

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF THE 51<sup>st</sup> CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2006 AT 10:00 AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT**

#### **MEMBERS**

Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)  
(1) Mr Denis Bradley (Vice Chairman)  
(4) Mr Alex Attwood  
(2) Mr Joe Byrne  
(8) Mr Fred Cobain  
Mr Brian Dougherty  
(5) Mr Barry Gilligan  
(3) Mr Willie Hay  
(9) Mr Tom Kelly  
(6) Mrs Pauline McCabe  
(2) Mr Alan McFarland  
(7) Mr Eddie McGrady  
Mrs Rosaleen Moore  
Mr Ian Paisley Jnr

**POLICE SERVICE OF  
NORTHERN IRELAND  
IN ATTENDANCE** (11) Mr Sam Kinkaid (ACC Crime Operations)

**SECURITY SERVICES  
IN ATTENDANCE:** (11) Director of Co-ordination and Intelligence

**NORTHERN IRELAND  
OFFICE IN  
ATTENDANCE:** (11) One Official

**HISTORIAL ENQUIRIES  
TEAM IN  
ATTENDANCE:** (10) Mr David Cox, Head of Team  
(10) D/Superintendent  
(10) One Official

**OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:** Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)  
(12) Mr David Jackson (Director of Community  
Affairs)  
(12) Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate  
Services)  
(12) Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)  
Mrs Sinead Simpson (Director of Policy)  
2 Board Officials

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| (1)  | Item number 3.4 to close                 |
| (2)  | Part item number 9 to close              |
| (3)  | Part item number 9 to 13, Item 16        |
| (4)  | Item numbers 15 to 18                    |
| (5)  | Item number 16 only                      |
| (6)  | Except part item 16, 17 and part item 18 |
| (7)  | Except part item 17 and part item 18     |
| (8)  | Except item 17 and part item 18          |
| (9)  | Part item 17 and part item 18            |
| (10) | Item 16 only                             |
| (11) | Item 17 only                             |
| (12) | Except item 17                           |

## **1. APOLOGIES, ETC**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Viscount Brookeborough and Mr Sammy Wilson. NOTED.

Mr Wilson had nominated Mr Paisley Jnr as his substitute. NOTED.

The Chief Executive had represented the Board at the funeral of a serving officer, Constable Donal Patrick O'Neill on 22 December 2005. NOTED.

## **2. MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **2.1 Minutes Of The 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting Held On 16 November 2005**

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the November 2005 meeting.

It was:-

### **AGREED**

That the minutes of the Corporate Policy Committee meeting held on 16 November 2005 should be agreed.

## **2.2 Minutes Of The 50<sup>th</sup> Meeting Held On 20 December 2005**

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:-

### **AGREED**

That the minutes of the Corporate Policy Committee meeting held on 20 December 2005 should be agreed.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 49<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

### **3.1 PSNI Senior Civilian Staff – Pay And Allowances** (Item 4.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that discussions were ongoing regarding the assimilation of senior civilian staff into the new arrangements and that when a substantive response was received he would update the Committee accordingly. NOTED.

### **3.2 Strategic Issues – Top Ten Agenda** (Item 4.3 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was considered at item 13.1

### **3.3 Community Restorative Justice** (Item 4.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Director of Community Affairs updated Members on 2 meetings of the Board's Working Group on Community Restorative Justice that had been held since the last Corporate Policy Committee meeting. He advised that a copy of the guidelines had been received from the NIO and that these were being considered by the Working Group. The closing date for the consultation exercise by NIO is 24 February 2006. NOTED.

The content of a letter from Moyle District Policing Partnership concerning a motion that was raised at a meeting of the Partnership regarding the issue of Community Restorative Justice, was drawn to the attention of the Committee. NOTED.

The Director of Community Affairs informed Members that a letter had been issued to each DPP reminding them of the Board's position regarding Community Restorative Justice. NOTED.

### **3.4 Briefing On SOCA (Item 5.1 Of Minutes Refers)**

A letter had been forwarded to the head of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) inviting him to brief the Board on the new Agency at a mutually suitable date before the end of March 2006. A reply was awaited. NOTED.

### **3.5 Meeting With The Chief Inspector Of Criminal Justice In Northern Ireland (Item 5.6 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chief Executive informed the Board that arrangements were being finalised for a meeting on 31 January 2006 between representatives of each of the agencies responsible for carrying out inspections of PSNI, to improve the co-ordination of their work. The Board will be updated on the outcome of the meeting in due course. NOTED.

### **3.6 Draft NIO Determinations – Senior Officer Appointments – Consultation (Item 11 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee was reminded that the Board had considered the Draft NIO Determinations at its December meeting and had agreed to further consider the matter at its next meeting in February 2006. A paper was being prepared for the February Board meeting. NOTED.

## **4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Engagements**

The Chairman had undertaken the following engagements:-

- Christmas reception – Policing Board – Belfast – 7 December 2005.
- Christmas lunch – Police Federation – Belfast – 8 December 2005.
- Launch of the Professional Certificate in Law, Policing and Investigation of Serious Crime – Belfast – 9 December 2005.
- Meeting with a Consultant regarding a review of strategic issues for the Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust – 13 December 2005.
- Reception – Hillsborough – 13 December 2005.
- Christmas Reception – Custody Visitors and Community Observers – Belfast – 14 December 2005.
- Dinner in honour of the visit to Northern Ireland of Her Excellency Dr Lindiwe Mabuza, South African High Commissioner – Hillsborough – 14 December 2005.
- Meeting with Independent Monitoring Commission – 15 December 2005.
- Christmas Reception – Labour Relations Agency – 15 December 2005.
- Christmas Reception – British / Irish Intergovernmental Secretariat – 15 December 2005.
- Graduation Dinner – University of Ulster – 20 December 2005.

NOTED.

### **4.2 Publications**

The following publications had been placed in the library:-

- Review of Scientific Support Services in the PSNI – Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland – December 2005.
- Inspection of Forensic Science Northern Ireland - Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland – December 2005.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Report – Northern Ireland Parades Commission – 2004 – 2005.
- Human Rights Programme of Action 2005 – 2006.

NOTED.

### **4.3 Correspondence**

The Chairman had received the following correspondence:-

- letter dated 15 December 2005 from the Deputy Chief Constable regarding a question that was tabled at the Board meeting on 3 November 2005 concerning the cost of policing the Orange Parades on 12 July 2005 in Belfast and the total cost of policing the parades of marching orders and of bands respectively from 1 April 2005 to 30 September 2005.
- letter dated 22 December 2005 from West Yorkshire Police in respect of the tragic events which took place on 18 November 2005.
- letter dated 22 December 2005 from Mr Robin Field Smith (HMIC) regarding initial feedback on the HMIC Inspection of the PSNI Human Resources Function.
- letter dated 23 December 2005 from Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Foundation regarding donation from the Board to the Oral History Project.
- letter dated 3 January 2006 from the Police Ombudsman regarding the discharge of a firearm at Carrickfergus on 14 June 2003.
- letter of thanks dated 6 January 2006 from Ms Monica McWilliams – Chief Commissioner Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission regarding meeting on 6 December 2005. NOTED.

#### 4.4 News Releases

The Chairman highlighted the following news releases circulated to Board Members:-

- Assets Recovery Agency seeks assets of murdered drug dealer - Assets Recovery Agency – 10 November 2005.
- Public must support Police – Woodward – NIO – 14 November 2005.
- Consultation on powers of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission – Hanson – NIO – 16 November 2005.
- Don't leave valuables visible to thieves – Hanson – NIO – 21 November 2005.
- Hanson visits Derry Community Safety Projects – NIO – 21 November 2005.
- Training Strengthens Accountable Policing – Hain – NIO – 22 November 2005.
- Conversion of the Billy Wright Inquiry – Hain – NIO – 23 November 2005.
- The late Jim Gray's Assets Frozen – Assets Recovery Agency – 25 November 2005.
- Domestic Violence Helpline is Saving Lives – Hanson – NIO – 29 November 2005.
- Hain lays down challenge to New Parades Commission – NIO – 30 November 2005.
- Government moves to strengthen corruption law – NIO – 8 December 2005.
- Northern Ireland to host meeting on challenges of cocaine misuse – Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety – 12 December 2005
- Report recommendations will greatly enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of scientific support services – Hain – NIO – 14 December 2005.

- Criminal Justice Inspectorate Reports on Scientific Support Services in the PSNI – Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland – 14 December 2005.
- Assets of Alleged Paramilitary Loan Shark and Extortionist Frozen – Assets Recovery Agency – 22 December 2005.
- New Police Powers to tackle drug dealers who target vulnerable school children – Hanson – NIO – 29 December 2005.
- Statement on Northern Ireland by Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Peter Hain regarding NI (Offences) Bill – NIO – 11 January 2006.
- Drug use in Ireland and Northern Ireland 2002/2003 Prevalence Survey: Cocaine Results – Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety – 12 January 2006. NOTED.

#### **4.5 Chief Constable's Performance And Development Review (Item 5.5 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chairman informed the Committee that he had consulted with the Chairpersons of Committees in advance of the Chief Constable's 8<sup>th</sup> month review which had taken place on 17 January 2006. The Chairman updated Members on the review. NOTED.

## **5 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS**

### **5.1 National Policing Improvement Agency**

The Chief Executive updated the Committee on proposed legislation for a National Policing Improvement Agency. He advised that further clarification was being sought about the scope of the legislation and its impact on PSNI. NOTED.

## **5.2 Conduct Of Senior Officers – Regulations 2000**

The Chief Executive briefed Members on a complaint which was being progressed under the Conduct of Senior Officers Regulations 2000. NOTED.

## **5.3 Review Of Public Administration**

The Chief Executive briefed the Committee on initial discussions that he had undertaken with PSNI, NIO and the Permanent Secretary of the Department of the Environment regarding the Review of Public Administration. A Member advised the Committee that in response to a Parliamentary Question, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State had stated that it is intended to lay a draft Order in Council before Parliament in the current term to set the context for the review of local government boundaries. NOTED.

Members discussed the PSNI approach to preparing for new DCU structures. A Member referred to the merits of the Board formally adopting a position concerning the Review of Public Administration.

## **5.4 Devolution Of Policing And Justice – Enabling Legislation**

The Chief Executive informed Members, that it is anticipated that the draft enabling legislation and associated discussion paper on the devolution of policing and justice, will be published by Government in mid February 2006. NOTED.

## **5.5 Conference**

The Chief Executive advised Members about the following conference:-

- Seminar on the Future of Public Administration on 7 February 2006 in the Stormont Hotel.

Any Member wishing to attend the conference was asked to contact Secretariat for further details. NOTED.

## **5.6 Request For Meeting – Committee On The Administration Of Justice**

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that he had received a request from the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) for a meeting with the Board.

It was:

### **AGREED**

That Board officials should, in the first instance, meet with representatives from the CAJ.

## **5.7 Invitation To Host Board Meeting In Public In Antrim Borough**

The Chief Executive informed the Committee about an invitation which had been received from Antrim District Policing Partnership regarding hosting a Board meeting in public in Antrim Borough. NOTED.

## **5.8 HMIC Baseline Assessment Report 2005**

The Chief Executive informed Members that the HMIC Baseline Assessment Report 2005 on the PSNI was due to be published on 23 January 2006. An embargoed copy will be issued to Members as soon as it becomes available. NOTED.

## **5.9 Request For Documentation Under Freedom Of Information Legislation**

The Chief Executive informed Members about the receipt of a request for documentation under Freedom of Information legislation and that legal advice was being taken concerning the Board's response. NOTED.

## **6. POLICING PLAN**

### **6.1 2006/2009 Policing Plan**

The Committee considered the final version of the 2006/2009 Policing Plan. The Committee reviewed all sections of the Plan and made a number of minor amendments to the final draft. Subject to these revisions:

It was:

#### **RESOLVED**

To give delegated authority to the Chairman and Vice Chairman, if required, to sign off the Policing Plan 2006/2009.

### **6.2 Criminal Justice Board Logo**

The Committee considered a letter dated 16 November 2005 received from the Chairman of the Criminal Justice Board, requesting that consideration be given to including the Criminal Justice System for Northern Ireland logo on the 2006/2009 Policing Plan publication.

Following discussion:

It was:

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Board should decline to include the Criminal Justice System logo on the 2006/2009 Policing Plan at this stage.

## **7. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT PANEL REPORT**

### **7.1 Report Of The Independent Assessment Panel – Board Response And Proposed Actions**

The Committee considered a paper containing draft Board responses and proposed actions to address the recommendations and suggestions contained in the Report of the Independent Assessment Panel.

The Committee considered each recommendation, Board response and proposed action and made a number of recommendations and amendments, which were noted by officials.

Following further discussion, it was:

#### **AGREED**

To give further consideration to the Board responses and proposed actions in conjunction with the Top Ten Strategic Issues and the work of the Defining the Role of the Board Working Group.

### **7.2 Review Of Board Staffing Requirements (Recommendation 14)**

The Committee considered a paper concerning the ongoing development and review of the Board's staffing structure which addressed Recommendation 14 of the Independent Assessment Panel's report in respect of a review of staffing requirements. The proposals in the paper related to senior staff and involved the suppression of the Director of Communications post and the filling of the Deputy Chief Executive post, as previously recommended in the BDS Review (2003) but now incorporating a portfolio of responsibilities covering external relations.

It was:

## **RESOLVED**

To approve the proposals in respect of senior posts and to seek NIO approval accordingly.

It was:

## **AGREED**

That the Committee should receive a detailed job description for the post of Deputy Chief Executive.

## **8. DEFINING THE ROLE OF THE BOARD**

The Committee considered a paper which sought Members views on the issue of 'Defining the Role of the Board' and a number of related elements of work.

Following discussion, it was:

## **AGREED**

That officials should prepare a paper combining issues relating to 'Defining the role of the Board' together with the 'Top Ten Strategic Issues' and the proposed action to address the Recommendation in the Independent Assessment Panel Report to form the basis of a work plan for the reconstituted Board to consider.

## **9. RECONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD – ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee considered a paper concerning various administrative arrangements relating to the end of the Board's term of office and the reconstitution of the new Board.

It was:

### **RECOMMENDED**

- that the Board should hold an end of term dinner to mark the conclusion of its current term of office.
- that the Board should develop a 4 year report setting out the Board's achievements.
- that the dates of Committee meetings in March should be reviewed, with a view to holding the meetings earlier in the month.
- that an additional Board meeting should be held on 28 March 2006.
- that officials should investigate the opportunities for Members to meet with opinion formers in Washington before the term of office of the current Board is concluded.

## **10. OMNIBUS SURVEY QUESTIONS – APRIL 2006**

The Committee considered a paper proposing questions to be included in the April 2006 Omnibus Survey.

It was:

### **RESOLVED**

To endorse the draft list of questions for inclusion in the survey.

## **11. LEGAL ACTION – UTV INSIGHT PROGRAMME – 19 OCTOBER 2005**

The Committee was advised of an urgent decision taken by the Chairman, in consultation with the Vice-Chairman, under the Board's Standing Order 20 to approve a request for financial support in respect of a civil writ against UTV, following a request by a senior officer in PSNI. NOTED.

## **12. INSPECTION REPORTS FROM CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSPECTION NORTHERN IRELAND (CJINI)**

The Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland recently published 2 reports relating to an Inspection of Forensic Science Northern Ireland and a review of Scientific Support Services in PSNI. The Committee considered a detailed summary of the CJINI reports. NOTED.

The Chairman advised Members that he would be writing to the Chief Constable seeking an update on the progress towards implementing the recommendations in the report reviewing the Scientific Support Services in PSNI. NOTED.

## **13. INFORMATION PAPERS**

### **13.1 Top Ten Strategic Issues**

The Committee considered a paper containing additional qualitative information requested by the Committee in respect of the consultation exercise carried out on Top Ten Strategic Issues. NOTED.

### **13.2 Integrated Call Management System For All Emergency Services In Northern Ireland**

At the October 2005 meeting of the Corporate Policy Committee, Members had received a presentation on the single non-emergency number from Assistant Chief Constable Corporate Development. Following discussion, officials wrote to the

Secretary of State regarding the feasibility of having an integrated call management system for all emergency services in Northern Ireland. Copies of the letter of request and the Secretary of State's response were considered by the Committee. NOTED.

### **13.3 Northern Ireland Safety Camera Scheme**

The Committee considered a paper which provided information on the Northern Ireland Safety Camera Scheme. A Project Board has been established to oversee the development of the scheme and the Board is represented on the group by the Director of Planning. NOTED.

### **13.4 Review Of Organised Crime Task Force**

This matter was dealt with under item 18.

## **14. MATTERS TO BE RAISED WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING**

There were no matters arising.

## **15. PRESS ISSUES**

There were no matters arising.

## **16. PRESENTATION ON THE INVESTIGATION OF HISTORIC CRIMES IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

The Chairman welcomed Mr David Cox, the head of the Historical Enquiries Team (HET) and other members of the Team to the meeting.

Mr Cox and the D/Superintendent gave a detailed presentation about the role of the Historical Enquiries Team and how members of the Team planned to approach the task of re-examining 3,268 deaths related to the Troubles.

A copy of the slides used during the presentation is attached at Appendix 'A'. The Team detailed the following:-

- the objectives in establishing the HET.
- the extent of the task facing the Team.
- HET prioritisation policy.
- the structure of the Team.
- the accountability mechanism.
- the phases of the process which would be followed.
  - the strategic collection and assessment of availability of material.
  - the review process for each case.
  - the process to investigate and resolve the case.
- the HET Analytical Database.
- potential areas of opportunities.
- the family liaison process.
- the launch of the HET.

In concluding his presentation, Mr Cox reminded Members that this was a unique concept in world policing and was an attempt, in a spirit of support and goodwill to bring some resolution to bereaved families.

During the discussion which followed the presentation, Members sought clarification and further information concerning a number of issues including:-

- the structure and budget for the HET.
- the access which the team would be given to covert human intelligence sources.
- Memos of Understanding between the HET and the Ministry of Defence and Security Services.
- the prioritising of cases.
- the involvement of former RUC officers with the HET.
- the process by which the HET will report progress.

The Chairman thanked the HET representatives for the presentation and expressed the wish of the Board to meet with the head of the Team to receive an update on progress, following the publication of its first report. The HET representatives left the meeting.

## **17. PSNI BRIEFING ON NATIONAL SECURITY**

Members received a confidential briefing from the Director and Co-ordinator of Intelligence and the Assistant Chief Constable Crime Operations concerning the transfer of responsibility of national security. The minute of this meeting is attached at Annex 'A'.

Following the meeting, the Director and ACC Crime Operations left the meeting.

## **18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **18.1 Organised Crime Task Force**

The Chairman reminded Members of the discussion which had taken place on 17 January 2006 between the Board, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Assistant Chief Constable Crime Operations during a briefing in respect of the role and work of the Organised Crime Task Force. The Chairman referred Members to a copy of a private and confidential letter which he had forwarded to the Minister on behalf of Members on 17 January 2006, in which he had expressed

the concern of the Board Members that there was a dichotomy between the NIO and the other agencies concerning the extent of involvement by paramilitary organisations in organised crime. The Chairman had invited a response from the Minister on behalf of Members, also on a confidential basis, in advance of the February 2006 Board meeting. NOTED.

The Chairman referred Members to a letter dated 18 January 2006 received from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, addressed to the Board Chairman. The letter of response had been placed in the public domain by the NIO.

Members discussed the correspondence.

Following discussion, it was

### **RESOLVED**

- That the Chairman should respond to the letter of 18 January 2006 stating:
  - that Members remained of the view that a dichotomy was evident.
  - that the explanation provided in the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State's response did not fully address Members' concerns.
  - that the Board did not believe that any initial breach of confidentiality emanated from any Board Member or official.
  - that all agencies present at the briefing should consider the breach of confidentiality.
  - that reference should be made in the Board's response to the future publication of the IMC Report.
- that the Chairman should write to the Chief Constable to confirm that the Board will continue to be provided with full briefings on all relevant matters.
- that the letter, together with the Chairman's letter of 17 January 2006 should be placed in the public domain.

Officials prepared a draft letter of response. Following consideration and amendment, it was:

**RESOLVED**

To issue the letter to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State as soon as possible.

**19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 16 February 2006 at 10:00am.

(Meeting closed 4:30pm).

**SECRETARIAT**

**January 2006**

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**CHAIRMAN**