

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF 7th MEETING OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2004 AT
10:00 AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Mr Eddie McGrady (Chairman)
- (1) Mr William Hay (Vice-Chairman)
- (2) Mr Alex Attwood
- Mr Fred Cobain
- Mrs Pauline McCabe
- Mr Alan McFarland
- (2) Mr Suneil Sharma
- Professor Desmond Rea
(Chairman of the Board)
- Mr Denis Bradley (Vice-Chairman
of the Board)

**HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Keir Starmer, Human Rights
Advisor
Ms Jane Gordon, Assistant Human
Rights Advisor

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Policy
Director of Communications
Four Board Officials

- (1) Part Item number 2 to close
- (2) Item 1 and part item 2

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mrs Rosaleen Moore and Mr Ian Paisley Jnr.

2. PRESENTATION – HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORS

The Chairman of the Committee welcomed Mr Keir Starmer and Ms Jane Gordon, the Board's Human Rights Advisors, to the meeting. He reminded the Committee that a draft copy of the Human Rights Advisor's report on the monitoring of policing of the Ardoyne parades on 12 July 2004 had been circulated to all Members of the Board and that all Members had been invited to attend the presentation. At present, the draft document was classified as 'confidential'. The Chairman of the Committee invited Mr Starmer and Ms Gordon to give a presentation on the findings contained in their report.

The Human Rights Advisors gave a detailed presentation which covered:

- The context of their Report on the policing of the Ardoyne parades on 12 July 2004;
- The scope of their review; attendance at preparatory meetings and as observers on the ground at Ardoyne or in the Silver Command Room on 12 July; access to officers, documents and other material relating to the policing operation and consultation with interested parties;
- The sequence of events pre, during and post the policing operation; and
- An analysis of whether the policing of the 12 July Ardoyne parades complied with requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- That a copy of the draft report should be forwarded to other statutory organisations named in the document, to check it for factual accuracy

- The organisations should be asked to respond by 4 October 2004 with a view to placing the document, if possible, before Members at the October Board meeting.

The Committee considered a provisional timetable for receipt of the Human Rights Advisors' Annual Report on the police performance in complying with the Human Rights Act 1998. The Committee agreed that in view of the time taken to prepare the separate report on the Ardoyne parades, it would be acceptable for the draft Annual Report to be presented to the November meeting of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee. It was planned that the draft report would then be issued to other statutory organisations named in it in mid / late November, with a response date of 3 January 2005. The Committee agreed that the final draft report should be presented to the January 2005 Committee meeting, with a view to launching the document in February 2005.

In response to a question from a Member, the Human Rights Advisors agreed to consider whether it was a practical proposal to produce a report regarding human rights in respect of the policing of a parade in Lurgan on 13 July 2004.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee agreed that in view of the time spent in receiving the Human Rights Advisor' presentation and that a number of Members had other commitments in the afternoon, that all the remaining items on the agenda should be deferred to the next meeting.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee agreed that the date of the next meeting should be Friday, 8 October 2004 at 10:00 am.

DRAFT

ITEM No. 8.1

The Committee agreed that officials should give consideration to changing the date of the November meeting from Thursday, 11 to Thursday, 18, to facilitate presentation of the Human Rights Advisers' Annual Report.

(Meeting closed 1:00 pm).

SECRETARIAT

September 2004

CHAIRMAN