

**NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

**MINUTES OF THE 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF FINANCE AND GENERAL  
PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 JUNE 2005 AT 9:30AM IN  
WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

**PRESENT:**

**MEMBERS:**

Mr Sammy Wilson (Chairman)  
Mr Alex Attwood  
Mr Barry Gilligan

**PSNI REPRESENTATIVES IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

- (4) Mr Joe Byrne
- (2) Mr Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
- (1) Mr Roy Toner (ACC Corporate Development)
- (5) Mr David Best (Director of Finance & Support Services)
- (5) Head of Management Accounting
- (3) Mr Ian Moore, Head of Estates Services
- (3) C/Supt Eddie Graham, Rural OCU Commander
- (2) Staff Officer to the Chief Constable

**PITO IN ATTENDANCE:**

- (1) Mr Philip Webb, Chief Executive
- (1) Mr Paul Latham, Senior OGC Assessor

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Sam Hagen, Director of Corporate Services  
Mr David Wilson, Director of Planning  
Mrs Sinead Simpson, Director of Policy  
Mr Peter Holt, Director of Communications  
2 Board Officials

- (1) Item number 5
- (2) Item number 4, 5, 9
- (3) Item number 4 and 9
- (4) Item number 4 – 17
- (5) Item number 4 - 9

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mrs Moore, Mr McFarland and Mr Cobain. NOTED.

## **2. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 MAY 2005**

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.  
It was:-

### **AGREED**

That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 20 May 2005 be agreed and the recommendations adopted by the Board.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 MAY 2005**

### **3.1 PSNI Vehicle Recovery Scheme (Item 3.7 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee NOTED the documentation provided in relation to the PSNI Vehicle Recovery Scheme.

It was:

## **AGREED**

To forward a copy of the letter received by the Board, from a member of the public, to the Chief Constable for information and comment.

To ask why contractors, who still do not meet the necessary standards set out in the contract, even after the 'honeymoon' period which ended on 1 January 2005, are still apparently operating within the Scheme.

### **3.2 Application for Removal Expenses Under the SPED Scheme (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)**

It was NOTED that a response from PSNI, in relation to the additional removal companies which are to be included in the Scheme, was still outstanding. This will be brought back to Committee on receipt.

### **3.3 (PITO) Validation Of PSNI IS Strategy (Item 3.3 And Item 12 Of Minutes Refers)**

This matter was dealt with at Agenda item 5.

### **3.4 Gershon Efficiency (Item 3.5 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee **NOTED** and **AGREED** the proposed format of the Report on Gershon Efficiency Savings. This Report will come to Committee on a quarterly basis in future.

### **3.5 PSNI Estates Strategy (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)**

This matter was dealt with under Chairman's Business at Agenda item 4.

**3.6 Summary Of Current Best Value Arrangements In NIPB And PSNI**  
(Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

A full PSNI Best Value Review Report was attached at Agenda item 13 for the information of Members, following the transfer of responsibility for Best Value from the Audit and Best Value Committee.

**3.7 Report On Estimates And Actual Outturn For The Financial Year Ended 31 March 2005D Move** (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at Agenda item 9.

**3.8 Change In Right Of Way At Bangor PSNI Station** (Item 14 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee NOTED that officials had advised Estate Services that the application to change the right of way at Bangor PSNI Station had been approved by Members.

**3.9 Armagh Voluntary Welfare Group** (Item 15 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee NOTED that a response from PSNI was outstanding. This will be brought back to Committee on receipt.

**3.10 Claims Management Committee** (Item 16 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee NOTED the correspondence received from the PSNI Chief Health and Safety Adviser.

It was

## **AGREED**

- To rearrange the presentation by PSNI Chief Health and Safety Adviser for the September meeting if possible and to identify safety and maintenance of station gates as an issue which Members would like to discuss.
- To obtain from PSNI, an update on the actions, remedial and procedural, which have been taken following the incident at Strabane Police Station gates, to ensure a similar incident does not happen again.
- To ascertain who was responsible for the work carried out at Strabane Station.

### **3.11 Compensation Claims – Summary March And April 2005 (Item 17 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee NOTED the correspondence received from PSNI Legal Services Branch, regarding the particular queries raised by Members at the previous meeting.

### **3.12 Application For Reimbursement Of Early Redemption Fee Incurred – Reserve Constable ADM 1 (Item 19 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee NOTED that appropriate action had been taken by officials.

### **3.13 Application For Payment Of Additional Incidental Expenses Incurred – D/Sergeant ADM 2 (Item 20 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee NOTED that appropriate action had been taken by officials.

**3.14 Application For Reimbursement Of Additional Removal Expenses  
D/Constable ADM 3 (Item 21 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee NOTED that appropriate action had been taken by officials.

**3.15 Application In Respect Of Mortgage Costs – Ex D/Sergeant ADM 4  
(Item 22 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee NOTED that appropriate action had been taken by officials.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

It was agreed to take Estate Strategy business at this point in the agenda.

At the commencement of the financial year 04/05, Rural OCU Commander, on behalf of the Rural Region Assistant Chief Constable, undertook a review of Station Closures. A template for the review was created and disseminated to DCU Commanders, the Regional ACC and the Policing Board for consultation. The agreed draft was then distributed to all DCU Commanders responsible for station closures within the current financial year.

The Committee NOTED the papers provided, detailing the stations due to be reviewed in this financial year.

It was

**AGREED**

That the document would need to be reviewed to ensure that the language and content are consistent.

That PSNI would clarify, before the next Board meeting, the form of consultation which took place, in the decision to close Police Stations in Moy, Caledon and Ballygawley, given that no District Policing Partnership existed in that area at the time.

That the DPP in Moneymore have not been consulted in relation to the closure of Moneymore Station and that consultation would need to take place as soon as possible and prior to the next Board meeting.

## **5. PRESENTATION – POLICE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION (PITO) AND PSNI – INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

The Chairperson welcomed ACC Toner (PSNI ACC, Corporate Development), Mr Philip Webb and Mr Paul Latham (PITO) to the meeting, to present the second progress report giving their independent assessment of the PSNI IS Strategy, in line with Patten Recommendation 93.

The Report relating to the PITO second on-site inspection in May 2005 contained 12 Recommendations, none of which were deemed critical, but four of which were classified “Amber” (i.e. requiring attention in advance of PITO’s next inspection in September).

Following presentation of the Report, Members raised the following issues:

- Clarification on whether an OGC gateway review must take place before the funding is released by the NIO and what form such a review would take.

Members were advised that funding for three specific business cases had been released by the Northern Ireland Office with no conditions attached.

They were also advised that clear guidance for the processes contained within an OCG Gateway review existed and were available for reference.

PITO informed Members that the inspection which they carried out, although not completed as a formal OCG Review, had been carried out using the OGC guidance.

- On future funding of IS projects

ACC Toner advised Members that the NIO would like reassurances for future cases around the OCG Model and informed the Committee that he was in the process of producing a scoring framework for the remaining projects which would go to the NIO, under a formalised agreement in September.

- Spend to date

ACC Toner:

### **AGREED**

To provide the Committee with a Report profiling spend on IS Strategy to the end of the financial year. He also stated that he was confident the allocated budget would be fully utilised by March 2006, even accounting for the unexpected peaks and troughs in the interim.

- Progress to date

ACC Toner advised Members that no major projects were behind schedule and that he would follow this verbal update with written confirmation following his review of all projects in July. NOTED.

The presentation closed with the Chairman thanking the presenters for attending.

ACC Toner agreed to come back to Committee in September, if Members felt this was necessary. He also asked Committee for formal approval to release the PITO Report to the NIO, which was given.

The presenters left the meeting.

## **6. FARM POST IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW REPORT**

The Committee NOTED the information provided in a post implementation review report on the Finance and Resource Management Project (FARM).

## **7. PSNI OVERTIME MONITORING – MAY 2005**

The Committee NOTED the information provided in relation to the overtime summary for PSNI for May 2005.

## **8. PSNI EXPENDITURE REPORT – MAY 2005**

The Committee NOTED the PSNI report on expenditure for the period to May 2005.

## **9. OVERTIME ANALYSIS**

The Committee considered the information provided, in relation to the explanations given by PSNI, for the rise in overtime figures for February/March 2005.

Members were advised that the rise was due to District Commanders using a contingency sum in the last month of the financial year to concentrate on a high visibility campaign against crime. This was reflected in the recorded crime figures for that period.

Members felt that the rise could well be construed as DCU Commanders using up what funds were left, rather than returning any under spend to the Centre. The Chief Constable advised that he was addressing this matter and had it under close scrutiny.

#### **10. NATIONAL CALL HANDLING STANDARDS**

The Committee NOTED the report on National Call Handling Standards, which had been received from the Home Office and copied to them for information.

#### **11. NIPB BEST VALUE REVIEW 2005 / 2006**

The Committee NOTED the Terms of Reference and work plan for the NIPB Best Value Review of External Communication and Public Consultation.

#### **12. EXECUTION OF CONVEYANCE FOR POLICE PROPERTY**

The Committee:

#### **APPROVED**

The conveyance of a police property, the acquisition of which had been signed for on behalf of the NIPB on 6 April 2005.

**13. PSNI BEST VALUE REVIEW OF ENFORCING LEGISLATION FIXED PENALTY PROCESSING CENTRE**

This item was dealt with at Agenda item 3.6.

**14. COMPENSATION CLAIMS – SUMMARY MAY 2005**

The Committee considered information provided in relation to financial settlements made during May 2005. NOTED.

**15. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

There were no questions for the Chief Constable arising out of this meeting.

**16. PRESS ISSUES**

Members discussed various forthcoming issues, which may present a PR opportunity for the Finance and General Purposes Committee, to highlight to the public their accountability role in relation to PSNI.

The Director of Communications will progress relevant media activity in relation to:

- The 13<sup>th</sup> Report of the Oversight Commissioner and his comments on funding, following the PSNI IT Strategy day on 29 June 2005.
- Gaps in the PSNI budget.

- The shared concerns of Committee with OPONI, following the Report into the 'Strabane Gates' incident and the fact that Members are requesting further details on this matter.

## **17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **17.1 Disposal Of Land At Castledawson.**

The Committee NOTED the request by PSNI Estates Services Branch for two Members of the Committee to sign the Land Registry forms for the sale of the former police station at 17 - 19 Station Road, Castledawson.

Papers were duly executed on behalf of the Board.

### **17.2 Newry Ardmore – Land Registry Boundary Map**

The Committee NOTED a request from PSNI Estates Services Branch to rectify an error in the boundary map for the Newry Ardmore site.

Papers were duly executed on behalf of the Board.

## **18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 23 September 2005 at 9:30am.

(Meeting closed 12:20 pm).

**Secretariat  
June 2005**

---

**CHAIRMAN**