

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE 14TH MEETING OF FINANCE AND GENERAL
PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 MAY 2005 AT 9:30AM IN
WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Mr Sammy Wilson (Chairman)
- (2) Mr Alex Attwood
- Mr Barry Gilligan
- (1) Mr Alan McFarland
- Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- (3) Professor Sir Desmond Rea
(Chairman of the Board)
- (3) Mr Denis Bradley (Vice-
Chairman of the Board)

**PSNI REPRESENTATIVES IN
ATTENDANCE:**

- (3) Mr Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
- (4) Mr David Best (Director of Finance
& Support Services)
- (4) Head of Management Accounting
- (3) Head of Estates Services
- (3) 1 PSNI officer

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- (3) Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief
Executive)
- Mr Sam Hagen, Director of
Corporate Services
- Mr David Wilson, Director of
Planning
- (5) Mrs Sinead Simpson, Director of
Policy
- 2 Board Officials

- (1) Item number 3.1 to close
- (2) Item number 3.3 to close
- (3) Item numbers 5 & 6 only
- (4) Item numbers 5 to 9 only
- (5) Item numbers 5, 6, 11 & 12

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr Cobain. NOTED.

**2. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 MARCH 2005**

The minutes were agreed and signed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 MARCH 2005**

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

A reply was awaited from PSNI. NOTED

**3.2 Matters Arising From August Meeting – Application for Removal
Expenses Under the SPED Scheme (Item 3.10 Of Minutes Refers)**

An email response from PSNI was tabled at the meeting. NOTED

It was:

AGREED

To write to the Deputy Chief Constable regarding the Committee's concerns on the tendering process for removal companies.

3.3 Presentation – Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) Validation Of PSNI IS Strategy (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Director of Planning summarised discussions that had taken place between NIO and Board officials regarding funding for the IS Strategy. NOTED.

This matter was considered further under Item 12.

3.4 Estates Strategy (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under Item 5.

3.5 Gershon Efficiency (Item 12 Of Minutes Refers)

The format of the PSNI Quarterly Report is currently being considered by PSNI and this matter will be brought back to the Committee at a future meeting. NOTED

3.6 PSNI Annual Financial Statements Year Ended 31 March 2005 (Item 14 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered management letters received from the Northern Ireland Audit Office on the major issues arising from the (1) PSNI Financial Statements 2003/04 and (2) PSNI Police Pension Scheme 2003/04. NOTED

3.7 PSNI Quarterly Report On Expenditure For The Period To February 2005 (Item 15 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with under Item 8.

3.8 Consideration Of Time Allowed To Reside In Police Leased Accommodation Following A SPED Move (Item 20 Of Minutes Refers)

The NIO had given approval to the period for officers to avail of rent free police leased accommodation to be increased from 3 months to 6 months. The decision will now be implemented by officials. NOTED.

3.9 Ratification Of A Decision Made By An Official Of The Board Acting Under Delegated Authority (Item 15 Of Minutes Refers)

Appropriate action had been taken. NOTED.

3.10 General Authorisation For The Sale Or Consumption Of Intoxicating Liquor (Item 22 Of Minutes Refers)

Appropriate action had been taken. NOTED.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

5. PSNI ESTATES STRATEGY

The Chairman welcomed the Chief Constable and other PSNI personnel to the meeting. He reminded Members that the Board had considered the Estates Strategy at its April 2005 meeting and recommended to PSNI that the content of the vision be amended and additional information on benchmarking be provided. The Board had given delegated authority to the Committee to consider any revisions made by PSNI and to approve the Strategy.

The Committee considered the amendments made to the draft document and discussed a number of issues associated with the implementation of the strategy with the PSNI representatives, Members particularly emphasised the need for public confidence to be maintained and that there be no reduction in the availability of the police to the community. Members also emphasised the need for maximum co-operation between the PSNI and the Board regarding implementation.

It was:

RESOLVED

That the Policing Board endorses the PSNI Estates Strategy.

6. MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PSNI ESTATES STRATEGY

The Committee discussed an appropriate monitoring framework for implementation of the Estates Strategy with the PSNI representatives. Following this discussion, the Chief Constable and Head of Estates Service Business Unit left the meeting.

It was:

RESOLVED

That the Finance and General Purposes Committee should seek a written update on the implementation of the Estates Strategy every 6 months from PSNI, with PSNI representatives attending agreed Committee meetings to present their progress report and that the timing of these updates should be aligned where possible with those of the PSNI Supplies, Estates and Transport Committee.

7. HMIC – PSNI BASELINE ASSESSMENT REFRESH REPORT

The Committee received a paper regarding the findings of the HMIC Baseline Refresh Report, specifically in relation to finance issues. The main areas for improvement and strengths were highlighted in the paper. NOTED

The Committee and Director of Finance and Support Services discussed the action being taken by PSNI to improve:-

- The poor state of the police estate
- A lack of co-ordination in the integrated planning process
- The lack of qualified accountants in the PSNI
- Confusion over roles and responsibilities of business and personnel managers in some DCUs.

8. REPORT ON ESTIMATES AND ACTUAL OUTTURN FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2005

The Committee considered the PSNI report on Estimates and Actual Outturn for the financial year ended 31 March 2005. NOTED

The Director of Finance and Support Services highlighted that the final Outturn was a revenue spend of £661.1m, against a budget of £665.2m, an underspend of £4.1m. The Committee discussed the PSNI commentary on the Outturn and a number of issues arising, including the use of civilian agency staffing, PSNI recruitment costs and the impact of the transfer of traffic wardens.

9. PSNI OVERTIME MONITORING

The Committee considered the PSNI Overtime Monitoring Summary for April 2005. NOTED

During discussion of the summary:

It was:

AGREED

- That PSNI should provide a written breakdown of overtime figures for 2003/04 and 2004/05.
- That PSNI should examine a more meaningful way of expressing the total number of officers working overtime and the average hours worked by these officers.
- That PSNI should provide the reasons behind the level of overtime worked in the final month of the financial year.

10. SUMMARY OF CURRENT BEST VALUE ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE POLICING BOARD AND PSNI

Following the transfer of responsibility for Best Value from the Audit and Best Value Committee to this Committee, officials presented a paper providing Members with background information on the principles of Best Value.

NOTED

Members were advised that there were no outstanding Best Value matters requiring immediate decision and that a further update would be provided in 3 months time. NOTED.

It was:

AGREED

That the Committee should be provided with an example of a completed Best Value Review Report, for additional background.

**11. HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY (HMIC)
BASELINE ASSESSMENT REFRESH – BEST VALUE**

Officials presented an information paper that provided a summary of areas for PSNI improvement contained in the HMIC Baseline Refresh Inspection Report relating to Best Value. NOTED.

12. FUNDING FOR PSNI IS STRATEGY

The Committee considered a paper and correspondence regarding funding for the PSNI IS Strategy.

Subsequent to the March 2005 meeting, Board officials had met with NIO officials who had confirmed that HM Treasury had approved the IS Strategy subject to PSNI confirmation that an OGC Gateway review process would be undertaken. NIO also advised that funding arrangements had been revised and funding is currently available under Patten non-severance. NOTED

It was:

AGREED

That the Committee should write to PSNI summarising the discussions held with NIO and to seek clarification on future PSNI action concerning the OGC Gateway review.

13. NIPB MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO MARCH 2005

The Committee considered the NIPB Management Accounts to March 2005.
NOTED.

14. CHANGE IN RIGHT OF WAY AT BANGOR PSNI STATION

The Committee considered a paper and correspondence concerning a change in the right of way at Bangor PSNI station, arising out of changes in the station security arrangements. A deed of variation had already been executed on behalf of North Down Borough Council. NOTED

It was:

RECOMMENDED

That the Board agree to the proposed change in the right of way at Bangor PSNI station.

15. ARMAGH VOLUNTARY WELFARE GROUP

The Committee considered correspondence received from Armagh Voluntary Welfare Group (AVWG) in relation to its use of accommodation at Gough Barracks Recreation Club for social events. NOTED

It was:

AGREED

That PSNI should be asked if there is another venue that could be made available to the AVWG e.g. Newforge or Garnerville.

16. CLAIMS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the minutes of a PSNI Claims Management Committee meeting held on 1 March 2005. NOTED

It was:

AGREED

- That the Chief Health and Safety Adviser should be invited to give the presentation deferred from the March 2005 meeting to a future Committee meeting.
- Clarification be sought of figures in respect of IOD for police support staff.
- Clarification of the arrangements at each PSNI site about who is responsible to carry out 'premises officer' duties.

17. COMPENSATION CLAIMS SUMMARY – MARCH AND APRIL 2005

The Committee considered information provided in relation to financial settlements made during March and April 2005. NOTED.

It was:

AGREED

That future information should be sought in respect of cases:

- IT 308
- PI 2245
- Appendix 1A – Injury claim 04/05

18. REWRITE OF THE PSNI FINANCE CODE – CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

The Committee considered a paper notifying proposed changes to the PSNI Finance Code. NOTED.

19. APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT OF AN EARLY REDEMPTION FEE RESERVE CONSTABLE, ADM1

The Committee considered an application from Reserve Constable ADM 1 for payment of an early redemption fee charged to the officer to be reimbursed, in circumstances where the officer had to move home under the SPED scheme.

It was:

RESOLVED

To reimburse the £575.79 claimed by Reserve Constable ADM I for an early redemption fee.

20. APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL INCIDENTAL EXPENSES INCURRED – D/SERGEANT ADM2

The Committee considered an application from D/Sergeant ADM 2 for payment of additional incidental expenses incurred by the officer who had to move home as a result of a threat to life.

It was:

RESOLVED

To refuse the application made by D/Sergeant ADM 2.

21. APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL INCIDENTAL EXPENSES INCURRED – D/CONSTABLE ADM3

The Committee considered an application for reimbursement of additional removal expenses incurred by D/Constable ADM 3 who had to move home as a result of a threat to life.

It was:

RESOLVED

To reimburse the £53 claimed by D/Constable ADM 3 for additional removal expenses.

**22. APPLICATION IN RESPECT OF MORTGAGE COSTS – EX
D/SERGEANT ADM4**

The Committee consider an application for reimbursement of mortgage costs incurred by ex D/Sergeant ADM 4 in circumstances where the officer had to move home under the SPED scheme.

It was:

RESOLVED

To refuse the application made by ex D/Sergeant ADM 4.

23. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

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

24. PRESS ISSUES

There were no press issues arising out of this meeting.

25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 17 June 2005 at 9:30am.

(Meeting closed 12.30 pm).

**Secretariat
March 2005**

CHAIRMAN