

9oNORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE 13TH MEETING OF FINANCE AND GENERAL
PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 MARCH 2005 AT 9:30AM IN
WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Mr Sammy Wilson (Chairman)
- (1) Mr Alex Attwood
- (5) Mr Fred Cobain
- Mrs Rosaleen Moore

**PSNI REPRESENTATIVES IN
ATTENDANCE:**

- (3) Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)
- (7) Mr Roy Toner (ACC Corporate Development)
- (4) Mr David Best (Director of Finance & Support Services)
- (4) Head of Management Accounting
- (4) Head of Financial Accounting
- (3) Head of Estates Services

**POLICE INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION
(PITO) IN ATTENDANCE:**

- (7) Mr Philip Webb, Chief Executive

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- (2) Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
- Mr Sam Hagen, Director of Corporate Services
- Mr David Wilson, Director of Planning
- (6) Mrs Sinead Simpson, Director of Policy
- Mr Peter Holt, Director of Communications
- Two Board Officials

- (1) Item number 3 (part) to 27
- (2) Item number 10 - 27
- (3) Item number 10 and 11
- (4) Item number 10 -18 only
- (5) Item number 1 - 12
- (6) Item number 7 - 18
- (7) Item number 7 and 8

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr Barry Gilligan and Mr Alan McFarland. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2004

The minutes were agreed and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2004

3.1 Compensation Claims – Summary August And September 2004
(Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

Appropriate action had been taken. NOTED.

3.2 PSNI Information And Communication Strategy (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at agenda item 6 and 8.

3.3 Chairman's Business (Item 4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Corporate Services Director updated Members on the current position regarding funding for the third year of SR2004, which NIO have not yet released. With the Costed HR Strategy and the Review of Public Administration, both having been dealt with, figures for 2007 / 08 should be available before Summer recess.

3.4 Compensation Claims Summary – November And December (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered the response received from the Deputy Chief Constable in relation to monitoring of court cases where compensation is paid out. NOTED.

3.5 Questions For The Chief Constable (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

Appropriate action had been taken. NOTED.

3.6 PSNI Overtime Monitoring (Item 12 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered the information provided analysing police overtime for the financial years 2003 / 04 and 2004 / 05 by District Command Unit, branch and by rank. NOTED.

3.7 PSNI Vehicle Recovery Scheme (Item 13 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered the response received from PSNI regarding the Vehicle Recovery Scheme. NOTED.

It was:

AGREED

That a letter should be sent to the Chief Constable advising of Members serious concerns in relation to the PSNI Vehicle Recovery Scheme not being fit for purpose.

3.8 Estate Strategy (Item 14 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at agenda item 10.

3.9 Press Issues (Item 15 Of Minutes Refers)

Appropriate action had been taken. NOTED.

3.10 Any Other Business (Item 16 Of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered the response received from PSNI in relation to tendering for additional removal companies. NOTED.

It was:

AGREED

That PSNI should be advised that Members required a timetable for the tendering process for their next meeting.

It was further:

AGREED

That no arrangements would be made to visit PSNI to see the progress being made with the Information and Communication Strategy until after the local elections.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

There was no business to discuss.

5. CONSULTATION WITH DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS IN RELATION TO CALL MANAGEMENT IN PSNI

The Committee considered a paper providing information on the review by PSNI of their Call Management System and the wish to consult with District Policing Partnerships before any strategic decisions are taken.

It was:

AGREED

That a recommendation be made to the Board concerning a request that the Board consult formally with DPPs in relation to the PSNI project on Call Handling which is an integral part of the PSNI IS Strategy 2004 – 2008.

6. FUNDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PSNI IS STRATEGY

The Committee considered a letter received from ACC Corporate Development in respect of several funding concerns which could threaten the timescales in the IS Strategy and ultimately the delivery of the strategy.

The Committee:

RESOLVED

To discuss these matters directly with ACC Corporate Development when he attended to give his presentation.

7. PRESENTATION – POLICE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION (PITO) – INDEPENDENT VALIDATION OF PSNI IS STRATEGY

The Chairman welcomed Mr Philip Webb, Chief Executive PITO and ACC Corporate Development to the meeting.

Members had considered the first report from PITO who are engaged to provide an independent assessment of the PSNI IS Strategy in line with Patten Recommendation 93.

This preliminary report provided Members with a current assessment of the PSNI IS Strategy and made 19 recommendations, none of which were deemed critical (i.e. red) but several of which were classified 'amber' (i.e. requiring attention in advance of PITO's next inspection in May).

Item No:

The PITO Chief Executive talked through each of the recommendations and Members had the opportunity to ask questions.

It was noted that, had the inspection been conducted more recently, it may have been more appropriate to have classified the funding issue as red, i.e. to enhance the likeliness of success of the implementation of the PSNI IS Strategy, action should be taken without delay.

It was:

AGREED

That a meeting would be organised with PSNI Director of Finance and Support Services, ACC Corporate Development and NIPB Director of Corporate Services and Director of Planning to clarify the funding issues surrounding the IS Strategy. (See Item 15).

Consideration of whether a letter should be sent to the NIO will follow.

8. PRESENTATION – PSNI INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

ACC Toner responded to the various issues arising out of the PITO report on PSNI Information Communication Strategy.

He also referred Members to copy correspondence received from the NIO in respect of the IS Strategy under the headings 'Value for Money', 'Funding' and 'Gateway Review' and his subsequent response.

Discussion took place around the production of an overview Green Book analysis of the entire IS Strategy programme and the possible requirement by PSNI to adopt an OCG Gateway Review in order to ensure NIO approval for the funding of it.

The Chairman thanked both presenters for attending and advised that Committee Members looked forward to their next visit in June 2005.

9. PRESENTATION – PSNI – CHIEF HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVISER

This presentation was deferred until later in the year.

10. ESTATES STRATEGY

The Committee considered the revised PSNI Estates Strategy incorporating the changes suggested by Members at the January 2005 Committee meeting.

The Strategy now includes an introductory vision which outlines the key objective to develop a structure that compliments and enhances operational policing throughout Northern Ireland.

It was:

AGREED

That further amendments should be made in respect of the vision and section 6.3 and that the Strategy should then be referred to the Board for a decision at its April 2005 meeting.

Information on benchmarking will be added as an Appendix when it becomes available.

11. ADDITIONAL LAND ACQUISITION BY PSNI

The Committee considered a request from PSNI Estate Services for approval to purchase an additional 48 acres of land at the site of the new police college in Cookstown, deemed necessary as the outcome of a recent threat assessment which was carried out.

It was:

AGREED

That the proposal to purchase an additional 48 acres of land by PSNI should be recommended to the Board. **RECOMMENDED.**

12. GERSHON EFFICIENCY PLAN

The Committee NOTED a report outlining the initial plans for PSNI for the achievement of the 7.5% Gershon Efficiency Savings.

It was:

AGREED

That the Finance and General Purposes Committee would receive a quarterly report on Gershon Efficiency Savings, the format of which would be agreed later.

13. PSNI ANNUAL BUDGET PLAN FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2006

The Committee considered PSNI Annual Budget Plan for year ended 31 March 2006.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

That the PSNI Annual Budget Plan for year ended 31 March 2006 be approved by the Board.

**14. PSNI ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2004**

The Committee considered PSNI annual financial statements for year ended 31 March 2004.

It was:

AGREED

That the formal management letter received from the auditors in respect of PSNI Final Accounts 2004 should be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

15. PSNI – QUARTERLY REPORT ON EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD TO FEBRUARY 2005

The Committee considered the PSNI report on expenditure for the period to February 2005.

It was:

AGREED

That a meeting would be arranged with ACC Corporate Development, the Director of Finance and Support Services, NIPB Director of Corporate Services and Director of Planning to clarify the funding issues surrounding PSNI IS Strategy. (See item 7).

16. COSTED HUMAN RESOURCES PLAN

The Committee NOTED a paper identifying the financial implications of implementing the Human Resources Planning Strategy.

17. PSNI OVERTIME MONITORING

The Committee NOTED the information provided in respect of:

- Police overtime monitoring 2004 / 05 – Summary for February 2005
- HMIC Managing Overtime – Quarterly Progress Report

**18. FINANCE AND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (FARM) PROJECT –
PROGRESS REPORT DECEMBER 2004 – FEBRUARY 2005**

The Committee NOTED a progress report on the Finance and Resources Management (FARM) Project covering the period December 2004 to February 2005.

19. NIPB MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO FEBRUARY 2005

The Committee NOTED the NIPB Management Account Information for the period to February 2005.

**20. CONSIDERATION OF TIME ALLOWED TO RESIDE IN POLICE
LEASED ACCOMMODATION FOLLOWING A SPED MOVE –
ADM 25/04**

The Committee considered and reviewed the policy governing the use of police leased accommodation in relation to officers who vacate their homes under the SPED scheme.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

That the period for officers to avail of rent-free police leased accommodation should be increased from 3 to 6 months, subject to consent by the NIO.

**21. RATIFICATION OF A DECISION MADE BY A BOARD OFFICIAL
ACTING UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

The Committee NOTED a recent decision taken by a Board official under delegated authority in relation to relocation expenses incurred by D/Constable ADM F1.

The Committee:

RESOLVED

To endorse the officers' decision in this case.

**22. GENERAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE SALE OR CONSUMPTION
OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR**

The Committee NOTED a paper seeking a decision in respect of an application from a police social and recreation club (Garnerville) for an exemption under the licensing laws.

It was:

RESOLVED

That an exemption under Article 84 of the Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 and Article 51 of the Registration of Clubs (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 be granted for the 12 month period beginning on 1 April 2005.

**23. COMPENSATION CLAIMS SUMMARY – JANUARY AND
FEBRUARY 2005**

The Committee NOTED the information provided in relation to the financial settlements made during January and February 2005.

24. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

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

25. PRESS ISSUES

There were no press issues arising out of this meeting.

26. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business arising out of this meeting.

27. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 20 May 2005 at 9:30am.

(Meeting closed 12:40 pm).

**Secretariat
March 2005**

CHAIRMAN