

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 2 MAY 2007 AT 9:30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
- Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)
- (1) Mr Alex Attwood
- Mr Joe Byrne
- Mr Fred Cobain
- Mr Brendan Duddy
- (2) Ms Arlene Foster
- (2) Mrs Dolores Kelly
- (3) Mr Danny Kennedy
- (1) Ms Deirdre Mac Bride
- Mrs Pauline McCabe
- (1) Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- (2) Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
- Ms Dawn Purvis
- Mr Brian Rea
- (2) Mr Trevor Ringland
- Mr Suneil Sharma
- (1) Mr Peter Weir

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (4) Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)
- (4) Mrs Judith Gillespie (ACC Rural Region)
- (4) Mr Peter Sheridan (ACC Crime Operations)
- (4) Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Urban Region)
- (4) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Criminal Justice
Department)
- (4) Mr Roy Toner (ACC Operational Support)
- (4) Mr Joe Stewart, Director of Human
Resources
- (4) Ms Sinead McSweeney, Director of Media &
PR
- (4) T/Superintendent Command Secretariat
- (4) 2 representatives, PSNI Analysis Centre
- (4) 1 representative, Command Secretariat
- (4) Superintendent, Hampshire Constabulary

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
Dr Debbie Donnelly (Deputy Chief Executive)
Mr David Jackson (Director of Community
Engagement)
Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate
Services)
Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
Mrs Sinead Simpson (Director of Policy)
Ms Jane Gordon, Human Rights Advisor
4 Board Officials

- (1) Part item number 3 to close
- (2) Part item number 3 to item number 6 and item number 13
- (3) Item numbers 6 and 13
- (4) Item number 13 only

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

There were no apologies received for the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE POLICING BOARD

Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 22 March 2007

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 22 March 2007 be approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

3.1 New Police College (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive advised the Board that a letter had been sent to the PSNI regarding the governance arrangements in relation to the shared facility at the Desertcreat site. NOTED.

3.2 Merger of ARA/SOCA (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Director of Policy informed the Board that the Head of SOCA would be invited to meet with the reconstituted Board. NOTED.

3.3 PSNI Policy On Retention Of DNA (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 6.3.

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

The Director of Policy advised the Board that further information had been requested from the NIO on how the review of the Historical Enquiries Team (HET) would be taken forward, including the exact scope of the review. NOTED.

3.5 Appointment Of Chief Constable (2002) (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive advised the Board that a letter had been sent to the SDLP leader seeking a statement as to the accuracy of the note of the meeting held on 11 February 2007. A response was awaited. NOTED.

3.6 Meeting With The Chief Surveillance Inspector (Item 4.5.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Director of Policy informed the Board that letters had been sent to:-

- the Chief Constable regarding the Board Chairman and Vice Chairman being given access to reports of the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner;
- the Chief Surveillance Commissioner regarding a meeting with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Policing Board and other matters; and
- the Prime Minister regarding the growing trend towards increased accountability arrangements and the need for oversight of covert policing matters, at national level, to keep in step.

NOTED.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

The Chairman highlighted and commented on the following engagements which he had undertaken on behalf of the Board:-

- accountability breakfast – Broadcasting House, Belfast – 27 March 2007;
- meeting with Sinn Fein delegation – Stormont , Belfast- 16 April 2007;
- meeting with Maura Connelly, Minister-Counsellor for Political Affairs, Embassy of the USA and Political Counsellor – Belfast – 19 April 2007;
- Chief Police Officers' Dinner – London – 19 April 2007;
- PERF Annual Meeting – Chicago - 26 – 28 April 2007.

NOTED.

The Chairman drew Members attention to a tabled note of the meeting with the Sinn Fein delegation on 16 April 2007. NOTED.

The Chief Executive advised the Board that a background briefing had been given to nominated Board Members from Sinn Fein regarding the work of the Board. The other political parties who had made nominations to the Board had also been offered briefings. NOTED.

The Chairman provided details to the Board in relation to the Board representatives and DPP Members participation in the PERF Annual Meeting in Chicago from 26 – 28 April 2007. NOTED.

4.2 Publications

There were no matters arising.

4.3 Correspondence

The Chairman informed the Board that he had received the following correspondence:-

- letters from the Chief Constable dated 2 and 18 April 2007 regarding extension of contract;
- letter from the United States Department of State dated 11 April 2007 regarding visit to Washington;
- letter from SDLP Leader dated 19 April 2007 regarding the marching season.

NOTED.

The Director of Policy advised Members that a letter had been received from PSNI providing clarity on the PSNI General Order on political activity by PSNI officers.

NOTED.

4.4 News Releases

There were no matters arising.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Members Attendance At Events (Other Than Board And Committee Meetings) – 1 January – 31 March 2007

The Chief Executive drew the attention of Members to a schedule detailing the attendance of Members at events other than Board and Committee meetings during the period 1 January to 31 March 2007. The Chief Executive explained that the information would be published on the Board's website and asked any Member who found any inaccuracies or omissions to contact Secretariat.

5.2 Matters Relating To Chief Officers

5.2.1 Chief Constable's Expenses, Etc

The Board noted a matter in relation to the Chief Constable's expenses, travel etc.

NOTED.

5.2.2 Chief Constable – Extension Of Contract

The Chief Executive advised the Board, that the Secretary of State had approved the extension of the Chief Constable's contract for up to 3 years and the completion of the required amendments to the relevant determinations relating to fixed term contracts. The Chief Constable confirmed his acceptance of the extension. NOTED.

5.2.3 Assistant Chief Constable – Strategic Command Course

The Chief Executive advised the Board, that Assistant Chief Constable Rural Region had been invited to apply for the position of Syndicate Director for the forthcoming Strategic Command Course and referred to the proposed cover arrangements should the Assistant Chief Constable be successful. NOTED.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Board should support the Assistant Chief Constable's application.

5.3 Request For An Enquiry By The Secretary Of State Under Section 44 Of The Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998

Members considered a letter dated 15 April 2007 from solicitors acting on behalf of Raymond McCord Snr and agreed the Board's response. NOTED.

5.4 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) Update

The Chief Executive advised Members about a delay in the recruitment of PCSOs. NOTED.

6. CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

6.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Corporate Policy, Planning And Performance Committee Held On 18 April 2007

6.1.1 Report By The Delay Action Team Following The CJINI Report “Avoidable Delay” (Item 3.4 of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman advised the Board that the Committee had recommended that a regular tripartite meeting should be arranged between the Board, PSNI and the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) to encourage the development of co-operation between PSNI and the PPS. NOTED

6.1.2 Production Of The Policing Board Annual Report 2006/2007 (Item 5.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that the Committee had agreed that delegated authority should be given to the Chairman of the reconstituted Board to sign off the final text for the Board’s Annual Report 2006 – 2007. NOTED.

Members of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee:-

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18 April 2007 should be agreed.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee held on 18 April 2007.

6.2 Reconstitution Of The Northern Ireland Policing Board – Administrative Arrangements

The Board considered a paper regarding an update on administrative arrangements for the reconstitution of the Policing Board following the restoration of devolution on 8 May 2007 .

It was:-

RESOLVED:

- to suspend Standing Orders 20(c) (bullet point 3), 20(f) and 20(n) to allow the current appointments of Committees to continue beyond the annual re-appointment date until the end of the Board's term of office.
- to grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive to deal with any urgent items of business from the end of the current Board's term to the election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the reconstituted Board.

The Board noted:-

- that the End of the Board's Term had been confirmed as midnight on 7 May 2007;
- an End of Term Dinner would be held in Parliament Buildings, Stormont on 10 May 2007 at 7.30pm for 8.00pm;
- details of the approach which would be taken regarding the attendance of former Members at a few unavoidable diary events which would fall during the "inter regnum" period;
- that the schedule of Board and Committee meetings in June 2007 would be held as planned. The schedule of meetings for the remainder of 2007 would be reviewed by the new Board;
- that the policy on the provision of services and equipment to Board Members was being reviewed in the context of the range of services and equipment provided by the Assembly to Board Members who were MLAs;

- an Induction Session for new Board Members would be held on 30 May 2007.

NOTED.

In response to a query, the Chief Executive undertook to clarify whether it was possible for Board Members to attend a PSNI Diversity Strategy Steering Group Meeting on 8 May 2007 as former Members.

6.3 PSNI Policy On Retention Of DNA

The Board considered a paper relating to PSNI policy on the retention of DNA profiles on the Police National Computer. The Chairman reminded the Board of the background to the issue, previous Board and Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee consideration of the issue and detailed additional information that had been obtained since the matter was last discussed.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

That ACPO's views should be obtained regarding whether there was any merit in nationally moving the current policy on the retention of DNA closer to the Scottish model.

6.4 Oversight Of The Outstanding Patten Recommendations

The Board considered a paper which set out a range of issues associated with the end of the term of office of the Oversight Commissioner.

The Chairman advised the Board that it had not been possible to find a suitable date for Members to participate in a discussion to scope out how oversight of the remaining outstanding Patten recommendations should be taken forward, and asked Members if they wished to input into the scoping exercise, to advise the Director of Policy. The Chairman noted that it would be a matter for each Committee to determine how it

should monitor areas of work within its remit and if necessary acquire expertise to do so.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

That officials should take the issue forward in advance of the reconstitution of the Board.

7. COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

7.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Community And Human Rights Committee Meeting Held On 17 April 2007

Members of the Community and Human Rights Committee:-

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 April 2007 should be agreed, subject to an amendment being made to item number 4.4.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Community and Human Rights Committee held on 17 April 2007.

7.2 PSNI Revised Code Of Ethics

The Board considered a paper regarding the final draft of the revised PSNI Code of Ethics.

The Board's Human Rights Advisor detailed the work that had been undertaken to date including at the Working Group with PSNI. Members were advised that a number of issues had arisen which would necessitate substantial changes to the Code that was originally consulted upon and that a third consultation exercise would be necessary. Members were also advised that PSNI would now need to urgently consider the issues and advise the Board how they would like to proceed. Members also noted that changes of PSNI representation at the Working Group and latterly consideration of the Code by Senior Officers had led to issues being raised which required urgent attention. Members also noted the impact of this delay on the overall timeframe for publication of the Code. NOTED.

7.3 Consideration Of The Removal From Office Of A DPP Member

The Board considered a paper regarding the attendance of a DPP Member who had failed to attend any meetings of a DPP during a six month period from September 2006 – February 2007.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Board should move to the next stage of the terms of the Board's policy on the removal of a DPP Member from office and inform the DPP member that their position as a member of the DPP will now be considered and this could result in being removed from office.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

8.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 17 April 2007

The Chairman of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations regarding:-

8.1.1 Presentation By PSNI Regarding Injury On Duty/Compensation Cases – PSNI Strategy On Hearing Loss (Item 2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Director of Corporate Services advised the Board that he would send a letter to PSNI seeking information on the number and value of future claims for hearing loss in order that the NIO could be advised that funds may be required to be set aside to meet such claims. NOTED.

8.1.2 Chief Superintendents Post Related Allowances (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

8.1.3 Police Negotiating Board (PNB) – Brief Paper (Item 10 Of Minutes Refers)

8.1.4 Independent Vetting Panel Member – Extension Of Contract (Item 13.7 Of Minutes Refers)

Members of the Human Resources Committee:-

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 April 2007 should be agreed, subject to an amendment being made to item number 16.2.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 17 April 2007.

8.2 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Resources (Quorum) Committee Held On 17 April 2007

Members of the Human Resources Committee:-

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources (Quorum) Committee held on 17 April 2007 should be agreed.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources (Quorum) Committee held on 17 April 2007.

8.3 PSNI Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) On Regular Recruitment

The Board considered a paper regarding the Board's response to a PSNI Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) on recruitment of regular police officers.

It was:-

RESOLVED:-

That the Board's response to the PSNI EQIA should be approved.

9. RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

9.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Resources And Improvement Committee Held On 20 April 2007

The Director of Corporate Services highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee decisions/recommendations regarding:-

9.1.1 Presentation – PSNI Best Value Review Of Partnerships (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.2 6th Independent Validation Report Of The PSNI IS Strategy (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

9.1.3 Interim Call Management Arrangements (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

Members of the Resources and Improvement Committee:-

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 April 2007 should be agreed subject to an amendment being made to item number 9.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Resources and Improvement Committee held on 20 April 2007

10. PROPOSED PARTICIPATION IN LORD MAYOR'S EVENT JUNE 2007

The Board considered a paper regarding the Board's participation in the Lord Mayor's Carnival in Belfast on 22 June 2007.

Following discussion it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Board should participate in the Lord Mayor's Carnival at a cost of up to £15,000.

11. INFORMATION PAPERS

11.1 PSNI Review Of Underwater Search Unit

The Board noted a paper regarding additional information which had been received from PSNI in relation to the rationale behind the decision to outsource the Underwater Search Unit following the outcome of their review which had been conducted in March 2006. NOTED.

11.2 Drink Driving Offences

The Board noted a paper regarding the sanctions which had been imposed in relation to the conviction of a PSNI Officer for driving with excess alcohol. NOTED.

11.3 Fifteenth Report Of The Independent Monitoring Commission

The Board noted a paper regarding information in relation to the 15th Report of the Independent Monitoring Commission. NOTED.

12. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To issue news releases in respect of the following items of business:-

- the extension of the Chief Constable's contract;
- the findings of the independent research which had been jointly commissioned by the Board and the PSNI and undertaken by IPSOS MORI into recent crime trends in Northern Ireland;
- the publication of the PSNI recorded crime figures.

13. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Board noted a letter which had been received from the Chief Constable dated 16 April 2007 regarding the overall clearance rate for each District Command Unit (DCU), violent crimes against young people and the CORE project. NOTED.

The meeting discussed questions to be put to the Deputy Chief Constable and decided whether they should be asked at the Board meeting in public or in the private session.

The Chairman welcomed the Deputy Chief Constable and other PSNI representatives to the meeting.

The Board received further information in relation to:-

- the future cost implications of claims for hearing loss 2002 – 2006;
- the recruitment and selection process to recruit 400 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) over 3 years;
- the deployment of PCSOs in Neighbourhood Policing Teams;
- the circumstances surrounding the alleged breach of security and access to confidential information by a civilian employee of the PSNI.

The Board then moved into public session and following the Board meeting in public, the PSNI representatives left the meeting.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Senior Police Officer Appointments

In response to a query from a Member regarding a recent Home Office circular in relation to the appointment of Chief Constables, the Chief Executive outlined details of the criteria which had been advised by the NIO for future appointments.

The Chairman sought and received the Board's approval to write to the Department of Justice regarding advertising of Senior Appointments within the Garda Siochanna.

14.2 Thanks

The Chairman thanked Members for their contribution to the work of the Board during 2006 – 2007.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Board confirmed the date of the next meeting for Thursday, 31 May 2007 in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 3:10pm).

Secretariat

May 2007

Chairman