

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 3 MAY 2006 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

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

PSNI IN ATTENDANCE:

(3) Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
(3) Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)
(3) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Criminal Justice)
(3) Mrs Judith Gillespie (ACC Rural Region)
(3) Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Urban Region)
(3) Mr Peter Sheridan (ACC Crime Operations)
(3) Ms Sinead McSweeney (Director of Media and PR)
(3) Chief Superintendent, Command Secretariat
(3) Chief Inspector, Command Secretariat

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Affairs)
Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate Services)
Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
Mrs Sinead Simpson (Director of Policy)
3 Board Officials

- (1) Item number 4.3 to close
- (2) Item number 6 to close
- (3) Item number 13 only

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received from Mr Cobain and Mr Kennedy. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE POLICING BOARD

**Minutes Of The 54th Meeting Of The Policing Board Held On
28 March 2006**

It was:

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the 54th Board meeting held on 28 March 2006 be approved.

2.2 Minutes Of A Meeting Of The Policing Board Held On 6 April 2006

It was:

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 6 April 2006 be approved.

2.3 Minutes Of A Meeting Of The Policing Board Held On 7 April 2006

It was:

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 7 April 2006 be approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

3.1 Minutes Of The Meeting On 28 March 2006

3.1.1 Community Restorative Justice (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Director of Community Affairs advised Members of the background to the deferment of a meeting between the Board and the Minister of State for Northern Ireland concerning Draft Guidelines for Community Based Restorative Justice schemes. A new date for the meeting is being arranged and all Members will be informed of the revised date as soon as it is finalised. NOTED.

3.1.2 New Police Training College (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Vice Chairman and Chief Executive reminded Members of the background to the Board writing to the Prime Minister seeking additional funding for the new Police Training College. They updated the meeting on decisions made by the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee at its meeting on 25 April 2006. NOTED.

3.1.3 TASER (Item 3.5 And 6.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Director of Policy outlined the background to a Board request to PSNI to undertake an Equality Screening Exercise regarding the introduction of TASER and conduct the associated consultation with those on the Section 75 list in the PSNI Equality Scheme. The Director advised Members that the Board's Human Rights Advisors had also been requested to provide advice on the matter and that a paper would be brought to the relevant Committee in due course. NOTED.

3.1.4 Police Resources (Item 3.7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive outlined the background to an exchange of correspondence with the NIO relating to police financial resources. He informed Members that NIO representatives would brief the Resources and Improvement Committee on

financial issues at its next meeting on 19 May 2006 and that all Members were welcome to attend the presentation. NOTED.

3.2 Minutes Of The Meeting On 6 April 2006

There were no matters arising.

3.3 Minutes Of The Meeting On 7 April 2006

3.3.1 Membership Of Committees (Item 2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive sought confirmation that the Board was content with the membership of Committees as agreed at the meeting on 7 April 2006. Members confirmed that they were content with the current membership of the Committees. NOTED.

3.3.2 Nomination To RUC George Cross Foundation (Item 2.6.8 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive informed Members that he had spoken to the Chairman of the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Foundation regarding the possibility of the Board nominating a second representative to the Foundation. The Chairman had advised that he and the 5 trustees were appointed by the Secretary of State for a specified term of office and that the current appointment term of office ends in July 2007.

It was:

AGREED:

That the Board should reconsider the issue in spring 2007, in advance of the reconstitution of the RUC George Cross Foundation, with a view to writing to the Secretary of State to consider increasing the number of Board nominees.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

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

- Chief Police Officers Dinner – London – 29 March 2006.
- To address a Cumberland Lodge Conference “Policing Society: Who Decides?” Berkshire – 21 to 23 April 2006.

The Chairman informed Members that he had been invited to attend a reception on 1 June 2006 in Belfast, by the Consul General of the United States of America.

NOTED.

4.2 Publications

The Chairman advised that the following publication had been placed in the Library:-

- 10th Report of the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC).

NOTED.

It was:

RESOLVED:

That the Board should meet with the Independent Monitoring Commission before September 2006.

It was:

AGREED:

That Members should write to the Chief Executive with any issues that the Board should raise at the meeting with the Independent Monitoring Commissioner.

4.3 Correspondence

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

- Letter dated 31 March 2006 from an NIO official regarding a visit by group of Norwegians.
- Letter dated 11 April 2006 from the NIO regarding advance notice of the CJSNI Conference 2006.

NOTED.

4.4 News Releases

The Chairman highlighted the following news releases:-

- SOCA - A Key OCTF Partner: Woodward – The Organised Crime Task Force – 3 April 2006.
- Home Safety of Older People a Priority – Hanson – 3 April 2006.
- Hanson launches £1/2 million Alleygate Project in Belfast – NIO – 3 April 2006.
- Re-appointment of PSNI Recruitment Independent Assessor: Hain – NIO – 24 April 2006.
- Border offers no protection to organised criminals: Woodward – OCTF – 24 April 2006.

- ARA secures £140,000 from alleged fuel smuggling – ARA – 24 April 2006.

NOTED.

NIPB Briefing Day – 11 April 2006

The Chairman informed Members that he had forwarded a letter of thanks to the Chief Constable regarding the presentations which senior PSNI officers had given to Members at the Briefing Day on 11 April 2006 in PSNI Garnerville. NOTED.

4.6 Organised Crime Task Force Stakeholder Group

The Director of Policy outlined the background to the appointment of 2 representatives from the Policing Board to the Organised Crime Task Force Stakeholder Group in 2005. The Director informed Members that the Chairman of the Board had written to the Chairman of the Operational Strategy Group to request a briefing for the Board on the work of the Group. NOTED.

A Member referred to the forthcoming publication of a Northern Ireland Affairs Select Committee Report on organised crime and suggested that the Board might wish to advise the Select Committee of its concerns regarding the level of representation afforded to the Board on the Organised Crime Task Force. Members also discussed a number of issues relating to organised crime.

It was:

AGREED:

- That the Board should write to the Chair of the Select Committee to reflect Members' views regarding Board representation on the Organised Crime Task Force.
- That the Board should give further consideration to meeting with representatives of the business community concerning combating organised crime.

- That the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee should consider issuing an invitation to the Criminal Assets Bureau to meet with Members to discuss cross-border organised crime.

4.7 Establishment Of Reconstituted Board

The Chairman thanked the Chief Executive and his staff for their work in setting up the new Board.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 10th Report Of The Independent Monitoring Commission

This matter was dealt with under 4.2.

5.2 Conferences

The Chief Executive advised Members of a conference entitled "The Future of Criminal Justice: Linking Voluntary, Public and Private Sectors in Offender Management" in London on 6 July 2006. Any Member wishing to attend the conference was asked to contact Secretariat. NOTED.

5.3 Members' Telephone Numbers

The Chief Executive informed Members of a request from the PSNI top team for the mobile telephone numbers of each Member.

It was:

AGREED:

That the Board should supply the PSNI top team and Board Members with mobile phone contact numbers for all Members.

5.4 Members' Expenses Claims

The Chief Executive referred Members to the information pack that had been issued concerning expenses claims and requested that all claims should be submitted on a monthly basis. NOTED.

5.5 Return Of Documentation

The Chief Executive reminded those Members who had not yet returned their Register of Interest forms or other documentation to do so as soon as possible. NOTED.

5.6 DCU Accountability Meetings

The Chief Executive advised Members that DCU Accountability meetings were currently being undertaken in Urban and Rural Regions. He referred Members to a schedule of meetings which had been tabled. A number of Members commented on the valuable insight gained through attendance at the meetings. Any Member interested in attending any of the meetings was asked to contact Secretariat. NOTED.

5.7 Criminal Justice Awards Scheme 2006

Members were advised that the Criminal Justice Board had launched a new award scheme for staff working in the criminal justice system, from both the statutory agencies and the voluntary sector. Nominations are being invited in a number of categories for individual and team awards. The deadline for nominations is 25 May 2006 and the associated correspondence will be referred to the next meeting of the Community and Human Rights Committee for detailed consideration. NOTED.

5.8 Death Of Police Officer

The Chief Executive advised Members that a police officer, Constable Mervyn Campbell died following a karting accident at Kirkistown on 29 April 2006. He advised that a letter of condolence would be sent to the family on behalf of the Board. NOTED.

6. CORPORATE POLICY, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

6.1 Minutes Of The 1st Corporate Policy, Planning And Performance Committee Meeting Held On 25 April 2006

The minutes of the meeting were not available and will be brought to the next Board meeting.

7. COMMUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING

7.1 Minutes Of The 1st Meeting Of The Community And Human Rights Committee Held On 25 April 2006

7.1.1 Release of District Commander's Reports To The Community (Item 3.1 Of The Minutes Refers)

The Vice-Chairman informed the Board that he had met with the Vice-Chairman of Belfast District Policing Partnership, in advance of a planned meeting between the Chairman and other DPP members. NOTED.

7.1.2 Dates Of Committee Meetings (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

It was proposed to change the date of the Community and Human Rights Committee meeting on 18 May 2006 to 17 May 2006 at 10:00am. NOTED.

It was:

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the 1st meeting of the Community and Human Rights Committee on 25 April 2006.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

8.1 Minutes Of The 1st Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 25 April 2006

8.1.1 Dates Of Committee Meetings (Item 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

In response to an enquiry from a Member, officials advised that a paper would be brought to the next Human Resources Committee meeting proposing that monthly meetings be held on the second Wednesday of the month. NOTED.

Officials informed Members that a briefing on the PSNI Training, Education and Development Strategy had been arranged for Steeple Barracks, Antrim on Monday, 8 May 2006 at 10:00am, all Members of the Board are welcome to attend the briefing. NOTED.

It was:

RESOLVED

To adopt the draft minutes of the 1st meeting of the Human Resources Committee on 25 April 2006.

9. RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

9.1 Minutes Of The 1st Meeting Of The Resources And Improvement Committee Held On 25 April 2006

9.1.1 PSNI Best Value Review Of Patrolling (Item 3.1.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman of the Committee drew the attention of Members to the Committee's decision to approve the Best Value Review of the Police Patrol Function and the recommendations contained in the report. NOTED.

Members discussed a number of issues raised by the report including single officer patrols, the PSNI definition of "frontline policing" and PSNI culture relating to patrolling.

It was:

RESOLVED:

To adopt the draft minutes of the 1st meeting of the Resources and Improvement Committee held on 25 April 2006.

10. REVIEW OF PSNI SPECIAL DUTY ALLOWANCE

The Board considered a paper which provided details of an independent review carried out on the PSNI Special Duty Allowance.

Ms Foster declared an interest in the matter and did not take part in the discussion.

Officials advised Members about the background to the review being initiated by the Northern Ireland Office. The Board noted that NIO had requested responses by 5 May 2006. NOTED.

Members discussed the likely response of the Chief Constable to the review.

It was:

AGREED:

- That the Board would await the written comments of the Chief Constable on the review before responding to NIO.
- That the Chief Constable's response should be brought to the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee.
- That the Corporate Policy, Planning & Performance Committee should respond on behalf of the Board.

11. INFORMATION PAPERS

11.1 PSNI Policy On Human Rights And Police Use Of Firearms

At a meeting of the Community and Human Rights Committee on 25 April 2006, it was agreed that information on the PSNI policy on Human Rights and Police Use of Firearms should be circulated to all Members, in the light of a recent shooting incident in Ballynahinch. A copy of the policy was provided for Members, together with the relevant Article of the Code of Ethics for the PSNI. NOTED.

12. PRESS ISSUES

There were no matters arising to be included in a news release.

13. QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The meeting discussed questions to be put to the Chief Constable and decided whether they should be asked at the Board meeting in public, in the private session or by way of written reply.

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

The Board received further information concerning:-

- Police investigations into the murder of Mrs Attracta Harron.
- Arrangements for surveillance of known sex offenders.
- Media speculation concerning restructuring of PSNI Roads Policing.

The Board moved into its meeting in public and following this session the PSNI representatives left the meeting.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Board confirmed the date of the next meeting for Thursday, 1 June 2006 in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 12:00 noon).

Secretariat

May 2006

CHAIRMAN