

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER 2015 AT 9:30 AM, WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

Mrs Anne Connolly, Chairperson  
Ms Deborah Watters, Vice-Chairperson

(1) Ms Deirdre Blakely

(2) Mr Jonathan Craig

Prof Brice Dickson

Prof Ryan Feeney

(3) Mrs Brenda Hale

Mr Ross Hussey

(3) Mrs Dolores Kelly

Mr Trevor Lunn

Ms Roisin McGlone

(4) Mr David McIlveen

Mr Robin Newton

Dr Paul Nolan

Mrs Wendy Osborne

Ms Caitriona Ruane.

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

(5) Mr George Hamilton, Chief Constable

(5) Mr Mark Hamilton, ACC Human Resources

(1) Mr Will Kerr, ACC Crime Operations

(5) Mr Stephen Martin, ACC District Policing Command

(5) Mr Chris Noble, T/ACC Service Improvement  
Department

(1) Mr Alan Todd, T/ACC Operational Support Department

(5) Mr Mark McNaughten, Head of Finance

(1) Ms Liz Young, Head of Corporate Communications

(5) Superintendent, Command Secretariat

(5) Two PSNI Officials

#### **NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY**

(6) Ms Jenny Bell, Head of Investigations

(6) One Official

#### **AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT**

(7) Superintendent John Ferris

(7) Mr Andrew McLindon

**OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Barney McGahan, Interim Chief Executive  
Mrs Siobhan Fisher, T/Director of Partnership  
Mrs Amanda Stewart, Director of Policy  
Mr David Wilson, Director of Support Services  
3 Board Officials

- (1) Item numbers 14 and 15
- (2) Item numbers 1 – 13 and part item number 15
- (3) Part item number 3 to close
- (4) Part item number 3 to item 13 & part item 15
- (5) Item number 15
- (6) Item number 14
- (7) Part item number 15

**1 APOLOGIES, ETC**

Apologies were received from Mr Gerry Kelly, Mrs Catherine Pollock and Mr Pat Sheehan.

The Chairperson asked Members to declare any conflicts of interest arising from the agenda. No conflicts of interests were declared.

**2 DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICING BOARD HELD ON  
3 SEPTEMBER 2015**

The Board considered the draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 3 September 2015.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 3 September 2015 be approved subject to the following words being included in paragraph 3.2 “The Board still wants the HMIC Inspection on the PSNI’s role in supporting legacy inquests to take place and to pursue the issue with the Minister of Justice”.

### **3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

#### **3.1 PSNI Senior Staff Member Matter (Item 3.1 of minutes refers)**

There were no developments regarding a PSNI Senior Staff Member matter.

#### **3.2 Human Resources Issues (Item 3.4 of minutes refers)**

The Interim Chief Executive updated the Board on a grievance case which had been taken against the Board.

### **4 QUESTIONS TO RAISE WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

The Board noted:-

- A monthly report from the Chief Constable to the Board.
- Written responses from PSNI to questions raised by Committees and individual Members.

NOTED.

The Board agreed issues to be raised orally with PSNI later in the meeting.

### **5 CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS**

#### **5.1 Engagements**

The Board noted a list of the Chairperson's engagements during the period 4 – 30 September 2015. NOTED.

#### **5.2 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

#### **5.3 Presentation Day**

The Chairperson advised the Board that a Presentation Day would be organised for October 2015. NOTED.

## **6 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

### **6.1 Draft Minutes of a meeting of the Partnership Committee held on 10 September 2015**

The Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to the draft minutes of the meeting and highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee:-

#### **6.1.1 Terms of Reference (Item 2.1 of minutes refers)**

This matter was dealt with at item 6.2.

#### **6.1.2 Election of Vice-Chairperson of Partnership Committee (Item 2.2 of minutes refers)**

The Chairperson of the Committee advised the Board that Mrs Catherine Pollock had been elected Vice-Chair of the Partnership Committee.

#### **6.1.3 Measuring Young People's Confidence Levels in the PSNI (Item 3.5 of minutes refers)**

#### **6.1.4 Briefing on the work of the Board's Human Rights Advisor (Item 5.4 of minutes refers)**

#### **6.1.5 EQIA Final Report (Item 5.4 of minutes refers)**

A Member requested that an amendment be made to section 5.6 of the draft minutes to include reference to the two pilot schemes arising from the Youth Engagement Strategy for PCSPs not being a substitute for 3 Policing Plan targets.

### **6.2 Terms of Reference**

The Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to the Terms of Reference for the Partnership Committee.

The Board:-

#### **RESOLVED:**

To approve the Terms of Reference for the Partnership Committee.

## **7 PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

### **7.1 Draft Minutes of a meeting of the Performance Committee held on 17 September 2015**

The Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to the draft minutes of the meeting and highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee:-

#### **7.1.1 Terms of Reference (Item 2.1 of minutes refers)**

This matter was dealt with at item 7.2.

#### **7.1.2 Election of a Performance Committee Vice-Chairperson (Item 2.3 of minutes refers)**

The Chairperson of the Committee advised the Board that Ms Roisin McGlone had been elected Vice-Chair of the Performance Committee.

#### **7.1.3 NCA Sub-Group (Item 4.2 of minutes refers)**

The Chairperson of the Committee advised the Board that the Performance and Resources Committees had agreed to reconstitute the NCA Sub-Group. The Sub-Group would meet on a future date to complete its work in relation to a number of Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) relating to the operation of NCA in Northern Ireland.

#### **7.1.4 Requesting a report under Section 59 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 in relation to the role of the PSNI in supporting legacy Inquests (Item 5.1 of minutes refers)**

The Board noted that a form of words for a request under section 59 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 in relation to the role of the PSNI in supporting legacy Inquests would be considered at the October 2015 Performance Committee meeting and a recommendation would be brought to the November 2015 Board meeting.

The Board discussed further correspondence from the Justice Minister regarding his decision not to commission HMIC to undertake a review of the PSNI's role in supporting legacy inquests and the PSNI's position in relation to the proposed inspection. Members suggested that a meeting should be sought with the Minister.

A few Members asked to be provided with a copy of a paper which had been provided previously regarding coronial inquests and Officials undertook to provide this to the Members concerned.

A Member requested that an amendment be made to section 5.1 of the minutes to include reference to the Board's position that they still want the HMIC Inspection to take place and Member's view that further face to face engagement with the Minister of Justice was necessary to progress the matter further.

The Member also requested that an amendment be made to section 5.3 of the minutes to include a Member's concern that the proposed methodology for the capture of community information during stop and search are carried out by postal return.

The Chairperson of the Committee advised the Board that representatives from the PSNI and Police Federation had been invited to the Performance Committee meeting on 17 October 2015 to discuss the results of a recent Police Federation workforce survey. All Members of the Board were invited to join the Performance Committee for this item of business.

## **7.2 Terms of Reference – section 59 of the Police (NI) Act 2000**

This matter would be dealt with at the next meeting of the Performance Committee.

## **7.3 Terms of Reference**

The Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to the Terms of Reference for the Performance Committee.

The Board:-

**RESOLVED**

To approve the Terms of Reference for the Performance Committee.

**8 RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**8.1 Verbal report on the meeting of the Resources Committee held on 24 September 2015**

Officials advised the Board that a meeting Resources Committee had taken place on 24 September 2015 and updated Members regarding the following:-

**8.1.1 Election of Committee Vice-Chairperson**

The Chairperson of the Committee advised the Board that Mrs Wendy Osborne had been elected Vice-Chair of the Resources Committee.

**8.1.2 Terms of Reference**

This matter was dealt with at item 8.2.

**8.1.3 Northern Ireland Community Safety College**

Officials advised the Board that the Resources Committee had discussed the proposed consideration of the revised Business Case for the Northern Ireland Community Safety College. The Committee proposed that the Resources Committee should consider the Business Case instead of the Board Business Co-Ordination Group. The Board agreed with this proposal.

**8.1.4 Process for developing the NIPB Accommodation Business Case**

The Committee considered NIPB accommodation and noted that Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) has been asked about the availability of capital funding for the preferred Business Case option to purchase Waterside

Tower. The Committee asked for a presentation from Department of Justice (DOJ) Officials on the proposed relocation of all DOJ Headquarters Bodies into a single site by 2020 and this would be arranged.

## **8.2 Terms of Reference**

The Chairperson referred Members to the draft Terms of Reference for the Resources Committee and advised the Board that the Chair of the Committee had asked for the Terms of Reference to be considered at the November 2015 Board meeting.

## **9 OVERSIGHT OF PSNI GOVERNANCE**

The Board considered a paper which sought Members agreement on the most appropriate method(s) for the Board to oversee the revised PSNI Governance Structure.

Following discussion on the various methods for keeping the Board informed of the work of PSNI Delivery Groups it was:-

### **AGREED:**

- That the Board should be provided with the Terms of Reference for the Service First Board and Delivery Groups.
- That the Board should be provided with the minutes of the meetings of the Service First Board.
- That the Deputy Chief Constable should be asked to provide a 6-monthly report at the Board meeting in private on the work of the Service First Board (and by extrapolation the Delivery Groups which feed into the Service First Board).

## **10 INFORMATION PAPER**

The Board noted the following paper:-

### **10.1 Schedule of Events – October 2015**



## **11 COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

The Board noted details of communication issues. NOTED.

## **12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **12.1 Senior Officer Bonus**

The Board considered a matter relating to Senior Police Officers Bonus.

An official sensitive note of this matter is attached at Appendix "A".

## **13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 5 November 2015.

## **14 DISCUSSION REGARDING NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY**

The Board was advised that the Director General, NCA was unable to attend the scheduled meeting with the Board today as his flight had been cancelled. Members agreed for Jenny Bell, Head of Investigations to give evidence in his absence.

The Board noted:-

- A paper which provided Members with background information in relation to the operation of the NCA in Northern Ireland.
- A report and correspondence from the Director General, NCA dated 24 September 2015 in relation to current NCA activity and performance in Northern Ireland.

NOTED.

The Chairperson welcomed the representatives from NCA to the meeting.

The Board discussed the operation of NCA in Northern Ireland with the Head of Investigations, NCA.

During the discussion the following main points were discussed:-

- Operation JARRA – A joint PSNI/NCA investigation into the accessing and sharing of indecent images of children by individuals within Northern Ireland.
- Operation SPITTING – A consent order, settling the NCA’s civil recovery claim by recovering assets from two individuals.
- The draft Memoranda of Understanding regarding the duties and responsibilities of the Director General of NCA to the Board.
- The NCA’s role in Northern Ireland regarding criminal assets recovery.
- The staffing of NCA in Northern Ireland.
- Officers working in the NCA being required to operate in accordance with the Code of Ethics currently in place for PSNI Officers.
- NCA Communication Principles.
- Linking of NCA Plans with the Policing Plan.

The Chairperson thanked the Head of Investigations, NCA and her colleague for attending the meeting and they left.

## **15 PRIVATE SESSION WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

The Chairperson welcomed the Chief Constable and the Senior Executive Team to the meeting and invited Members’ questions to the Chief Constable.

In response to a Member’s question the PSNI provided an update on a personnel issue and agreed to keep Officials informed regarding its progress.

In relation to references in the Chief Constable’s report regarding the amalgamation of Tactical Support Groups (TSGs), the PSNI updated the Board on forthcoming plans regarding the location of Lisnaskea TSG. PSNI acknowledged the volume of bids this Unit had serviced over the last 3 years however asked Members to note that owing to their geographical location, a disproportionate amount of time was spent travelling to and from operations. Members requested that PSNI note the Board’s concerns regarding the removal of the Lisnaskea TSG unit.

A Member paid tribute to Officers who had dealt with a terrorist incident in the West Tyrone area and requested the Chief Constable to convey the Board's thanks to the Officers concerned. In response to a Members question the PSNI updated the Board on the current threat assessment and ongoing work to manage and mitigate the threat.

In response to a Members question the PSNI updated the Board on action being taken in relation to drugs and criminal gangs and also the current PSNI operation to disrupt gangs' street level operations throughout Northern Ireland. Members were provided with information on seizures, arrests and the volume of drugs recovered to date this year.

The Chairperson welcomed representatives from An Garda Síochána Communications Department to the meeting. The Chief Constable gave a brief synopsis of his monthly report to the Board including updates on finance, change management, and the first operational report to the Board on joint operations with the NCA.

In response to a Member's concern regarding domestic violence incidents the PSNI discussed the changing arrangements regarding the co-location of Woman's Aid representatives within certain Police Stations. The PSNI highlighted that representations had been made by the PSNI to the Department of Justice for more sustained funding for the third/voluntary sector to support their valuable contribution in this area. Members were also updated on the work of the Public Protection Unit which is now the central referral unit for all public protection cases including domestic violence cases.

In response to a Member's question the PSNI updated the Board on Voluntary Exit Scheme (VES) for Police Staff. Members discussed the volume of staff due to leave the organisation, how the application and selection process was carried out and how the PSNI would manage the risk of losing a substantial amount of staff.

In response to a Member's question the Chief Constable outlined views with regard to a proposed HMIC inspection of the PSNI's role in relation to coronial inquests and the rationale for his preference for a service wide PEEL Inspection of the PSNI. Several Members expressed the view that the proposed HMIC inspection of the PSNI's role in relation to coronial inquests should take place and also discussed the Minister of Justice's position regarding the proposed inspection.

In response to a Member's question the PSNI provided an update on PSNI use of Small

Unmanned Aircraft (SUA) since 1 January 2015. Following discussion it was agreed the PSNI would revert to the Board to confirm the number of deployments in 2015.

Following a question from a Member the PSNI provided a brief outline of the discretion Officers have in respect of the arrest powers under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT). The PSNI highlighted to Members that PSNI apply the same threshold to arrests under TACT as under PACE and that the detention rules under TACT are much more stringent.

In response to a Member's question the PSNI provided further details regarding a recent joint PSNI/NCA operation regarding child sexual exploitation.

The meeting moved into public session. A verbatim recording of the Board meeting in public is available on the Board's facebook page at [www.facebook.com/policingboard](http://www.facebook.com/policingboard).

(Meeting closed 3.25 pm)

## **Board Support**

**Date:** October 2015

\_\_\_\_\_ **Chairperson**