediation NI.

6.2 Performance Appraisal of DPP Independent Members (Item 4 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) had proposed that the Independent Members of DPPs could be assessed on their attendance at meetings rather than a full performance appraisal being carried out on each Member.

Following discussion the Committee agreed that the DPP Independent Members should be assessed on their attendance at meetings based on information available to the DPP Manager.

6.3 The Future Of The Student Officer Bursary (Item 8.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that discussion had taken place between Officials and representatives of the PSNI regarding the future of the PSNI Student Officer Bursary Scheme. The PSNI had indicated that the difficulties for Officers in taking up the bursary had been primarily caused by training commitments for probationers.

The Committee discussed the matter and agreed that the bursary of £500 which was awarded by the Board to a Student Officer would be brought by the Officer to their initial posting to a District Command Unit for some aspect of policing within the community.

6.4 Deaths in Police Custody – A comparison between Northern Ireland And England and Wales (Item 13 of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under item 18.3.

7. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman outlined details of the 1st Annual General Meeting of Policing Forums in Derry which he had recently attended.

8. RESEARCH INTO THE VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES OF MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS AND NON-HETEROSEXUALS TOWARDS THE PSNI

The Committee considered a paper regarding plans to commission research into the views and experiences of minority ethnic groups and non-heterosexuals towards the PSNI, the Board and DPPs.

Following discussion on the paper the Committee agreed:-

- That both research projects should be commissioned together and as soon as possible.
- That public notices should be placed in the press inviting tenders to undertake research into the views of minority ethnic groups and non-heterosexuals towards the PSNI, the Board and DPPs.
- That the Police Ombudsman's Office should be invited to participate in these research projects.

9. CUSTODY VISITORS STATISTICS FOR MARCH 2004

The Committee noted the contents of a paper which provided information on visits which had been carried out by Custody Visitors during March 2004.

10. CUSTODY VISITORS STATISTICS FOR APRIL 2004

The Committee noted the contents of a paper which provided information on visits which had been carried out by Custody Visitors during April 2004.

Following discussion Officials undertook to provide the Committee with a paper regarding custody visitors observing interviews of detainees.

11. HOME OFFICE RECORDING OF "STOPS" IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

The Committee noted the contents of a paper, which outlined details of guidance that had been issued to Police Services and Police Authorities on implementing new recording requirement, under recommendation 61 of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report.

Officials outlined details of the related recommendation in the Patten Report and implementation of this recommendation by the PSNI.

The Committee agreed that a quarterly statistical return of the PACE 1/Terrorism Act stop searches should be requested from PSNI in order to gauge the level of usage but acknowledged the role of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee in terms of monitoring this.

12. SUBMISSION FROM RNIB – EXTENSION OF HATE CRIME LEGISLATION TO INCLUDE DISABILITY

The Committee considered the contents of a paper in relation to a submission which had been received from RNIB which sought support from the Board on the inclusion of disability in the draft Hate Crime Order and on the introduction of a requirement to collect disability hate crime statistics.

Following discussion on the paper the Committee agreed:-

- That RNIB should be advised that the Board supported the case for disability being included in the draft Hate Crime Order.
- To support the collection of disability hate crime statistics.

13. FRAUD LAW

The Committee noted the contents of a paper which outlined details of a consultation document which had been received from NIO on proposals to reform the law on fraud.

14. FUTURE OF COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS

The Committee noted the contents of a paper which outlined details of a consultation document which had been received from the Criminal Justice Reform Division in relation to the future of committal proceedings.

15. SECTION 67(3) OF THE TERRORISM ACT 2000

The Committee noted the contents of a paper which outlined details of a consultation document which had been received and agreed to advise the NIO of their view that section 67(3) of the Terrorism Act 2000 should be repealed.

16. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

The Committee noted the contents of a paper which outlined information on the development and implementation of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

The Committee considered a letter dated 1 June 2004 from the PSNI regarding the involvement of the Board and the District Policing Partnerships with the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Following discussion on the paper the Committee agreed:-

- That the PSNI should be advised that the Board formally endorse the concept of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.
- That a meeting with NIO and PSNI should be arranged to discuss the practical implication of the Board's involvement in the scheme.

17. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO DPPS FOLLOWING THE NEXT LOCAL GENERAL ELECTION IN 2005

The Committee noted the contents of a paper which outlined details of the process for the appointment of Independent Members of DPPs for the second term of office.

Following discussion on the paper the Committee agreed:-

- That the appointment process of Independent Members of DPPs should commence.
- That the Committee should be provided with information regarding the costs etc for the first campaign to appoint Independent Members of DPPs.

18. INFORMATION PAPERS

18.1 Letter from the PSNI regarding the future of custody facilities in the Police Service of Northern Ireland

The Committee noted the contents of a letter dated 11 March 2004 from the PSNI regarding the future of custody facilities in the PSNI.

18.2 Compact for Separated Prisoners and Pre-Release Home Leave

The Committee noted that the following two revised documents which had been the subject of consultation in January 2004 had been received from the Northern Ireland Prison Service:-

- Compact for Separated Prisoners.
- Pre-Release Home Leave.

18.3 Deaths in Police Custody in Northern Ireland

The Committee noted the contents of a paper which outlined information on the causes of seven deaths which had occurred in police custody in Northern Ireland.

Officials explained that ten deaths had occurred in police custody in Northern Ireland and information on the remaining three deaths would be provided to the Committee when the reports were received from the Office of the Police Ombudsman.

18.4 Development of Town Centre CCTV Schemes in Northern Ireland

The Committee noted the contents of correspondence between the Minister of State and the Chairman of the Committee regarding the development of town Centre CCTV schemes in Northern Ireland.

Members noted the contents of a report on the 1st meeting of the CCTV Project Group which had been held on 27 April 2004

18.5 Report on Visit to Merseyside by Board Members

The Committee noted the contents of a report on a visit which Members had undertaken to Merseyside on 19 – 20 April 2004 to see an Alleygating project.

18.6 Proposed Visit by Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice

The Committee noted the contents of a paper regarding a proposed visit by the Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice to DPPs.

18.7 Report on Meetings between the Regional Co-ordinator and the Western DPP Managers Group

The Committee noted the contents of a report on issues arising from the meetings between the Regional Co-ordinator and the Western DPP Managers Group.

18.8 Letter from the PSNI regarding arrests by the Auto-Crime Team in Northern Ireland

The Committee noted the contents of a letter dated 31 March 2004 from the PSNI regarding arrests by the Auto Crime Team in Northern Ireland.

19. MATTERS TO BE RAISED WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Committee agreed that the Chief Constable should be asked a question at the next Board meeting in relation to the PSNI strategy for Policing with the Community.

Mr Sharma indicated that he wished to raise a matter with the Chief Constable in relation to ethnic groups.

20. PRESS ISSUES

The Committee agreed that they had no matters arising from the meeting that should be released to the Press.

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

21.1 Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) Conference for DPPs – 29 June 2004

The Committee noted that the CAJ would be holding a conference for DPP Members on 28 June 2004. The Board would be represented at the conference by the Director of Community Affairs. The Committee noted the opportunity to meet with Lord Toby Harris, Chair of the Metropolitan Police Authority.

21.2 Establishment of Dungannon and South Tyrone DPP

The Committee noted the contents of a letter which had been sent from the Secretary of State to the Chief Executive of Dungannon and South Tyrone District Council regarding the establishment of a DPP for Dungannon and South Tyrone

21.3 Forthcoming Marriage

On behalf of the Board, the Chairman of the Board presented Mr Attwood with a gift to mark the occasion of his forthcoming marriage.

22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be held on 21 July 2004 at 10:00 am.

(Meeting closed at 13:20hours)

SECRETARIAT

June 2004

CHAIRMAN

While the following does not form part of the official Minute, in line with the Policing Board's Freedom of Information commitments, outlined in its Publication Scheme, the following are the reports and background papers that Members received.

REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

ITEM NUMBER

- 4 Report by Dr Neil Jarman on Racist Harassment in Northern Ireland.
- 11 Home Office Guidance on implementing new recording requirement under recommendation 61 of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report.
- 12 'Hate Crime': The Draft Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2004
- 13 Northern Ireland Office Consultation Document on proposals to reform the law on fraud.
- 14 Criminal Justice Reform Division Consultation Document on the future of committal proceedings in Northern Ireland.
- 15 Northern Ireland Office Consultation Document on section 67(3) of the Terrorism Act 2000.
- 18.2 Northern Ireland Prison Service Document on a Compact for Separated Prisoners
- 18.2 Northern Ireland Prison Service Document on Pre-Release Home Leave

**SECRETARIAT
SEPTEMBER 2004**