

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF THE 42<sup>nd</sup> CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 MARCH 2005 AT 10:00 AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

- NORTHERN IRELAND  
OFFICE (NIO) IN  
ATTENDANCE**
- (2) Mr Nick Perry
  - (2) Mrs Christine Collins

- OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**
- Mrs Sinead Simpson (Director of Policy)
  - Mr Peter Holt (Director of  
Communications)
  - Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate  
Services)
  - Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
  - Three Board Officials

- (1) Item number 1 to item number 21
- (2) Item number 22
- (3) Item number 1 to item number 7
- (4) Item number 1 to item number 16
- (5) From item number 3.3 to close

#### **1. APOLOGIES, ETC**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr Dougherty and Mr Sharma. NOTED.

**2. MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>st</sup> CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 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 15 February 2005 be agreed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>st</sup> MEETING**

**Security Vetting Policy** (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman advised the Committee that a representative from the NIO would give a presentation to the Committee at 12:30pm in relation to the security vetting policy. All Members of the Board had been invited to attend the presentation. NOTED.

**Conference On Night-Time Economy And Licensing Act** (Item 3.5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Vice-Chairman updated the Committee on progress which had been made regarding the Board hosting a conference to discuss the problems of Night-Time Economy in Northern Ireland. NOTED.

### **Defining The Role Of The Board (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chairman advised the Committee that further consideration on the subject of "Defining the Role of the Board" would be deferred until after the General Election. NOTED.

### **Business And Decision Making Processes (Item 3.7 and 9 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Board had agreed at its March 2005 meeting that:-

- The 7-day deadline for receipt of questions be enforced, except for urgent matters. NOTED.
- That supplementary questions be permitted as a matter of course, with one supplementary question being taken after each notified question. NOTED.
- That the Board adopt a procedure whereby when a question is received from a member of the public that it be addressed to the Chief Constable by a Board Member. The same conditions will apply to such questions as apply to questions from Members. NOTED.

### **Association Of Police Authorities (APA) Policy Groups And Networks (Item 3.8 Of Minutes Refers)**

Subsequent to the Chief Executive's review:-

It was:

## **RECOMMENDED**

That the following Members and Officials should represent the Board on the APA Policy Groups and Networks.

### **Policy Groups**

Performance Management	Chairman of Corporate Policy Committee
Community Leadership	Chairman of Community Involvement Committee
Personnel and Human Resources	Chairman of Human Resources Committee

### **Networks**

Training Liaison Network	Chairman of Human Resources Committee and Director of Policy
Efficiency Network	Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee and Director of Planning.
Bureaucracy, Information and Management Network	Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee and Director of Planning.

It was:-

## **AGREED**

That details of representation on APA Policy Groups and Networks should be issued to all Members of the Board.

In respect of the Policy Groups, the Chair of the relevant Committee can nominate the Vice-Chair or another Member to attend if she / he is unavailable. NOTED

**Duty Payment For Part-Time Reserve Officers** (Item 3.9 and 6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman referred to correspondence that he had received regarding a duty payment for Part-Time Reserve Officers. NOTED.

It was:-

**RECOMMENDED**

That a meeting be arranged between Independent Board Members and representatives of the Part-Time Reserve to discuss duty payments.

**Full-Time Reserve Retraining Scheme** (Item 3.11 Of Minutes Refers)

The Director of Policy briefed the Committee on the progress which had been made and agreement reached, between the NIO and the Police Federation on the conversion of 6 months of the 9 months retraining period to a cash lump sum. NOTED.

It was:-

**AGREED**

That the Human Resources Committee should be asked to accept an invitation from the Police Rehabilitation and Re-Training Trust to discuss re-training for Full-Time Reservists and phase plans.

### **3.8 HMIC Baseline Assessment Of PSNI (Item 3.12 Of Minutes Refers)**

Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) had carried out a refresh inspection of PSNI. The final report would be forwarded to the Board in due course. NOTED.

### **3.9 Meeting With Police Ombudsman – Searches (Item 4.3.1 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Director of Policy briefed the Committee on a response which had been received from the Deputy Chief Constable regarding:-

- Disciplinary action which had been taken against eight Police Officers as a result of recommendations which had been made by the Police Ombudsman concerning an investigation which her Office had carried out in relation to searches which had been carried out at the homes of Mr Liam Clarke and Ms Kathryn Johnston.
- Recommendations on policy issues which had been made by the Office of the Police Ombudsman arising out of the investigation of the incident.

The Committee discussed the Board's response to Ms Johnston and Mr Clarke.

It was:-

#### **AGREED**

- That the Deputy Chief Constable's letter and a response to Ms Johnston and Mr Clarke should be referred to the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee for consideration

- That the Chief Constable should be asked what action, if any, had been taken against senior officers as a result of the recommendations which had been made by the Police Ombudsman.

### **3.10 PSNI Senior Civilian Staff – Pay And Allowances** (Item 5.1 Of Minutes Refers)

A paper regarding pay and allowances for PSNI Senior Civilian Staff would be presented to the Committee for consideration at the April 2005 meeting.

NOTED.

### **3.11 Association Of Police Authorities Reception** (Item 5.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman advised the Committee that the NIO had indicated willingness to make a contribution to the funding for the APA reception up to a limit of £6,000. NOTED.

### **3.12 Critical Incident Training Event** (Item 5.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The PSNI had advised that the Critical Incident Training Event for police officers had been held in England during the period 11–13 March 2005 because of the need to use specialised IT equipment which was required for the event. Similar equipment was in the process of being acquired for the PSNI. NOTED.

### **3.13 APA Self Assessment Framework** (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under item 10.

### **3.14 Gershon Efficiencies – NIPB Plan (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)**

This matter was dealt with under item 11.

### **3.15 Chief Constable – Performance And Development Review (PDR) And Performance Related Pay (PRP) (Item 4.3.3 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chairman referred to the 12 month review of the Chief Constable's performance under his Performance and Development Review and Performance Related Pay.

It was:-

#### **AGREED**

That the Committee should discuss the draft 12 months review of Chief Constable's performance against objectives.

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

### **4.1 Engagements**

The Chairman advised the Committee that he had undertaken the following engagement on behalf of the Board:-

- Meeting with Chevening Fellows, University of Birmingham on 1 March 2005. NOTED.

### **4.2 Publications**

The following publications had been placed in the library:-

- NIO Statistics on the Operation of the Terrorism Act 2000 – September 2004. NOTED
- Fourth Report of the Independent Monitoring Commission – 10 February 2005. NOTED.
- Keeping Safe, Staying Safe – Thematic Inspection of the Investigation and Prevention of Child Abuse – HM Inspectorate of Constabulary –March 2005. NOTED.

### **4.3 Correspondence**

#### **4.3.1 Proposed Closure Of Moy, Caledon And Ballygawley PSNI Stations**

A letter had been received from the PSNI regarding consultation on the proposed closure of Moy, Caledon and Ballygawley PSNI stations. NOTED.

#### **4.3.2 Reports From The Office Of The Police Ombudsman**

The Chairman advised the Committee that reports had been received from the Police Ombudsman's Office regarding:-

- The discharge of a firearm at Markethill Road, Armagh on 11 March 2001;
- The discharge of CS Incapacitant Spray in Londonderry on 14 August 2004;
- The discharge of CS Incapacitant Spray in Bessbrook on 18 October 2004;
- A sudden death outside Strabane PSNI Station on 17 March 2003;
- The discharge of CS Incapacitant Spray in Portadown on 24 October 2004

and all but one was positive.

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

#### **4.4 Visits to Boston / Chicago / Washington – Feedback**

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman outlined details of visits which had been undertaken to Boston, Chicago and Washington by Board Members, Officials, DPP Members and PSNI Officers during March 2005. NOTED.

It was:-

#### **AGREED**

That a letter should be sent to the Secretary of State suggesting that a Working Group should be set up to consider the establishment of an integrated Call Centre for all Emergency Services in Northern Ireland.

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

#### **5.1 Commencement Of 'Purdah'**

The Committee noted details of the commencement of 'Purdah' subject to a General Election being called for 5 May 2005.

It was:-

#### **AGREED**

That the May Board meeting should be cancelled subject to the General Election being called for 5 May 2005.

## **5.2 Seminar On Police / Community Relations**

The Director of Policy gave details of a seminar entitled "Police / Community Relations" which would be held in Dublin on 22 April 2005. The Chairman would be speaking at the seminar.

## **6 REPORT OF THE NIAC INTO THE FUNCTIONS OF THE NIPB**

The Committee considered a paper concerning the report of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee (NIAC) into the functions of the Policing Board. The paper asked the Committee to consider a response to the NIAC's conclusions and recommendations.

It was:-

### **RECOMMENDED**

- That the Board respond to NIAC conclusions / recommendations 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 10 as proposed in the paper.
- That the Board give further consideration to NIAC conclusions / recommendations 3, 5, 6 and 12.

It was:-

### **AGREED**

- That the Committee give further considerations to conclusion / recommendation 11 after the election.
- That NIAC conclusions / recommendations 13 and 14 be considered by the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee.

**7 REPORT OF THE NIAC INTO THE FUNCTIONS OF OFFICE OF POLICE OMBUDSMAN (OPONI)**

The Committee considered a paper which outlined the recommendations which the NIAC has made following its Inquiry into the functions of the Police Ombudsman. NOTED.

The paper asked the Committee to note the recommendations and to consider what action it should take with regard to recommendation 3 in the report which related to co-operation, communications and working relationships between the Board and the Office of the Police Ombudsman. The Committee considered that this recommendation had been dealt with under item 6.

**8. CONSULTATION FROM CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSPECTION (CJINI) ON REVIEW OF OFFICE OF POLICE OMBUDSMAN (OPONI)**

The Committee considered a paper which outlined details of correspondence which had been received from the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) regarding an inspection which the CJINI were carrying out concerning the work of the Office of the Police Ombudsman. The paper asked the Committee to consider a draft response to the CJINI on the Board's experience of working with the Police Ombudsman's Office.

It was:-

**RECOMMENDED**

That the draft response should be updated and considered by the Board at its next meeting.

## **9. CONSULTATION ON ORGANISED CRIME TASK FORCE**

The Committee considered a paper which provided a draft response to a review which the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State was carrying out in relation to the Organised Crime Task Force.

It was:-

### **RECOMMENDED**

That the draft response to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State's review should be considered by the Board at its next meeting.

## **10. APA ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK**

The Committee considered a paper which outlined various options for assessing the Board's performance.

It was:-

### **RECOMMENDED**

That the Board should invite a specifically appointed Group to assess the Board's performance.

## **11. GERSHON EFFICIENCIES – NIPB PLAN**

The Committee considered a revised plan for the Board to achieve 7.5% Gershon Efficiency savings.

It was:-

**RECOMMENDED**

That the revised plan should be approved by the Board.

**12. CHIEF OFFICERS SEVERANCE SCHEME**

The Committee considered the contents of a paper which outlined details of discussions which had taken place between Officials and the NIO concerning severance arrangements for Chief Officers. NOTED.

**13. NOTIFIABLE MEMBERSHIPS**

The Committee considered a paper which sought Members views on an amended PSNI General Order and Guidance Notes in respect of notifiable memberships.

Mr McGrady expressed his disappointment at the timetable being imposed which necessitated the matter not being brought to the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee; the Committee agreed.

Mr Wilson expressed his opposition to any process in respect of registering notifiable memberships.

It was:-

**RECOMMENDED**

- That the PSNI General Order and Guidance Notes should be amended as drafted by PSNI and referred to the Board for consideration; and
- That the need for legislative change should be considered by the Board.

#### **14. ANNUAL REPORT FORMAT**

The Committee considered a paper which sought Members views on the style of the Policing Board's Annual Report for 2004 / 2005.

It was:-

#### **RECOMMENDED**

- That a newspaper review document should be produced in advance of that issued by the PSNI - focussed on the Board's work and issues raised by NIAC.
- That a formal style report should be produced by September 2005 which would include register of interests and accounts.
- That flyers outlining key aspects of the Board's work should be translated into minority languages.

#### **15. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**

The Committee considered a paper which outlined details of a communications strategy for the Board.

The Committee suggested a few amendments to the strategy.

It was:

**RECOMMENDED**

That the communications strategy should be amended and the revised document be considered by the Board at its next meeting.

**16. REVIEW OF STUDENT OFFICER MEETINGS**

The Committee considered a paper which outlined options for meetings with PSNI Student Officers.

It was:

**RECOMMENDED**

That the Board should consider holding a meeting with PSNI Student Officers in week 1 – 4 of their training and change the timing of the meeting from the evening to daytime.

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

It was:-

**AGREED**

That the Committee had no issues to raise with the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting.

**18. PRESS ISSUES**

It was:-

**AGREED**

That there were no issues arising from the meeting that should be included in a news release.

**19. INFORMATION PAPER**

There were no information papers for consideration. NOTED.

**20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was conducted.

**21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 21 April 2005 at 10:00am.

## **22. SECURITY VETTING REVIEW**

The Chairman having welcomed 2 representatives from NIO, Mr Nick Perry and Mrs Christine Collins to the meeting, vacated the Chair to fulfil a prior engagement.

The NIO representatives briefly summarised the background to the development of security vetting throughout the United Kingdom from the 1950s to date. Members were informed that the current system was based on the 1994 Prime Minister's Statement of Government Policy on Security Vetting and the statement highlighted the requirement for vetting to be proportionate and necessary.

The NIO representatives described how the nature and sources of threats to national security had changed since the Statement was issued. They described why responsibility for the security vetting process in Northern Ireland had transferred from the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) to the NIO. Members were advised about the ongoing review that was being carried out on security vetting within the Northern Ireland Civil Service departments and the main changes in procedures that had been adopted to date, as a result of the review.

The meeting discussed a number of issues arising from the briefing and a number of additional matters, including:-

- The need for a robust appeal system for candidates for posts in the civil service who were rejected due to adverse vetting reports
- The process for assessing information
- Liaison with counterparts in the rest of the UK
- The nature of the security advice given to employing Departments.

Following discussion, the Vice Chairman thanked the NIO representatives for their participation and they left the meeting.

(Meeting closed 2:20pm).

**Secretariat**  
**March 2005**

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**CHAIRMAN**