

**NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

**MINUTES OF 16<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2005 AT 11:00 AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

**PRESENT:**

**MEMBERS:**

Mr Eddie McGrady (Chairman)  
Professor Sir Desmond Rea  
Mr William Hay  
Mrs Pauline McCabe  
(1) Mr Alan McFarland  
Mrs Rosaleen Moore  
Mr Ian Paisley Jnr  
(2) Mr Alex Atwood  
Mr Joe Byrne  
Mr Brian Dougherty  
Mr Denis Bradley

**HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORS  
IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)  
Mrs Sinead Simpson, Director of Policy  
Three Board Officials

- (1) Item 1 and part 2
- (2) Item 2 (part of)

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for Non attendance were received from Mr Sharma

**2. DRAFT REPORT ON POLICING OF ARDOYNE AND WHITEROCK  
PARADES 2005**

The Chairman welcomed members to this special meeting of the Committee to consider the draft report of the Board's Human Rights Advisors on the policing of the Ardoyne and Whiterock Parades 2005. The Chairman reminded the Committee that the Board had agreed that the Human Rights and Professional Standards

## Item No:

Committee be given delegated authority to sign off the report and authorise its publication. A copy of the draft report had been issued to all Board members in advance of the meeting. Members were also reminded that the Committee had considered the Advisors' report on the Ardoyne parades in 2005 at its September 2005 meeting and had endorsed the recommendations contained in that part of the report. The Committee had agreed that the publication of this report should await the preparation of the Advisors report into the policing of the Whiterock parade in September 2005.

The Chairman welcomed the Human Rights Advisors, Mr Keir Starmer and Ms Jane Gordon to the meeting and their recently appointed assistant and they presented their draft report commenting in detail on each section.

Members discussed the Advisors analysis and received further information concerning a range of issues including:-

- The circumstances surrounding the decisions taken by the police to authorise the use of AEP impact rounds and water canon.
- The level and nature of injuries sustained by police and members of the public.
- Guidelines on the use of water cannon.
- The use and reliability of intelligence reports.
- Protective equipment and clothing issued to Police.
- The extent of army support
- Consultation and communications between the neighbouring DCUs involved in police operations
- The release of video footage along with the publication of the report.

Following discussion, the Chairman thanked the Human Rights Advisers for the draft report and their contribution to the meeting.

A motion was proposed and seconded that the Committee endorse the recommendations contained in the report. The meeting was reminded that in accordance with the Board's standing orders, committee members would be asked to indicate their response to the motion.

Following a show of hands, by a majority vote it was:

**RESOLVED**

That the Committee endorsed the findings and recommendations of the Human Rights Advisors' report on the policing of the Ardoyne and Whiterock Parades 2005.

It was:

**AGREED**

That the report should be published as soon as possible.

**3. PSNI HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

A copy of the PSNI Human Rights Programme of action 2005-06 was circulated to each Committee Member. The programme will be considered at a future committee meeting when the Human Rights Advisors will give their views on its contents.

Meeting ended 1.30pm.

**Secretariat**

December 2005