

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE 16TH MEETING OF FINANCE AND GENERAL
PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2005 AT 9:30AM
IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

PRESENT:

- MEMBERS:**
- (3) Mr Sammy Wilson (Chairman)
 - (1) Mr Alex Attwood
 - (2) Mr Fred Cobain
Mr Barry Gilligan
Mr Alan McFarland
- NAO /HMIC IN ATTENDANCE**
- (4) Mr Chris Bedford, NAO
 - (4) Superintendent Ken Reed, HMIC
 - (4) Mr Brian Pawlett, HMIC
 - (4) 4 Officials from NAO
- PSNI REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:**
- (4) Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
 - (5) Mr Roy Toner (ACC Operational Support and Change Management)
 - (6) 2 Officials PSNI Finance
 - (7) (Chief Health and Safety Advisor)
 - (5) Inspector, Inspection and Review
- OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**
- (4) Mr Trevor Reaney Chief Executive
Mr Sam Hagen, Director of Corporate Services
Mr David Wilson, Director of Planning
Mr Peter Holt, Director of Communications
Four Board Officials
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- (1) Item number 3.5 to close
 - (2) Item numbers 1 to 3, 19 - 23
 - (3) Item numbers 4 to close
 - (4) Item numbers 5 and 6
 - (5) Item number 7
 - (6) Item numbers 9 - 14
 - (7) Item numbers 8 and 24

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mrs Rosaleen Moore.
NOTED.

**2. MINUTES OF THE 15th FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 JUNE 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 17 June 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 17 JUNE 2005**

**3.1 Application for Removal Expenses under the SPED Scheme (Item
3.2 of Minutes Refers)**

The Committee considered a paper which set out the current position regarding the Tender process for PSNI to increase the number of removal companies approved to carry out work under the SPED scheme. NOTED.

Item No:

3.2 Armagh Voluntary Welfare Group (Item 3.9 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee received a verbal update from Officials concerning the use of Police accommodation by the Armagh Voluntary Welfare Group.

It was:-

AGREED

That because suitable accommodation had been found for the group no further action should be taken regarding the correspondence.

3.3 Claims Management Committee (Item 3.10 of Minutes Refers)

The matter was dealt with by a presentation from the Chief Health and Safety Advisor items 8 and 24 refer.

3.4 PITO and PSNI Information and Communication Strategy (Item 5 of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under item 16.

3.5 Communications Issues (Item 16 of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under item 28.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

5. PRESENTATION FROM HMIC ON BEST VALUE INSPECTION OF PSNI 2004/05

6. PRESENTATION FROM NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE ON BEST VALUE ARRANGEMENTS IN RESPECT OF NIPB / PSNI

The Chairman welcomed representatives from the National Audit Office (NAO) and Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) to the meeting. He also welcomed the Chief Constable and ACC Operational Support and Change Management and other PSNI Personnel to the meeting.

The Committee received a joint Presentation from representatives of the NAO and HMIC in respect of the findings following a best value inspection of PSNI in 2004/05. A copy of the slides used during the presentation is attached at Appendix A.

The NAO / HMIC Team presented their findings and recommendations on the:-

- 2004/05 Policing Plan.
- Performance Indicators and targets in the Plan.
- Results of the inspection by HMIC /NAO of best value reviews performed.
- IS Strategy review.
- Overall working of Best Value.
- Commented on the Patrol Function Review.
- Presented their findings on the implementation of the best value review on the National Intelligence Model within PSNI Roads Policing and Transport, highlighting areas for improvement and recommendations.

Item No:

The presenters advised that HMIC would prepare a draft report, followed by the publication of a final report. The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) through NAO had prepared a draft report which was currently under discussion with management and that the final report would subsequently be laid in Parliament.

The Committee welcomed the overall positive report and discussed a number of issues arising from the Presentation including:-

- The timescale for the draft report.
- The review of transport.
- The OGC Gateway review procedure.
- The need to maintain momentum and concentration on outcomes rather than the process.

The Chairman thanked the NAO and HMIC representatives for their Presentation and they left the meeting.

7. PRESENTATION FROM PSNI ACC OPERATIONAL SUPPORT AND CHANGE MANAGEMENT

7.1 Update on Patrolling Review

An Inspector from PSNI Inspection and Review Branch gave a presentation updating progress on the Best Value review of Patrolling. A copy of the slides used in the presentation are attached at Appendix B. The presenter detailed:-

Item No:

- The Preliminary consultation that had taken place.
- Ongoing consultation.
- The success factors agreed by the PSNI Top Team and NIPB.
- The Project Initiation Document.
- A number of early recommendations.

The Committee discussed:-

- Consultation and Communication with DPPs and other public representatives.
- Reassurance provided to the public through patrolling.
- The implementation of policing with the community.

An Early Options Report will be presented to the Project Board on 30 September 2005 and a report on the findings relating to the remaining areas of the Review will be submitted by 31 December 2005.

7.2 Review Matrix

The ACC Operational Support and Change Management updated the Committee regarding the Review Matrix. He advised that review areas would be confirmed by 10 October and these would be presented to Board Members at the NIPB/PSNI Strategy Day on 25 October 2005. NOTED.

The Chairman thanked the PSNI representatives for their contribution and they left the meeting.

8. PRESENTATION FROM PSNI – CHIEF HEALTH & SAFETY ADVISER – HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

Item No:

The Chairman welcomed Mr John Orchin, PSNI Chief Health and Safety Adviser to the meeting.

A detailed presentation was given which covered many aspects of health and safety including accidents in the work place, injuries on duty to police officers, and the financial implications of compensation claims. A copy of the slides used during the presentation are attached at Appendix 'C'.

Mr Orchin outlined a wide range of measures that have been implemented to deal with health and safety issues in relation to accidents in the work place and injury on duty to officers:-

- The appointment of designated officers to ensure appropriate action is taken.
- A mandatory reporting system for accidents and 'near misses'.
- A single overall system for analysing and disseminating lessons learned from accidents and near misses.
- Making better use of existing sources of information on accidents / incidents.
- Improving the quality of PSNI accident investigations.
- Acting to ensure that lessons learned are implemented quickly and consistently.
- Identifying and addressing specific categories of serious recurring accident / incidents.

Mr Orchin also highlighted the research into compensation claims relating to health and safety issues and the background to the establishment of the Claims Management Committee. At the end of his presentation Mr Orchin suggested to the chairman that it would be conducive if a member of the F&GPC sat on the PSNI Claims Management Committee.

Item No:

The Committee thanked Mr Orchin for the presentation and particularly welcomed the ongoing work to reduce the number of compensation claims and the initiatives to improve the health and safety culture within the PSNI.

Following discussion on item 24, Mr Orchin left the meeting.

9. PSNI QUARTERLY REPORT – 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2005

Two representatives from PSNI Finance Department joined the meeting and briefed the Committee on the quarterly expenditure report covering the period 1 April to 30 June 2005. NOTED.

The representatives also provided the Committee with an Expenditure Report up to August 2005. NOTED.

The Committee discussed a number of issues arising from the reports including:

- Pressures identified on the 2005/06 budget.
- PSNI costs associated with public enquiries.
- National Careers Advisory Service.
- Overtime and Manpower commitments within Crime. Operations Department as a result of the Loyalist Feud.
- Overtime.

It was:-

AGREED

That further information should be provided by PSNI regarding the average number of hours worked by officers who incur overtime.

10. AUGUST MONITORING ROUND 2005

The Committee considered the supplementary financial bid for the Police Grant at the August 2005 monitoring Round. NOTED.

11. PSNI DRAFT ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2004 - 2005

The Committee considered the following draft accounts:

- Main Police account.
- Police Fund.
- Police Property Fund.
- Police Pension Statement.

The Committee discussed a number of issues arising from the statements including:

- A Member raised concerns at the amount of the legal fees incurred and that maybe there was a case for the Service to employ its own Barristers. A PSNI Finance Department representative advised that the amount of legal expense was associated with the level of expertise and that one Barrister may not have the expertise for the various claims made.
- Members also noted and commented on the amount of Special Payments – Compensation.

12. PSNI GERSHON EFFICIENCY RETURN – QUARTER ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

Item No:

The Committee considered a report from PSNI detailing the current position regarding the delivery of the Gershon Efficiency Programme for 2005/06.
NOTED.

13. BENCHMARKING STUDY

The Committee considered a summary report on PSNI participation in a CIPFA/IPF exercise to Benchmark the cost of the Financial Services function against those of other police services across the UK. Overall PSNI is second of the 35 services taking part in the Benchmarking exercise. NOTED.

14. PSNI QUARTERLY OVERTIME PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee considered the PSNI Quarterly overtime monitoring progress report. NOTED.

15. COMPENSATION CLAIMS – SUMMARY 2005 (July and August 2005)

It was:

AGREED

To approve the financial settlements detailed in the paper.

16. HOME OFFICE REVIEW OF THE POLICE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION (PITO)

The Committee considered a paper providing a summary of a Home Office report following a review of PITO. NOTED.

Members were advised that Philip Webb will attend the December Committee meeting in his capacity as Independent Validator of the Strategy and would be available to answer Members questions on the Home Office Review. NOTED.

17. PSNI IS STRATEGY

The Committee considered a paper which provided a summary of the current status of all individual projects contained within the PSNI IS Strategy. NOTED.

18. PSNI IS STRATEGY – OGC GATEWAY REVIEW

The Committee considered a paper and correspondence from ACC Operational Support and Change Management providing an update on the OGC Gateway Review. NOTED.

19. PSNI VEHICLE RECOVERY SCHEME

The Committee considered a paper which updated members on Judicial Review Proceedings taken against PSNI by a group of vehicle recovery operators. NOTED.

It was:-

AGREED

- That PSNI should be requested to provide further details about the reasons for the Judicial Review.
- That PSNI should be requested to update the Committee following the hearing on 7 September 2005.
- That a senior PSNI officer should brief the Committee about the review at an appropriate time.

20 MAGHERA STATION – LOSS OF LAND BY ADVERSE POSSESSION

The Committee noted that a deed to formally convey land at Maghera Police Station to an adjoining landowner had been produced. NOTED.

21. PSNI LEASED ACCOMODATION AT BELFAST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Committee considered papers regarding a new lease on behalf of the landlord of Belfast International Airport for PSNI accommodation. NOTED.

22. ARMAGH PSNI STATION – TRANSFER OF LAND

Item No:

The Committee considered a paper seeking approval to a deed of conveyance to an exchange of land at Armagh PSNI Station and advising of building work at the boundary of the station.

It was:

AGREED

To approve an exchange of land at Armagh PSNI station.

23. STRABANE PSNI STATION SURRENDER OF MOD LEASE

The Committee considered a paper which advised that a lease be granted to the Ministry of Defence in respect of land within Strabane PSNI station which had now been surrendered. NOTED.

24. INCIDENT AT STRABANE PSNI STATION

The Chief Health and Safety adviser for PSNI advised Members that the investigation was still ongoing with regard to a fatal incident at Strabane PSNI Station. He also advised Members that PSNI Health and Safety had made 17 recommendations in respect of Health and Safety, as a result of this incident at Strabane PSNI Station. NOTED.

25. NIPB BEST VALUE REVIEW OF EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Committee considered a paper which provided a progress report on the NIPB Best Value review of external communication and public consultation. NOTED.

Item No:

The Director of Planning asked that it be noted that both he and the Committee wished to thank the Board official who completed the work on the Best Value Review, and wished her well in her one year secondment.

26. NIPB MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO AUGUST 2005

The Committee noted the NIPB accounts to August 2005.

Officials informed the Committee that the Board's 2004/05 accounts may be qualified. The proposed qualification related to an overdraft on a bank account in relation to the drawing down of funds for PSNI. The proposed qualification was a technical / administrative issue. It was emphasised that there was no loss to public funds and that the qualification would be detailed in the published accounts. NOTED.

27. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

There were no matters arising.

28 COMMUNICATION ISSUES

The Committee considered a paper which provided an update on recent communication activity and an indication of forthcoming activity planned. NOTED.

29. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

29.1 PSNI Headquarters Brooklyn – Release of Land – Old Comber Railway

The Committee considered correspondence regarding the release of a piece of land along the old Comber railway, which is currently used by the PSNI as a car park.

The Committee requested that PSNI provide the following:

- A map of the area.
- History of the land.
- Cost of fencing the land.
- Average usage of the car park at present.

30. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 9 December 2005.

(Meeting closed 13:40 pm).

Secretariat

September 2005

CHAIRMAN