

## NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 6 JUNE 2007 AT 9:30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

#### PRESENT:

#### MEMBERS:

- Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
- Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)
- Mr Tom Buchanan
- Mr Leslie Cree
- Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson
- (2) Mrs Dolores Kelly
- Mr Alex Maskey
- Mr Basil McCrea
- Mr Daithí McKay
- Ms Mary McKee
- Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- (1) Mr Gearóid Ó hEára
- (4) Mr Brian Rea
- Mr David Rose
- (3) Mr Suneil Sharma
- Mr Peter Weir

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

- (5) Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
- (5) Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)
- (5) Mrs Judith Gillespie (ACC Rural Region)
- (5) Mr Peter Sheridan (ACC Crime Operations)
- (5) Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Urban Region)
- (5) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Criminal Justice  
Department)
- (5) Mr Alistair Finlay (ACC Crime Support)
- (5) Mr Roy Toner (ACC Operational Support)
- (5) Ms Sinead McSweeney (Director of  
Communications)
- (5) C/Superintendent, Human Resources
- (5) T/Superintendent Command Secretariat
- (5) 1 PSNI representative, Command Secretariat

**OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)  
Dr Debbie Donnelly (Deputy Chief Executive)  
Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate  
Services)  
Mrs Sinead Simpson (Director of Policy)  
3 Board Officials

- (1) Item numbers 3.1.2 to 5 and item 10**
- (2) Item numbers 6 to 9 and 11 and 12**
- (3) Item numbers 1 to 5 and item 10**
- (4) Item numbers 1 to 5, part item 6 and item 10**
- (5) Item number 10 only**

**1. APOLOGIES, ETC**

Apologies were received on behalf of Ms Anderson, Mr Ringland and Mr Simpson.

**2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE POLICING BOARD**

**Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 2 May 2007**

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 2 May 2007 be approved.

**2.2 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting In Public Held On 2 May 2007**

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting in public held on 2 May 2007 be approved.

**2.3 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 31 May 2007**

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 31 May 2007 be approved.

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

**3.1 Matters Arising From The Meeting Held on 2 May 2007**

**3.1.1 New Police College** (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Vice Chairman and Chief Executive briefly updated Members about the agenda for a forthcoming meeting of the new College Programme Board arranged for 8 June 2007. A further update on the governance arrangements for the new College will be given to the Board at its next meeting. NOTED.

**3.1.2 PSNI Policy On Retention Of DNA** (Item 3.4 And 6.3 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials advised that a substantive response had not yet been received from the Association of Chief Police Officers regarding the current policy on the retention of DNA profiles on the police national computer.

A substantive paper regarding the policy on retention of DNA was being prepared by officials for the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee. NOTED.

### **3.1.3 Questions For The Chief Constable – Historical Enquiries Team (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)**

Officials advised that a response had not yet been received from the NIO regarding the review of the Historical Enquiries Team but that one was imminent. NOTED.

### **3.1.4 Meeting With The Chief Surveillance Inspector (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chairman referred Members to responses received from the Chief Surveillance Commissioner regarding a meeting with the Board Chairman and Vice Chairman and other matters, and from the Prime Minister regarding accountability arrangements for the oversight of covert policing matters at national level. NOTED.

Following discussion,

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

That a briefing paper should be prepared for the next Board meeting setting out the roles and responsibilities of the Board in relation to the oversight of covert policing matters.

### **3.1.5 Senior Police Officer Appointments – Garda Siochana (Item 14.1 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chairman advised the Board that to date he had not received a formal response from the Department of Justice regarding the advertising of senior appointments within the Garda Siochana. The Chief Executive informed Members that he had spoken with an official in the Department of Justice and that a number of senior civilian posts within the Garda Siochana were to be advertised. NOTED.

### **3.1.6 Request For An Enquiry By The Secretary Of State Under Section 44 Of The Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 (Item 5.3 Of Minutes Refers)**

Following a question from a Member, officials undertook to provide a copy of the correspondence referred to in the minutes to all Board Members.

## **3.2 Matters Arising From The Meeting Held On 31 May 2007**

### **3.2.1 Schedule Of Board And Committee Meetings 2007 (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chairman referred Members to a proposed schedule of Board and Committee meetings for the period June to December 2007. Members considered the proposed dates.

It was:-

#### **RESOLVED:**

- that the next Policing Board meeting should be held on 5 July 2007 at 9:30am.
- that the Committee meetings should be held as already scheduled for June 2007.

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

- that future Committee dates should be discussed and agreed by each individual Committee in co-ordination with other Committees.
- that a revised schedule of dates should be brought to the July 2007 Board meeting.

### **3.2.2 Appointment To Outside Bodies – Crimestoppers (Item 5.5 Of Minutes Refers)**

Following further reflection on Board representation on the Crimestoppers board, it was:-

#### **RESOLVED:**

That Mr Sharma should be appointed as the Board representative on the Crimestoppers board.

## **4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Engagements**

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

- briefing to a Committee of the Presbyterian Church – Belfast – 2 May 2007.
- buffet supper for a delegation from the Royal College of Defence Studies – Hillsborough Castle – 8 May 2007.
- Fifth Annual RUC GC Day Service – Ballymena – 3 June 2007.
- Home Office – Counter Terrorism and Protective Services Event – London – 5 June 2007.

NOTED.

### **4.2 Publications**

The Chairman highlighted the following publications that have been received:-

- Northern Ireland Alternatives – Report of an Inspection with a view to accreditation under the Government’s Protocol for Community Based Restorative Justice – Criminal Justice Inspectorate – April 2007.
- Annual Report – 2005/2006 – Stranmillis University College.

A copy of a NISRA Bulletin entitled “Experience of Crime: Findings from the 2005 Northern Ireland Crime Survey” was tabled for information.

NOTED.

#### **4.3 Correspondence**

The Chairman highlighted the following correspondence that had been received:-

- letter dated 4 May 2007 from the British Consul General, Chicago regarding the Chicago programme.
- letter dated 11 May 2007 from the Archbishop of Armagh in response to a letter of congratulations.
- letter dated 23 May 2007 from the Director of Public Prosecution Services in response to letter regarding illness.

NOTED.

#### **4.4 News Releases**

The Chairman highlighted the following news releases:-

- Ministers announce New Standards For Bringing Cases To Court – NIO – 4 June 2007.

## **5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Conferences**

The Chief Executive advised Members about the following conferences:-

- Police Authorities for the Future – Birmingham – 12 July 2007.
- ACPO – APA Summer Conference – Manchester – 19 – 22 June 2007.

Any Member wishing to obtain further details or to attend either conference was asked to contact the Secretariat. NOTED.

### **5.2 Boston College Policing Programme – September 2007**

The Chief Executive advised that the Board had been invited to send a participant to a Boston College Policing Programme to be held from 11 – 21 September 2007. The programme will look at Community Policing in Boston and Los Angeles. Any Member who wished to consider participation in the programme was asked to contact the Chief Executive.

The Vice Chairman expressed an interest in attending the programme. NOTED.

### **5.3 Independent Review of Policing**

The Board was informed that the Home Secretary has commissioned the Chief HMIC, Sir Ronnie Flanagan, to undertake a Review of Policing, focusing on 4 themes:-

- reducing bureaucracy
- neighbourhood policing
- local involvement and accountability
- managing resources.

While the review is commissioned by the Home Office and is focused on police services in England and Wales, the Board will make a contribution to the review and consider its findings. It is anticipated the review will be concluded by the end of 2007. NOTED.

#### **5.4 Crime Statistics**

The Chief Executive advised Members that the monthly summary of PSNI performance figures would be incomplete this month, due to teething problems associated with the introduction of a new NICHE RMS computer system for recording crime data. The PSNI had been asked to confirm when the statistics will be made available for the Board and District Policing Partnerships (DPPs). NOTED.

#### **5.5 RUC GC Foundation**

The Chief Executive advised Members that under the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Foundation Regulations 2002, the Chairman of the Policing Board is able to nominate individual(s) for consideration by the Secretary of State as a Trustee of the RUC GC Foundation. Any Member interested in being considered as a nominee was asked to contact the Chief Executive. NOTED.

#### **5.6 Schedule Of Board And Committee Events – June 2007**

The Chief Executive drew the attention of Members to a revised schedule of Board events for June 2007. NOTED.

Further information on a Minority Ethnic event being organised on 23 June 2007 in the City Hall, Belfast was tabled for the information of Members. NOTED.

#### **5.7 HMIC Report**

It was noted that Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) had published a report into the Human Resources function in the PSNI. The report will be brought to a future meeting of the Human Resources Committee for consideration. NOTED.

#### **5.8 Smithsonian Institution Event**

The Chief Executive highlighted a forthcoming event being organised by the Smithsonian Institute in the United States of America.

Following discussion:-

It was:-

**AGREED**

That there was no requirement for the Policing Board to be represented at the forthcoming Smithsonian Institute event.

**6. RECONSTITUTION OF DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPs)**

The Board considered a paper containing proposals about how the Board might implement the duties placed on it when Schedule 8 to the Northern Ireland (St Andrew's Agreement) Act 2006 comes into force, on the "commencement date" to be determined by the Secretary of State. The Deputy Chief Executive briefed Members on the role of the Board and District Councils regarding the implementation of the legislation and outlined the options open to the Board.

Following discussion:-

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That, subject to legal confirmation, that the approach is fair, reasonable and robust, the process for determining if the political condition in relation to each DPP is met will be the application of the D'Hondt proportionality methodology for the allocation of political seats to the DPP and where there is a tie for the final seat, it would be allocated to the party with the highest number of first preference votes based on party strengths at 'commencement date' in September 2007.

Members noted the role of the Board in the appointment of independent members to DPPs and the delegated authority given to the Community Engagement Committee to progress issues in relation to DPP appointments. Members also noted that final decisions on the DPPs to be reconstituted will be brought to the Board in September 2007.

**7. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE OF A DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP (DPP) MEMBER**

The Board considered a paper regarding the removal of a DPP member under the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2007. Members considered the attendance record of the DPP member, the lack of any reason or apology for absences and attempts made to contact the member concerned.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board should remove the independent member concerned from office from Derry DPP.

**8. INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN PRIVATE DAY OF REFLECTION –  
21 JUNE 2007**

The Board considered a paper concerning an initiative proposed by Healing through Remembering for a Day of Private Reflection on 21 June 2007. The basic concept for the Day, which is a voluntary opportunity, is to provide “private” space and time for everyone to think about the consequences of the conflict and to begin to recognise and acknowledge the suffering caused, and to consider the role of society during the conflict.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board should support the Healing through Remembering Day of Private Reflection and that a press release to that effect should be issued on or about 21 June 2007.

**9. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

Officials informed Members about a number of forthcoming press initiatives. NOTED.

**10. QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

The Chief Executive briefed Members on the procedures for handling questions for the Chief Constable.

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

The Board received further information in relation to:-

- a police investigation relating to the Police Ombudsman's Office.
- a police investigation into a threat against a named individual.
- a police investigation into the murder of Robert McCartney.
- the current position in respect of outstanding inquests for which the Coroner's court had sought PSNI co-operation.

The Chief Constable confirmed he would provide a written response to a number of questions raised by Members.

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

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **11.1 Questions To The Chief Constable**

Members discussed the process for agreeing how questions should be raised with the Chief Constable.

## **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

That the date of the next Policing Board meeting should be Thursday,  
5 July 2007 at 9:30am.

(Meeting closed 2:45 pm).

**Secretariat**

**June 2007**

---

**Chairman**