

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 11 APRIL 2024 AT 9AM IN THE STORMONT HOTEL, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

- (1) Mr Mukesh Sharma (Chair) \*
- Mr Brendan Mullan (Vice-Chair) \*
- Mr Mark H Durkan MLA
- (1) Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
- Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
- Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA
- Mr Gerry Kelly MLA
- Mrs Linda Dillon MLA
- (1) Mrs Cheryl Brownlee MLA
- (1) Ms Nuala McAllister MLA
- Mr Peter Osborne
- (1) Mr Les Allamby
- Mr Eóin Tennyson MLA
- Dr Kate Laverty
- Mr Frank McManus
- Mr Keith Buchanan MLA
- Ms Marian Cree
- (1) Mr Tommy O'Reilly

#### **POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:**

- (2) Mr Jon Boutcher, Chief Constable
- (2) Mr Chris Todd, T/Deputy Chief Constable
- (2) Ms Pamela McCreedy, Chief Operating Officer
- (2) Mr Bobby Singleton, Assistant Chief Constable
- (2) Mr Mark McNaughten, Assistant Chief Officer  
Corporate Services
- (2) Mr Ryan Henderson, T/Assistant Chief  
Constable
- (2) Ms Clare Duffield, Assistant Chief Officer  
People & Organisational Development
- (2) Ms Aldrina Magwood, Assistant Chief Officer  
Strategic Planning & Transformation
- (2) Ms Melanie Jones, T/Assistant Chief  
Constable

- (2) Mr Davy Beck, T/Assistant Chief Constable
- (2) Four PSNI Officials

**NORTHERN IRELAND  
POLICING BOARD  
OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs Sinead Simpson, Chief Executive  
Mr Sam Hagen, Senior Director of Resources  
Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of Performance  
Ms Jenny Passmore, Director of Partnership  
Mrs Natalia McMahon, T/Director of Police  
Pensions & Injury Benefits  
Four Board Officials

**OTHER OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

- (3) Mr John Wadham, Human Rights Advisor

**\*Elected to Office at Item 3**

- (1) Left after public session
- (2) Item 11 only
- (3) Out for item 9.4 only

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr Patrick Nelson.

**2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

**3. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

The Chief Executive assumed the role of Chair for the election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Board. Members were advised that the previous Chair and Vice-Chair's term of office ended on 31 March 2024 in accordance with their terms of appointment.

The Chief Executive explained that the election of the Board Chair and Vice-Chair is governed by paragraph 11 of Schedule 1 of the Police (NI) Act 2000. Members were advised that guidance for the election of the Board Chair and Vice-Chair is set out in paragraph 4 of the Board's Standing Orders and that this information had been provided in today's paper. The Chief Executive advised that the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected to serve for a period of two years and noted that in line with Part VI, Schedule 1 to the Police (NI) Act 2000 and the Board's Standing Orders, a quorum of at least 12 voting Members is required to proceed with the election of the Board Chair and Vice-Chair.

The Chief Executive then moved to the election process and requested nominations for the role of Board Chair. Mr Mukesh Sharma was nominated by Mr Trevor Clarke MLA and seconded by Mr Gerry Kelly MLA.

At this point a Member indicated that she had a matter to raise regarding the selection process for the role of Board Chair and Vice-Chair and asked the Chief Executive if this should be raised at this point or following the completion of the election process. The Chief Executive invited the Member to bring the matter to the Board's attention at this point rather than at the conclusion of the process.

The Member noted the long-term convention of the community background of the Board Chair and Vice-Chair being alternated at each appointment and questioned whether this should continue to be a factor in the consideration of candidates for selection to these roles. The Member also noted that this issue is one that she may raise for consideration as part of the review of the Board which the Justice Minister has indicated she intends to progress.

In the subsequent discussion Members noted that this has been a long-standing successful arrangement in terms of the Board Chair/Vice-Chair election process and that the implementation of this convention has not and does not supersede election based on merit.

The Member's comments were noted, and the Chief Executive advised that she would now move on with the election process.

Prior to moving to a vote, the Chief Executive clarified if there were any further nominations for the role of Board Chair. No further nominations were received. The Chief Executive asked, and Mr Sharma confirmed that he was content to accept the nomination.

Following a vote it was **AGREED** by a majority (15 Members voted in favour of the motion) to elect Mr Mukesh Sharma to the role of Board Chair.

It was therefore **RESOLVED**:

- That Mr Mukesh Sharma be elected as Chair of the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

The Chief Executive then invited nominations for the role of Vice-Chair of the Board. Mr Brendan Mullan was nominated by Mr Frank McManus and seconded by Mr Les Allamby. The Chief Executive asked, and Mr Mullan confirmed that he was content to accept the nomination. No further nominations were received, and following a vote it was **AGREED** by a majority (16 voted in favour of the motion) to elect Mr Brendan Mullan to the role of Board Vice-Chair.

It was therefore **RESOLVED**:

- That Mr Brendan Mullan be elected as Vice-Chair of the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

The Chief Executive advised that a short adjournment would take place to allow the new Board Chair and Vice-Chair to take their seats before proceeding to the rest of the day's agenda. She also noted that Board officials would now upload

to Decision Time the proposed new Committee Membership to allow Members to study the proposals ahead of consideration later in the meeting. The Chief Executive confirmed this will be available as Annex A of the paper at agenda item 9.2.

#### **4. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETINGS HELD ON:**

##### **4.1 Thursday 7 March 2024**

It was **RESOLVED** that: -

- The minutes of the Board meeting held on Thursday 7 March 2024 be approved for publication.

#### **5. BOARD ACTION LOG**

Updates as detailed within the action log from the Board meetings held on 7 March 2024, 1 February 2024, 7 December 2023, and 7 September 2023 were **NOTED** in addition to the following verbal update provided by the Chief Executive:

In relation to action point 1 from the meeting on 7 March 2024 regarding the confidential annexes from the six Board meetings held between June 2023 and September 2023, Members were advised that sufficient responses had now been received by way of written procedure agreeing the minutes as a correct record. As such these minutes are now approved.

In relation to action point 6 from the March meeting relating to the publication of the Interim Kenova Report, Members were advised that a letter of invite has been issued to the relevant stakeholders and work is being progressed to schedule a Board meeting to discuss further the findings of the report.

In relation to action point 7 from the March meeting, Members were advised that next steps from January's Board development session will be considered at agenda item 9.7 of today's meeting.

In relation to action point 8 from the March meeting regarding the scoping exercise on the procedures related to requesting a Section 59 report and initiating a Section 60 inquiry, Members noted that a paper has been provided and will be considered at agenda item 9.6 of the meeting.

In relation to action point 3 from the meeting on 1 February regarding the Chief Constable's Individual Performance Review (IPR), it was highlighted that these had been progressed by the previous Board Chair and the new Chair will write to the Chief Constable to progress the matter. **(AP1)**

Members agreed that this should be addressed at the mid monthly meeting between the Chief Constable and Chair in order to expedite reaching agreement on these before the end of April.

In relation to action point 1 from the meeting on 7 December 2023, a response has been received from the Department of Justice (DoJ) in respect of the process and provision for maternity leave concerning Independent Board Members and is included in the Chair's report at agenda item 6.1.

In relation to action point 4 from the meeting on 7 September 2023, confirmation was given that the draft Memorandum of Understanding and revised reporting arrangements with the National Crime Agency (NCA) would be on the agenda for discussion at the April Performance Committee and Members confirmed that on that basis they were content to close the action.

In relation to action point 9 from the meeting in September 2023, the Chief Executive advised that correspondence issued following the previous meeting has been included in the Chair's report at agenda item 6.1 and a more detailed update will be provided at agenda item 6.2 of today's meeting.

Members **NOTED** the action log.

## **6. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Chair's Report**

The Board Chair invited the Chief Executive to update the Board on any Engagements carried out by the former Chair or correspondence of note received since the last meeting. The CE reported that there had been no engagements of note to mention during this period.

The CE noted that a full list of correspondence issued and received by the Chair during the period 6 March 2024 to 4 April 2024 was included in the report and highlighted the following items:

- Correspondence received from the Minister of Justice confirming the Department's decision not to take forward the development of new long-term policing objectives (LTPO) at this stage. Members noted the Minister's intention to revisit this decision before the end of the Assembly mandate.
- Correspondence received from the Minister of Justice in respect of the PSNI Injury on Duty (IOD) Scheme. Members noted that a response to this and related correspondence regarding funding liability for the Joint Medical Guidance is being drafted and will be discussed with the Board Chair in due course.
- It was highlighted that additional correspondence from the Minister around the appeals process is included in the addendum of the Chair's report. The Chief Executive highlighted the changes the Minister indicated she wished to make to the appeals process and that she

proposes these will take effect immediately. The Chief Executive advised that the Board would take its own legal advice and bring this back through Resources Committee.

- The Chief Executive drew the Board's attention to correspondence issued to the Minister at Members' request in relation to the resourcing situation within PSNI (dated 13 March 2024). She advised Members that a response had been received late on Tuesday which had not yet been shared in today's papers. Members were advised that the Minister had acknowledged the situation and offered a tripartite meeting to discuss the matter. The Chief Executive advised that the correspondence would be uploaded with the addendum to the Chair's Report following the meeting.
- Correspondence received from the Chief Constable in relation to the police use of surveillance powers on journalists and lawyers which will be discussed further at Item 6.2 below.

Members then raised the following matters with the Chair:

- That while the offer from the Minister to facilitate a tripartite meeting to discuss the PSNI resourcing situation was welcome, some indication of her intention in terms of bidding for resources would also be useful since to date there has already been a substantial amount of discussion around this issue.
- A request that the Board's position in relation to the Injury on Duty (IOD) Scheme and the Ill Health Retirement (IHR) Policy is clarified in correspondence to the DoJ and outlines the Board's view that both areas of work should be removed from the accountability body, not just the Injury on Duty (IOD) Scheme. **(AP2)**



- That an upcoming meeting scheduled between the Board Chair and Justice Committee Chair should also include the Vice Chairs of both. Members agreed and this will be progressed by the Chief Executive.

**(AP3)**

Following discussion Members

- **AGREED** to accept the offer to meet with the Minister of Justice and Chief Constable as part of a tripartite meeting, and
- **AGREED** to a further proposal to write to the Minister offering an invitation to meet with the Board. **(AP3)**

The Board **NOTED** the Report from the Chair.

## **6.2 PSNI use of Surveillance Powers on Journalists and Lawyers**

The Chief Executive introduced the paper and provided a brief update on developments since last month's Board meeting. She noted that a further letter had been issued to the Chief Constable on 11 March thanking him for committing to provide the requested report within 4 weeks. The Chief Executive noted that the requested report had now been received and was included for consideration with today's papers. She advised Members that an additional summary paper had been provided which included background information, an assessment of the information provided, and suggests possible next steps. As this paper had only been provided the previous day, the Chief Executive invited the Board's Human Rights Advisor to speak to the paper and provide his observations on the PSNI report.

The HRA began by providing a brief background of events to date including reference to the related ongoing Investigatory Powers Tribunal (IPT) and noted that a 5-day hearing was now scheduled to commence on 7 October.

With reference to the report provided by PSNI, the HRA noted his opinion that it was a poor quality report, it was lacking in content, did not provide information on all types of surveillance and needed to be more fulsome and precise.

Member discussions following the overview provided by the HRA centred on:

- The vague nature of the information and that further detail is required on the number of times and exactly when the relevant powers had been used.
- PSNI's approach to information provision and the balance between transparency and secrecy.
- The PSNI's ethical and legal position, and
- The provision of further assurance through the Board's HRA in relation to the basis, extent and legitimacy of PSNI exercising of these powers.

Members considered the proposed next steps outlined in the paper and agreed that a further, more detailed report would be requested from the Chief Constable. It was agreed that the Board's HRA would not "assist" the PSNI with this but rather would "review" the second report provided with a view to providing the Board with the necessary assurances.

With regard to the timeline for the receipt of this second report, Members agreed that a more expeditious timeframe would have to be agreed at the outset and it was noted that the availability of the Board's HRA would impact on this. **(AP4)**

It was also agreed that the Chief Executive would write to the Chief Constable following today's discussion to formalise what has been agreed. **(AP5)**

The Board Chair referenced the number of acronyms used throughout the PSNI's report and it was agreed that for benefit of Board Members and the general public the PSNI would be asked to review the acronyms within report and expand/provide an explanation on these for the next report, which will eventually go into public domain. **(AP6)**

A draft public statement was also considered and agreed with a several limited amendments. **(AP7)**

## 7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Board **NOTED** a report from the Chief Executive which provided an update on various items of business, and the following matters were highlighted:

- On the Board's management accounts for the period to the end of February, detail was provided around a forecasted significant underspend largely due to an additional £205k received from DOJ in February 2024 that had not been requested by NIPB.

On this point Members raised concerns around the potential reputational damage that this could cause to the Board and requested that Board officials explore options around how this can be reflected in the year end accounts.

**(AP8)**

- Correspondence likely to be received from the Chief Constable regarding a Senior Officer matter. Members were informed of the intention to convene a meeting of the Senior Officer Employee Matters Group to discuss this once the correspondence is received. The Chief Executive noted that one aspect of the correspondence is a request from the Chief Constable to rescind the DCC secondment request. The CE noted that on foot of this request, correspondence would now be issued to the DoJ to inform them accordingly. **(AP9)**
- Members were also asked to note that plans in relation to Senior Officer recruitment and the issue of accommodation for current and future Chief Constable's will both be brought to the Resources Committee for consideration in April.

- An update on the Review of the SET structure which is nearing a conclusion. The Chief Executive noted that it is hoped the written report will be brought to a future Board meeting in the coming months.
- An update on the review of the Policing Board confirming that whilst the Department will undertake the review, the scope and how it will be undertaken remains under consideration at this point.
- Update on the reconstitution of Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSP) and the recruitment of Independent PCSP Members. It was highlighted that successful candidates have now been selected for appointment in all 11 PCSPs and 4 DPCSPs and subject to clearance, full reconstitution is scheduled for 1 June 2024.

In relation to correspondence, the Chief Executive highlighted the following item:

- Correspondence received from the DoJ on the recommendations included in Angiolini Inquiry Part 1 Report. Members were asked to note that PSNI have been asked to reference the report later in the meeting today and that further oversight of PSNI implementation of the recommendations in the report would then be taken through the relevant Committee[s].

Members raised the following matters with the Chief Executive:

- On PCSPs, a Member requested further information on possible apprenticeships/work experience placements within the Board/PCSPs and also discussed exploring ways to improve the attractiveness of PCSPs in the local communities. **(AP10)**

- A Member asked a question around how and where appointed PCSP Members can provide their ID information for the relevant Access NI checks. The Member asked if this can be done locally in their own area or whether they needed to travel to Belfast to provide this information. Board officials confirmed this can be done locally via the PCSP Manager.

Members **NOTED** the report.

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

In the interests of time, the Chair asked Members to note the Committee Chairs' reports included under item 8. The Chairs of both Partnership Committee and ARAC were invited to highlight the particular items from each of their respective Committees which needed agreement by the Board.

### 8.1 Performance Committee – 14 March 2024

The Board noted the Performance Committee Chair's report and draft minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2024.

Members **NOTED** the update provided.

### 8.2 Partnership Committee – 21 March 2024

The Board noted the Partnership Committee report of the meeting held on 21 March 2024. The Committee Chair highlighted the recommendation from the Committee regarding the issue of Letters of Offer to projects successful following the Police Property Fund third call.

A Member asked for an amendment to the draft minutes and agreed to provide further details to the Director of Partnership. **(AP11)**

Following the update provided, the Partnership Committee Chair handed back to the Board Chair to put the Committee's recommendation to the Board.

It was subsequently **AGREED** by Members to:

- **APPROVE** the Committee's recommendation that a Letter of Offer be issued to the projects selected for funding by the assessment panel as part of the outcome of the Police Property Fund third call for grants.

Members **NOTED** the update provided.

### **8.3 Audit and Risk Assurance Committee - 28 March 2024**

The Board noted the Audit and Risk Assurance Chair's report of the meeting held on 28 March 2024. The Committee Chair highlighted the recommendation from the Committee regarding the approval of the Internal Audit Charter for 2024-25. The Chair noted that the Charter is essentially Internal Audit's terms of business. Following the update, the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee Chair handed back to the Board Chair to put the Committee's recommendation to the Board.

It was subsequently **AGREED** by Members to:

- **APPROVE** the Committee's recommendation of the Internal Audit Charter for 2024-25.

Members **NOTED** the update provided.

## **9. BOARD BUSINESS**

### **9.1 Review of Board's Standing Orders**

The Chief Executive presented Members with a paper on the review of the Board's Standing Orders and proposed Board Member Induction programme. The Board's Standing Orders are reviewed at the start of each new Board and were last reviewed and agreed in April 2023.

Following a review by officials an amendment was suggested on the practice of how "Votes" taken by the Board are recorded. The current Standing Orders require that the Board will, where possible, reach decisions by consensus, and that every motion, resolution, or recommendation shall be determined by a recorded vote with names recorded for Members voting for, against or abstained.

The Chief Executive advised that normal custom and practice has been to agree decisions by consensus or majority support and that in exceptional circumstances the vote is only recorded [and how each member voted registered] when requested.

The Chief Executive asked Members to consider an amendment to the Standing Orders at paragraph 14 to reflect normal custom and practice in respect of voting and that the Board will, where possible, reach decisions by consensus 'or majority support', and that a recorded vote will only take place at the request of Members.

Members asked about formalising into the Standing Orders reference to other working groups such as Senior Officer Employee Matters Group and the Policing Plan Review Working Group, and officials agreed to give consideration to this. **(AP12)**

Following discussion Members:

- **AGREED** to update the Board's Standing Orders at paragraph 14 with the proposed amendments outlined in the paper in respect of "Voting" arrangements, and
- **NOTED** the proposed Board Member induction Programme.

## 9.2 Committee Membership and Scheduling of Meetings

The Chief Executive presented a paper outlining proposed changes to the Board's Standing Committees and to provide Members with information on the scheduling of meetings up to early July 2024.

The Chief Executive asked Members to consider the proposed new Committee Membership of each of the Board's Standing Committees as set out in the paper which had been uploaded following the election of a new Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board earlier in the meeting, and noted the factors considered when drafting the proposals (such as balance and representation of gender, community background, skillset, and the integration of new Members).

The Chief Executive advised Members that some of the Committees will be required to elect a Vice-Chair at the next meeting, and in the case of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC), to elect both a Chair and Vice-Chair.

Members were also provided with details of the scheduling of Board and Committee meetings on consecutive Thursdays, and the proposal to continue with this schedule in line with custom and practice.

Members raised concerns in respect of scheduling issues due to competing priorities on Thursday's and asked for further consideration to be given to the potential implications of Members sitting on both ARAC and Resources Committee.



Following discussion Members:

- **AGREED** the appointment of Members to the Board's main standing committees as outlined in the paper, subject to the changes needed to minimise ARAC/Resources Committee overlap, and
- **AGREED** the Committee scheduling principles and **NOTED** the updated Schedule of Meetings.

### 9.3 Development of New Policing Plan 2025-30

The Director of Performance presented a paper providing Members with information on the statutory requirements to develop a new policing plan and to propose an outline plan for the next twelve months in relation to the development of a new five-year plan for the 2025-30 period to meet the Board's statutory duties.

Members were provided with the Justice Minister's Long Term policing objectives, the draft programme for the development of a new plan including key milestones for 2024/ 2025, and the draft programme for a Strategic Planning Event planned in May 2024 which will focus on key aims, challenges, and priorities as part of developing the new policing plan for 2025-30.

Following discussion Members:

- **NOTED** the twelve-month plan to meet the Board's statutory requirements in relation to the development of the new five year Policing Plan for 2025-2030, and
- **APPROVED** that officials proceed to organise the Strategic Planning Event on 30th May 2024.

#### 9.4 Human Rights Advisor – Contract Extension

The Board's Human Rights Advisor (HRA) declared a conflict of interest in respect of this item and withdrew from the meeting for the duration of the discussion.

The Director of Performance presented a paper asking Members to consider and agree a further annual extension to the contract of the Northern Ireland Policing Board Human Rights Advisor.

Members were advised the current contract for the HRA was agreed for an initial duration of three years up until July 2022, with an option to extend the contract on an annual basis thereafter for up to a further 2 years.

The second extension, up to July 2024 was granted by the Board in May 2023, and officials have now sought guidance from the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) and the Crown Solicitor's Office on the possibility of the Board extending the current contract of the HRA by an additional 12 months.

Following receipt of CPD advice Members were asked to consider a further contract extension for another 12 months, and this will necessitate an amendment to the current contract to allow for it to be extended on an annual basis up to July 2025..

Following discussion Members:

- **AGREED** to extend, subject to continued satisfactory performance, the contract of the Board's Human Rights Advisor for a further year, up to July 2025.

## 9.5 Human Rights Five Year Review 2019-2024

The Director of Performance presented a paper asking Members to consider the final draft of the Human Rights Five Year Review report, the final draft Executive Summary report, and an update on PSNI's implementation of Human Rights recommendations over this period.

This work has been completed by the Board's Human Rights Advisor and Board officials with several drafts considered by the Performance Committee over the past six months to deliver a Human Rights Five Year Review report for the period April 2019 to March 2024.

A Member sought assurances that although the Performance Committee, by consensus, had endorsed the report, that it is reflected in the final report that not every Member of the Committee endorses each and every part of the report.

The Vice-Chair asked about publication timelines for the report and further consideration is given to the prioritisation and categorisation of the recommendations made in the report to ensure these are ranked by importance and impact including PSNI follow up actions, and it was agreed to explore further as part of the ongoing work of the Performance Committee. **(AP13)**

Following discussion Members:

- **APPROVED** the final draft Executive Summary, the final draft Human Rights Five-Year Review, and the Human Rights recommendations and responses from PSNI, and
- **AGREED** that all three documents referenced above are published on the Board's website.

## 9.6 Section 59 Report & Section 60 Inquiry

The Chief Executive advised Members this paper was intended as a scoping exercise on requesting a report under Section 59 and conducting an inquiry under Section 60 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 in relation to the use by PSNI of surveillance powers under Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act or the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 on journalists and lawyers.

Following substantive discussions earlier in the meeting Members agreed to:

- **NOTE** the information provided in the paper.

## 9.7 Board Development Session

The Chief Executive presented a paper asking Members to consider and agree next steps following discussions at the Board Development sessions on 22 & 23 January 2024.

In the interest of time, the Chief Executive asked Members to refer to the Summary table at paragraph 18 of the paper and went on to explain that whilst the Board do not currently have the capacity to take forward all suggested actions, it is proposed that those which relate to the Policing Plan, NIPB Corporate Plan and the work of PPIB would be considered as Priority One areas allowing further discussion to be had with Board Directors on capacity within teams for taking forward the remaining actions.

During discussion Members made several observations on the paper. These included:

- Prioritising the suggested action of continuing to lobby for urgent action to address the recommendations in the 2020 NIAO report around the review of the IOD scheme.

- Clarification around a suggested action which proposed at least 2 Board meetings should be held annually with at least one being held outside Belfast. A Member suggested that both meetings should be held outside of Belfast to build more effective relationships with the wider public and stakeholders, while another member suggested consideration could be given to meetings in Belfast but outside of James House. Officials agreed to progress this matter as part of the wider outreach and engagement strategy. **(AP14)**
- On measuring the future effectiveness of the Board, ensuring that the collective efficiency and effectiveness is shown as NIPB as an organisation and not just the nineteen Members of the Board. It was noted that the Minister of Justice had also highlighted the absence of a checklist for the organisation when accepting the Corporate Plan and it was agreed that Board officials would take forward ensuring expectations were clarified when measuring future effectiveness of the Board. **(AP15)**

Discussing the use of external legal advice in complex cases and the ability to have a preferred list of available legal support if the need arises in the future. On this point Board officials explained that whilst external legal services (up to £10k) could be used in exceptional circumstances, there were potential issues that could arise from moving outside of existing providers. On this point it was agreed that Board officials would seek further guidance around the use of external legal advice in complex cases and the ability to have a preferred list of legal support to go to if the need arose in the future. **(AP16)**

Following discussion Members:

- **NOTED** the summary of discussions across the development days, and

- **AGREED** the prioritised suggested actions be taken forward.

## **10. KEY ISSUES OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

The Board noted a paper which detailed recent issues of public interest which were relevant to the Board's areas of work.

## **11. PRIVATE SESSION WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

The Chair welcomed Chief Constable Jon Boutcher, T/Deputy Chief Constable Chris Todd, Chief Operating Officer Pamela McCreedy, Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Bobby Singleton, T/ACC Melanie Jones, T/ACC Ryan Henderson, T/ACC Davy Beck, Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) People & Organisational Development Clare Duffield, ACO Strategic Planning & Transformation Aldrina Magwood, and ACO Corporate Services Mark McNaughten, to the meeting.

The Chair invited Members' questions and the following matters were discussed with the PSNI Leadership team:

- The decision to not include officer perception as part of the pilot on monitoring stop and search by community background.

In relation to this issue the Member also requested that the Chief Constable provide assurance that in any further roll out of monitoring stop and search by community background (beyond security legislation), that the monitoring data on Stop and Searches carried out under TACT or JSA is separated out from the monitoring data on non-security related legislation such as the Misuse of Drugs Act.

On the point around officer perception, PSNI explained that whilst a self-defined dataset is the preferred option, as things stand the current software does not

have an option for officer defined community background to be captured. However, if the pilot method of self-defined community background does not produce a significant enough data set, the review and monitoring of the pilot will ensure that this is identified and the collation methodology can be modified as required.

Further detail was also provided by PSNI that any further changes to the software package at this stage would lead to a delay in the implementation of the pilot scheme.

On the issue of the monitoring data being separated out, the PSNI went on to explain that this is indeed already the case.

The Chair thanked Chief Constable Jon Boutcher, T/Deputy Chief Constable Chris Todd, Chief Operating Officer Pamela McCreedy, Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Bobby Singleton, T/ACC Melanie Jones, T/ACC Ryan Henderson, T/ACC Davy Beck, Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) People & Organisational Development Clare Duffield, ACO Strategic Planning & Transformation Aldrina Magwood, and ACO Corporate Services Mark McNaughten, for their private briefing to the Board and they left the meeting.

## **12. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

### **12.1 Issues Arising from Committees**

There were no issues arising from recent Committee meetings for the Board's attention.

### **12.2 Committee Written Questions and Responses**

There were no written responses to Committee questions to note within this reporting period.

### **12.3 Individual Members' Written Questions and Responses**

Members noted the three PSNI responses to Members written questions within this period and the two follow up responses to Members questions at the Board meeting in March 2024.

### **13. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

The Communications manager summarised Members discussion from earlier in the meeting and Members agreed the following in respect of communications issues to be addressed: **(AP17)**

- Statement to be issued on the update received from PSNI in relation to the alleged covert surveillance of journalists and lawyers.
- Statement to be issued confirming the election of the new Chair and Vice Chair to the Board.

### **14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chief Executive advised Members of the anticipated need for the Board Chair and Vice-Chair to convene the 'senior officer employee matters' group to discuss recent developments in this area. Members were content this be progressed at the appropriate time. **(AP18)**

### **15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 2 May 2024 at 9.30am in James House.

The private meeting closed at 2.45pm



**RESOURCES DIRECTORATE**

**Date:** April 2024

**Chair**