

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 29th CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2004 AT 9:30 AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Professor Desmond Rea (Chairman)
Mr Denis Bradley (Vice-Chairman)
(4) Mr Alex Attwood
(5) Mr Fred Cobain
Mr Barry Gilligan
Mrs Pauline McCabe
(3) Mr Alan McFarland
(2) Mr Eddie McGrady
(3) Mrs Rosaleen Moore
(1) Mr Sammy Wilson

PSNI IN ATTENDANCE:

(4) Mr Sam Kinkaid, Assistant Chief
Constable, Crime Operations
(4) Three PSNI Personnel

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSPECTORATE IN ATTENDANCE:

(6) Mr Kit Chivers, Chief Inspector

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
Director of Community Affairs
Director of Corporate Services
Director of Policy and Accountability
Four Board Officials

- (1) Item number 3.1 to part item 13
- (2) Item number 3.10 to part item 13
- (3) Item numbers 12 and 13 only
- (4) Item number 13 only
- (5) Item numbers 1 to 12 only
- (6) Item number 12 only

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Viscount Brookeborough and Mr Kelly.

**2. MINUTES OF THE 28TH CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON
16 DECEMBER 2003**

The minutes of the Corporate Policy Committee meeting held on 16 December 2003 were agreed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 28TH CORPORATE
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

District Policing Partnerships (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

DPPs / Funding For Minor Security Improvements

The Committee noted a letter from the Chairman to the Minister of State regarding funding for the provision of minor security improvements at the homes of DPP members and that to date, a reply had not been received.

3.1.2 Dungannon And South Tyrone DPP

A letter from the Secretary of State, dated 12 January 2004 was tabled at the meeting. The letter concerned the selection of independent members for the Dungannon and South Tyrone District Policing Partnership. The Committee agreed to consider the letter later in the meeting (Item 3.19 Refers).

Chief Police Officer Remuneration (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that Sir Dan Crompton's report concerning the remuneration of PSNI senior officers would be available for consideration at the February 2004 Corporate Policing Committee meeting.

Appointment Of Senior Board Staff (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)

There were no further developments.

NIPB Recommendations On The Omagh Bombing Report (Item 3.5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted a letter from the Deputy Chief Constable enclosing a number of protocols between the PSNI and the Police Ombudsman's Office. It was noted that many of the protocols are complete and others are in the process of development.

The Committee noted that a sub-group meeting arranged for 20 January 2004 would consider the protocols in more detail.

APA Performance Management Training (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that performance management training, organised by the Association of Police Authorities (APA), was in the process of being arranged for 11 March 2004. Further details will be issued to Members by officials.

Code Of Practice On Reports And Enquiries (Item 3.7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that the first sub-group meeting had been arranged for 3 February 2004.

Board Meetings In Public (Item 3.10 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that Omagh Council had given approval to the use of Omagh Council offices training room for the next Board meeting on 5 February 2004.

Consultation On Renewal Of 50:50 Recruitment (Item 3.12 Of Minutes Refers)

3.8.1 Renewal Of 50:50

The Committee noted a copy of a letter from the Chief Constable to the Minister of State, which represented the PSNI response on the issue of the renewal of 50:50 recruitment in respect of police trainees and support staff.

The Committee also noted a letter from the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland enclosing a copy of its response to the review of the temporary provisions of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000.

3.8.2 Recruitment Of Ethnic Minority Officers

The Committee discussed the recruitment of ethnic minority officers to PSNI.

Tackling Crime Against Older People (Item 3.13 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted correspondence between the Chairman and the Minister of State concerning the Lock Out Crime scheme, launched on 14 October 2003 as part of the wider Stay safe Stay secure campaign.

Members expressed disappointment about the content of the reply from the Minister of State. The Committee agreed to write again to the Minister to encourage additional funding to be made available for the scheme.

Legislative Developments In Northern Ireland To Deal With Anti-Social Behaviour (Item 4.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted a press release from the Northern Ireland Information Service concerning the introduction of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders to Northern Ireland.

The Committee also noted a copy of an NIO consultation document on measures to tackle anti-social behaviour. The Committee agreed that the consultation document should be referred to the Community Involvement Committee for consideration and appropriate action.

Appointment Of Assistant Chief Constable (Item 4.2 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under item 6.

3.12 Correspondence From Ulster Political Research Group (Item 4.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that legal advice had been sought concerning the correspondence received from the Ulster Political Research Group and a reply was awaited from the Crown Solicitor's Office.

3.13 Devolution Of Policing – Role Of NIPB (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted a letter from the Chairman to the Secretary of State, dated 23 December 2003, relating to the devolvement of responsibility for policing to a local administration. A reply is awaited.

3.14 Correspondence From British / Irish Rights Watch (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted a letter from the Chairman to the Deputy Chief Constable, dated 23 December 2003, concerning correspondence from British / Irish Rights Watch regarding the arrests of Liam Clarke and Kathryn Johnston. A reply is awaited.

3.15 CAJ Commentary On The Work Of The NIPB (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted a letter from the Chairman to the Director of the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) responding to a CAJ commentary on the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB).

The Committee noted that the Chairman had offered the Director the opportunity to meet the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board to discuss the CAJ commentary.

3.16 Confidentiality Of PSNI Briefing To The Board (Item 12 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted that the Chairman had spoken with representatives of 2 of the political parties represented on the Board concerning issues surrounding the confidentiality of PSNI briefings to the Board and that further discussions had been arranged.

3.17 9th Report Of The Oversight Commissioner (Item 17 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee noted a paper outlining the areas of concern raised by the Oversight Commissioner in his 9th report, published on 10 December 2003.

The Committee agreed that each of the Board's Committees should request the relevant PSNI Accountable Officer to provide an up to date report / position statement on each of the areas of concern identified in the report and provide an outline, including time, of how each area will be addressed.

3.18 Review Of Remuneration For Independent Members

A Member referred to discussion at previous Board and Committee meetings concerning the NIO review of remuneration for independent Members. The Chairman advised the Committee that he had spoken regularly with NIO officials concerning the matter but to date had not received a substantive reply. The Chairman stated that he would raise the matter again at the earliest opportunity.

3.19 District Policing Partnership – Dungannon And South Tyrone (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

Having had an opportunity to consider the letter from the Secretary of State tabled earlier in the meeting, the majority of Members agreed with the content of the draft

letter that the Secretary of State proposed to send to Dungannon Council concerning the establishment of a District Policing Partnership.

Mr Wilson recorded his opposition to the content of the letter.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Police Ombudsman's Reports On The Discharge Of Baton Rounds

The Committee noted that 2 reports had been received by the Chairman from the Police Ombudsman's Office on the Discharge of Baton Rounds at:-

- Short Strand, Belfast on 14 May 2002
- Short Strand, Belfast on 12 May 2002

The Committee noted that the reports would be referred to the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee for consideration.

4.2 4th Report From The NIO Steering Group On Research Into Alternative Policing Approaches Towards The Management Of Conflict

The Committee noted that the Chairman had received a draft copy of the 4th report of the NIO Steering Group on research into alternative policing approaches towards the management of conflict. The Committee noted that when the report was finalised all Members would be issued with a copy. Any Member wishing to receive a copy of the draft report was asked to contact the Chief Executive.

The Committee also noted that the NIO had advised that a statement by the Defence Scientific Advice Council on the ricochet potential of the L21A1 baton round had been placed in the library of the House of Commons.

4.3 Correspondence From The Oversight Commissioner

The Committee noted a letter of thanks from the outgoing Oversight Commissioner, Mr Tom Constantine.

4.4 Northern Ireland Information Service Press Statement Regarding Car Crime

The Committee noted a press statement issued by the Northern Ireland Information Service concerning “tough new measures to tackle car crime”.

4.5 Engagements

The Committee noted that the Chairman had attended a dinner on 8 December 2003 for the outgoing Oversight Commissioner, Mr Tom Constantine.

The Committee noted that the Chairman had joined police officers on patrol in Belfast on Friday / Saturday morning (19 / 20 December 2003) to experience at first hand policing in various parts of the city. Members discussed a number of issues arising from the visit, including Operation Viper, car crime, pursuit of stolen vehicles, licencing laws in Belfast and the extension of the “Get Home Safe” campaign to other parts of Belfast.

During discussion, the Committee noted that police powers in respect of disqualified drivers were limited and it was agreed that the Community Involvement Committee should pursue this matter further. It was also agreed that the Community Involvement Committee should give further consideration to a number of issues associated with the dispersal of young people from places of entertainment at night and in the early hours of the morning.

4.6 CAJ Commentary On The Work Of The Police Ombudsman

The Committee noted a letter from the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) advising that it was preparing a commentary on the work of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland. The Committee agreed that the

correspondence should be considered by the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee and that it should make recommendation to the Corporate Policy Committee on how the Board should respond to the letter.

4.7 Meeting With Student Officers

The Committee noted that the Chairman and Mr Paisley Jnr had met with student officers on 6 January 2004. Arising from issues raised by student officers at the meeting, the Committee discussed whether any improvements could be made to the existing accommodation at the police training college, prior to the completion of the new college in 2007. The Committee agreed that the Chairman, Mr Gilligan and Mrs McCabe should meet to discuss the matter further.

4.8 Honours

The Committee noted a number of awards made to PSNI officers in the 2004 New Year Honours List, including the award of the OBE to Alastair McDowell. The Committee congratulated the latter.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Review Of Public Administration

The Chief Executive informed Members that the Board had been invited to comment on the Review of Public Administration and that a paper would be submitted to a future Committee meeting. The Chief Executive invited comments from Members concerning the review.

6. RECRUITMENT OF AN ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Committee considered a draft advertisement, job description, person specification, procedures document and application form for an Assistant Chief Constable appointment. The Committee approved the documentation.

The Committee noted that the Chief Executive would review aspects of the marking and ranking of candidates at interview and would report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

The Committee noted a suggestion that the appointment panel consist of an odd number of Members consisting of not less than 5.

The Committee also noted that Mrs Moore would replace Mrs McCabe as a member of the Assistant Chief Constable appointment panel.

7. CONVERSION OF 5TH FLOOR AT WATERSIDE TOWER TO OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

The Committee considered a paper relating to the rationale and subsequent costs associated with the conversion of the 5th floor of Waterside Tower to usable office accommodation.

The Committee discussed the estimated conversion costs and agreed that officials should seek a breakdown of the costs provided by the Department of the Environment and whether there were any constraints on the use of private sector consultants.

8. POLICE TRAINING COLLEGE

The Committee noted that a number of Members and senior PSNI personnel had visited a Metropolitan Police training facility at Gravesend on 8 January 2004. The facility had been provided under PFI and a number of lessons had been learned during the PFI process that would be of value to those involved in the planning process for the PSNI training college.

The Committee noted that Mr Gilligan had attended a workshop on the new police training college on 12 January 2004 to consider final high level specifications for the facility. The Committee noted that it was anticipated that the final specification would be ready by the end of January 2004. The Committee discussed a number of issues arising from the workshop including a simulated learning centre, firearm ranges, potential savings, third party income and the role of higher educational establishments in PSNI student officer training.

The Committee noted that the next Project Board had been arranged for early February 2004 and that it was anticipated that a recommendation would be made at this meeting concerning the location of the establishment. The Committee agreed that it would be helpful for a short paper to be prepared for a future meeting highlighting any significant changes to the accommodation specification. The Committee noted that the final business case would be required to be brought to the Board.

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

There were no matters arising.

10. INFORMATION PAPERS

Security Vetting Review

The Committee noted a letter from the Northern Ireland Office, detailing the text of a written Ministerial statement made on 15 December 2003 reporting progress in the Security Vetting Review announced on 12 December 2002.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Publication Of Agendas Of Board And Committee Meetings

The Committee considered a paper detailing proposals for the format, timing and process for the publication of Board and Committee agendas.

The Committee agreed to:-

- The publication of all Board and Committee agendas in a standard format
- The publication of the agendas of meetings one working day after each meeting is held
- The publication of the agendas of all Committee and non-public sessions of Board meetings on the Board's website with effect from 14 January 2004
- Review the arrangements in 4 months time

12. WORK OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSPECTORATE

The Chairman welcomed Mr Kit Chivers, Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland to the meeting.

Mr Chivers gave a brief presentation in which he outlined a number of proposals for the new Criminal Justice Inspectorate. The Committee noted that a stakeholder conference had been arranged for 14 January 2004 and that the Chairman would be attending the event.

Members discussed a number of aspects of the role of the new Chief Inspector and the following points were highlighted:-

- The Chief Inspector may delegate any of his functions concerning the inspection of PSNI to Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC)
- The Chief Inspector had spoken with the HMIC and both had agreed the general principles governing their professional relationship
- The Chief Inspector did not have a remit to investigate individual cases brought to the attention of the Police Ombudsman and it was not the intention of the legislation to hold the Police Ombudsman to account to the Chief Inspector
- The Chief Inspector's role would be to assist in helping the criminal justice system to raise standards and improve performance

The Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice left the meeting.

13. BRIEFING REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BLAKEY, STEVENS AND CROMPTON REPORTS AND THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE MODEL

The Chairman welcomed ACC Kinkaid and a number of PSNI personnel to the meeting.

The Chairman reminded Members that the Committee had delegated authority to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board to receive regular briefings from PSNI about the implementation of the Blakey, Stevens and Crompton reports and that the Board had received regular updates on these briefings.

ACC Kinkaid advised Members that the status of the briefing was "restricted" and Members agreed to adhere to this confidentiality designation.

The main issues included in the presentation were as follows:-

- The drivers for changing the present police approach to the investigation of serious crime
- The key issues arising from the Crompton report
- The key issues arising from the Blakey report
- The key issues arising from the Stevens 3 report
- Patten Recommendations 98, 99, 100 and 101
- The PSNI approach to the implementation of the Blakey, Stevens and Crompton reports and the National Intelligence Model
- The creation of a new Crime Ops Department and Criminal Justice Department within PSNI
- The structural organisation of Crime Operations Department
- The proposed responsibilities for C2 – Serious Crime Branch
- The role of Districts and Regions supporting Crime Operations in the investigation of murders
- The resources allocated to C2
- Service Level Agreements
- The role of C7 – Serious Crime Review
- Recommendations on detective training
- Key issues concerning the National Intelligence Model
- Strategic and tactical assessments
- Progress to date on implementing the national intelligence model (NIM)

During the discussion which followed, Members raised a wide range of issues, including:-

- The resources needed for the new department
- The interface between the PSNI and other agencies
- The management of informants
- The reaction of Police Services in England to the National Intelligence Model
- The provision of information technology
- The co-ordination of IT systems
- Training for detectives
- Tenure of post

- Confidential briefings to the Policing Board
- The impact of the structural changes on the Human Resources Planning Strategy
- The need for a wider debate about the investigation of historic crimes
- Exchange of intelligence with crime investigators

Following the presentation and discussion, ACC Kinkaid and the PSNI personnel left the meeting.

14. PRESS ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 19 February 2004.

(Meeting closed 3:00 pm).

SECRETARIAT
January 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

- 3.10 Consultation Document – Measures to tackle anti-social behaviour in Northern Ireland**

- 3.17 Report 9 of the Office of the Oversight Commission – December 2003**

- 4.2 Patten Report Recommendations 69& 70 - relating to public order equipment – A research programme into alternative approaches towards the management of conflict – 4th Report prepared by the Steering Group led by the Northern Ireland Office, in consultation with the Association of Chief Police Officers**