

**NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS & PROFESSIONAL  
STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 JULY 2007 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE  
TOWER, BELFAST**

**PRESENT:**

**MEMBERS:**

Mr Basil McCrea (Chair)  
Ms Mary McKee (Vice Chair)  
Ms Martina Anderson  
Mrs Rosaleen Moore  
Mr Gearóid Ó hEára  
Mr Brian Rea  
Mr Suneil Sharma  
Mr Peter Weir

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs Sinead Simpson (Director of Policy)  
6 Board Officials

**1. APOLOGIES, ETC**

There were no apologies received. NOTED.

**2. MINUTES OF A COMMUNITY & HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON 14 JUNE 2007**

The Committee NOTED the minutes of the previous meeting on 14 June 2007.

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

**3.1 Custody Visitors Statistics For January To March 2007 (Item 3.2 Of Minutes  
Refers)**

The Committee was advised that this had been actioned.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That details of the follow up action would be brought to the August 2007 Committee meeting.

**3.2 Injuries Caused By Attenuating Energy Projectile (AEPs) (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)**

An Official updated the Committee on AEPs and the child impact issues. Members were advised that a meeting was held on 14 June 2007 attended by the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People, the Board's Human Rights Advisor, PSNI and their Human Rights Advisor and the NIO.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That a paper would be presented to the September 2007 meeting which would set out the Board's position, and also the position with the Children's Commissioners from other UK jurisdictions.

**3.3 Schedule Of Presentations 2007 (Item 4.3 Of Minutes Refers)**

This matter was dealt with at item 5.

**3.4 Draft Revised Committee Role (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)**

This matter was dealt with at item 6.

**3.5 First Day Briefing Paper (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)**

This matter was dealt with at item 7.

**3.6 Presentation – Proposal To Introduce TASER To The Police Service Of Northern Ireland** (Item 8 Of Minutes Refers)

- The Committee was advised that a letter had been sent to the Chief Constable outlining the Board's expectations. Members received a copy of this letter.
- The Committee was advised that the Director of Policy had attended the Equality Commission meeting with the PSNI.
- The Committee was advised of the Equality Commission's advice to PSNI that they should commence a full EQIA immediately and that any pilot of Taser should not be undertaken until such times as the EQIA was completed.
- The Committee was also advised that PSNI were considering this advice from the Equality Commission and would come back to the Board in due course but that in the interim no purchase of Taser would be made or training on its use be undertaken.

NOTED.

**3.7 Independent Assessment Panel Recommendations** (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 8.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

There were no matters arising.

**5. SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS**

The Committee considered the schedule of presentations.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That Board officials would provide Members with written explanations for each of the various items.

**6. DRAFT REVISED COMMITTEE ROLE**

The Committee considered a paper which advised Members of the Committee's role. There was a discussion on the various functions of the Committee and key issues for the future which included:-

- Parading and the forthcoming Strategic Review
- The role of the Committee in assessing Section 75 compliance and the interface with the Equality Commission
- Board relationships with the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
- AEPs and child impact issues
- TASER
- Irish Language
- Code of Ethics and the committee oversight of the work of the working group
- Developing the capacity and knowledge of Committee Members and the impact of staff changes within Policy Branch which would impact on this
- The Communications Strategy for Committee Work

It was NOTED that in relation to Irish language issues the issue of Board Compliance with the European Charter on minority languages is a corporate issue which will be considered at Corporate, Policy, Planning and Performance Committee.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

- That Members would receive a briefing on the current review of the PSNI Code of Ethics and also engage in training on wider human rights and Section 75 issues.
- That the other key issues for the future would be further explored by the Committee in due course,
- That the Committee would receive an update from the Chief Executive regarding the implications of the staffing changes in Policy Branch,
- To discuss with the Communications Manager at a future Committee meeting the Communications Strategy for Committee business.

## **7. FIRST DAY BRIEFING PAPER**

The Committee considered a paper which set out the Standing Orders for the Committee. This paper was discussed along with the paper at agenda item 6. Following the discussion, it was:-

### **AGREED:-**

- That the Standing Orders would be accepted but kept under review over the next 3 – 4 months;
- That Standing Orders 6 and 7 should be amalgamated.

## **8. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee considered a paper which sought Members agreement on a process for engaging with Human Rights Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) as recommended by the Independent Assessment Panel.

Members discussed the various options regarding the frequency of the meetings and the list of NGOs, which were attached to the paper.

Following the discussion, it was:-

**AGREED:**

That this paper should be brought back to the Committee with an amended list of NGOs and a more detailed process on the operation of the first such meeting;

**9. INFORMATION PAPERS**

The Committee considered a paper which informed Members of current information papers and publications. NOTED.

**10. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

There were no matters arising.

**11. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES**

There were no matters arising.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**12.1 Meetings With The Human Rights Commission On 12 September 2007**

The Committee was advised that the Human Rights Commission had invited the Committee to hold its September 2007 meeting at the Office of the Human Rights Commission. Members accepted the invitation.

**12.2 Strategic Review Of Parading**

The committee was advised that a meeting would be arranged with the parades panel.  
It was;

**AGREED:**

To circulate to Members the note of key issues which Members may wish to bear in mind when meeting with the Panel established to conduct the Strategic review of Parades.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee was arranged for 8 August 2007.

(Meeting closed 12:05pm).

**Secretariat**  
**July 2007**

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**Chairman**