

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 5 JUNE 2008 AT 9:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

#### **PRESENT:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

- Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
- (1) Mr Barry Gilligan (Vice Chairman)
- Ms Martina Anderson
- (2) Mr Tom Buchanan
- (3) Mrs Dolores Kelly
- (4) Mr Alex Maskey
- (5) Mr Basil McCrea
- Mr Daithí McKay
- Ms Mary McKee
- (1) Mr Gearóid Ó hEára
- (6) Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
- Mr Brian Rea
- (7) Mr Trevor Ringland
- Mr David Rose
- Mr Suneil Sharma
- (1) Mr Peter Weir

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

- (8) Sir Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
- (8) Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)
- (8) Mr Alistair Finlay (ACC Crime Support)
- (8) Mrs Judith Gillespie (ACC Rural Region)
- (8) Mr Drew Harris (ACC Criminal Justice)
- (8) Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Urban  
Region)
- (8) Mr Peter Sheridan (ACC Crime  
Operations)
- (8) Mr Roy Toner (ACC Operational Support)
- (8) Mr David Best (Director of Finance and  
Support Services)
- (8) Ms Liz Young (Head of Media & Public  
Relations)
- (8) T/Acting Head of Command Secretariat
- (8) 2 PSNI Personnel

#### **INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL REVIEW – OMAGH BOMBING INVESTIGATION IN ATTENDANCE:**

- (9) Sir Dan Crompton
- (9) Mr David Blakey

**HER MAJESTY'S  
INSPECTOR OF  
CONSTABULARY:**

**(9)** Mr Ken Williams

**OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)  
Dr Debbie Donnelly (Deputy Chief  
Executive)

**(1)** Mr David Jackson (Director of Community  
Engagement

**(1)** Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate  
Services)

**(1)** Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)  
Mr Peter Gilleece (Director of Policy)  
3 Board Officials

- (1) Except Item number 17**
- (2) Item number 3.1 to 16**
- (3) Item number 3.2 to close**
- (4) Except Item number 16**
- (5) Item number 4 to close**
- (6) Except item numbers 1 to 3.2 & 17**
- (7) Except item numbers 1 & 2**
- (8) Item number 16 only**
- (9) Part item number 17 only**

## **1. APOLOGIES, ETC**

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr Leslie Cree, Mrs Rosaleen Moore and Mr David Simpson. NOTED.

The Chairman acknowledged the time constraints facing a number of political Members of the Board with a special session of the Northern Ireland Assembly sitting in the afternoon, and asked all Members to facilitate business being progressed as quickly as possible.

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

### **2.1 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting Held On 1 May 2008**

The Board considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 1 May 2008 be approved.

**2.2 Minutes Of The Policing Board Meeting In Public Held On 1 May 2008**

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting in public held on 1 May 2008 be approved.

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

**3.1 Northern Ireland Policing Board Languages Policy (Items 3.1 And 11 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chief Executive informed the Board that Mr Ó hEára, Mr Paisley Jnr, Mr Brian Rea, Mr Rose and Mr Weir had expressed their interest in participating in the working group.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

That the first meeting of the working group should be arranged for 18 June 2008 at 11.00am.

### **3.2 Future Of District Policing Partnerships And Community Safety Partnerships (Items 3.2 And 7.1.2 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chairman updated the Board on developments regarding the NIO review of District Policing Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships following the receipt of a response from the Minister. He advised that along with the Vice-Chairman, he had met with the Minister on 3 June 2008 and had reflected the issues which the Board raised regarding the initiative to create a West Belfast Community Safety Forum (WBCSF); and the Board's concern about the slow progress on his review of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). The Chairman informed Members of the Minister's response regarding both issues, confirming that the WBCSF was a one off initiative; and in relation to the review of DPPs and CSPs, that the NIO planned to work more closely with the Board on developing working relationships, including a move towards shared support functions.

The Vice Chairman outlined the main points arising from a meeting that he and the Deputy Chief Executive had attended on behalf of the Board with NIO, PSNI and other statutory and non-statutory agencies on 19 May 2008 to discuss proposals regarding the WBCSF. NOTED.

Members discussed a number of other issues relating to the future development of DPPs.

### **3.3 Visit To Police Property Storage (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)**

The Chief Executive confirmed the arrangements for the Board visit to the Police Property Storage facility at Seapark, scheduled for 6 June 2008 at 10.30am. This visit would be followed by a visit to the Disabled Police Officers' Association office which is also based at Seapark. NOTED.

### **3.4 Management Of Members' Time/Availability** (Items 3.5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee was scheduled to consider a paper on this matter at its meeting on 15 May 2008. Due to time constraints, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of this paper to the next Committee meeting. NOTED.

### **3.5 Engagement With The Business Community** (Item 5.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive informed Members that Mr Trevor Ringland had agreed to represent the Board on the Business Community Advisory Forum. NOTED.

### **3.6 Meeting With Lord Chief Justice** (Item 5.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board meeting with the Lord Chief Justice scheduled for 18 June 2008 at 4:30pm in the Royal Courts of Justice had been confirmed.

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

That a briefing paper detailing the issues that the Board wished to raise with the Lord Chief Justice should be circulated to Members prior to meeting.

### **3.7 Police Executive Research Forum Meeting In San Francisco – 29/30 May 2008** (Item 6.1.1 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman gave a verbal report on his attendance at the Police Executive Research Forum meeting. NOTED.

### **3.8 Code Of Conduct For Board Members**

The Chairman advised Members that at the last meeting he should have drawn their attention to paragraph 27(c) of the Code of Conduct for Board Members which states:

*“A Member who has a complaint in relation to any Board officer should report the complaint to the Chief Executive or the Chairman or Vice Chairman”.*

## **4. CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Engagements**

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

- Police Federation Health and Safety Seminar Dinner – Crawfordsburn – 15 May 2008;
- PSNI Armed Response Vehicle Training – Antrim – 20 May 2008;
- Garden Party – Hillsborough – 20 May 2008;
- Policing with the Community Awards 2008 – Londonderry – 21 May 2008;
- The Mitchell Conference on Moving on from Conflict - Belfast – 22 and 23 May 2008;
- RUC GC Service – Bangor – 1 June 2008;
- Chief Constable’s Highly Commended Awards Ceremony – Ballymena – 2 June 2008;
- Opening of The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland – Belfast – 2 June 2008.

NOTED.

### **4.2 Publications**

The Chairman informed Members that the following publications had been received:-

- CJINI Second Follow-up Review of the Inspection Recommendations – Scientific Support Services in PSNI;
- CJINI Report – Inspection of Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre.

NOTED.

### **4.3 Correspondence**

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

- letter from the Chief Constable dated 14 May 2008 regarding Patten Recommendation 65 (The question of moving towards the desired objective of a routinely unarmed police service should be periodically reviewed in the light of developments in the security environment). Members discussed the content and agreed the letter should be issued to all Members;
- letter from D/Chief Superintendent Baxter dated 15 May 2008 regarding concerns he had raised;
- letter of thanks from Mr Bertie Ahern dated 16 May 2008 regarding message from the Chairman on Mr Ahern's retirement;
- letter from Board Chairman dated 22 May 2008 to the police officer injured in an attack in Castlederg on 12 May 2008.

NOTED.

### **4.4 News Release**

The Chairman highlighted the following news releases:-

- Overall Recorded Crime Statistics lowest in 9 years – Northern Ireland Policing Board – 16 May 2008;
- Domestic Violence: Policing Board launch Human Rights Thematic Inquiry – Northern Ireland Policing Board – 21 May 2008.

NOTED.

#### **4.5 Resignation Of Chief Executive**

The Chairman informed Members he had received a letter of resignation from the Board's Chief Executive, Mr Trevor Reaney, following his appointment as Clerk and Director General of the Northern Ireland Assembly. NOTED.

The Chairman paid tribute to the work of Mr Reaney and congratulated him on his appointment.

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

That the appointment panel to take forward the recruitment process for a new Chief Executive should comprise the Board Chairman and Vice Chairman, Mrs Dolores Kelly, Mr Alex Maskey, Mrs Rosaleen Moore, Mr Basil McCrea and Mr Ian Paisley Jnr.

#### **4.6 Correspondence From Mr Keir Starmer, QC**

The Chairman informed the Board that he had received a letter from Mr Keir Starmer QC, the Board's former Human Rights Advisor, who had been working in a limited role regarding national security matters. Mr Starmer had written to inform the Board that due to personal and work circumstances he was no longer able to continue in this role. Proposals for new arrangements would be brought to a future Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee meeting for consideration. NOTED.

#### **4.7 Policing Board Meeting With The Organised Crime Task Force**

In response to an inquiry from the Board, the Minister had confirmed he would discuss issues of wider concern at the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) meeting with the Board on 3 July 2008. It was suggested that issues for discussion should include the role of DPPs and CSPs; funding for policing; and the role of the Board under the devolution of policing and justice. NOTED.

#### **4.8 ACC Designate – Crime Operations**

The Chairman informed the Board that the Chief Constable had appointed ACC Drew Harris as ACC designate Crime Operations Branch. Upon the official retirement of ACC Sheridan on 7 September 2008, ACC Harris would take up post as ACC Crime Operations. NOTED.

#### **4.9 Correspondence From A Member Of The Public**

A Member referred to correspondence that he and other Board Members had received from a member of the public regarding alleged disruption at a funeral service. The Chairman confirmed that he had received similar correspondence and had issued a response on behalf of the Board, a copy of which would be issued to all Members. NOTED.

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

#### **5.1 Invitation For Board Members To Visit Forensic Science Northern Ireland**

The Chief Executive advised that the Board had received an invitation to visit Forensic Science Northern Ireland. Members would be asked to indicate their interest in attending and a date arranged in due course. NOTED.

#### **5.2 Human Rights And Professional Standards Issues**

The Chief Executive reminded the Board that while there was no formal monthly meeting of the Committee, Members of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee had held a follow up meeting with representatives of the Parades Commission on 28 May 2008. The Chair of the Committee outlined the main points of discussion arising at the meeting. The Chair also reported on the thematic briefing the Committee Members had received on the same date from the Board's Human Rights Advisor and an evidence session with expert witnesses relating to domestic violence against women.

The Chief Executive invited all Members to attend the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee meeting on 11 June 2008, when ACC Crime Support was scheduled to brief the Committee on PSNI participation in relation to public enquiries.

The Chief Executive advised the Board that the Chief Constable had been invited to attend the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting on 19 June 2008 to brief Members on the TASER EQIA. All Members were invited to attend this part of the meeting and the presentations by Bob Lauder on Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and Mark Reber on the implementation of the outstanding Patten recommendations. NOTED.

### **5.3 Conferences And Other Events**

The Chief Executive informed Members about the following events:-

- Launch of Equality Commission initiative 'Let's talk, let's listen: Guidance for public bodies on consulting with and involving children and young people' Stormont Hotel, Belfast - 26 June 2008;
- Annual Youth Justice Convention – Harrogate 26/27 November 2008;
- Education Islam Project – Introduction to Islam and the Muslim Culture Course – Queen's University Belfast - 9 June 2008 and 27 October 2008.

Any Member interested in attending was asked to contact Secretariat for further details.

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 15 May 2008**

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee held On 15 May 2008.

**6.2 Review Of Standing Orders**

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To suspend Standing Order 26 and defer this item of business to a future meeting.

**6.3 Interim Scheme For A Research Allowance To Support Political Members Of The Board – Revised Proposals**

The Board considered a paper containing revised proposals in respect of an interim research allowance for Political Members of the Board.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

- to approve the draft guidelines for the scheme as set out in the paper;
- to approve the revised proposal of up to a maximum of £20,000 per annum per Political Party payable to Political Party Members; and
- that access to information by researchers appointed by Political Parties, as set out in the draft Guidelines should be adopted.

The Chief Executive advised Members that the financial proposals had yet to be agreed with the NIO Accounting Officer and the Board's Internal Auditors, to ensure that they would meet all the necessary accounting and audit requirements. The Chief Constable

had also been asked for his comments regarding the access to information supplied to the Board by PSNI as proposed in the draft Guidelines. NOTED.

## **7. AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **7.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Audit And Risk Management Committee Meeting Held On 2 May 2008**

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

**7.1.1 Use Of Consultants In PSNI** (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

**7.1.2 PSNI Corporate Risk Register** (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)

**7.1.3 Training For Members** (Item 4.1 Of Minutes Refers)

**7.1.4 Status Report On Ballynahinch CCTV Scheme** (Item 4.1 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:

#### **RESOLVED:**

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Management Committee held on 2 May 2008.

## **8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **8.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Community Engagement Committee Meeting Held On 24 April 2008**

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement Committee held on 24 April 2008.

**8.2 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Community Engagement Committee Meeting Held On 22 May 2008**

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

**8.2.1 Presentation On Alcohol And The Fear Of Crime Campaign** (Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

**8.2.2 Proposal For Community Engagement Public Meetings** (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board considered recommendations from the Committee in relation to how the first Board Public Community Engagement meeting should be conducted and it was:-

**RESOLVED:**

- that the first meeting should be arranged for the evening of 25 September<sup>1</sup> 2008, subject to the availability of the Chief Constable and suitable accommodation;
- that it would be a meeting led by the Policing Board, with PSNI representatives in attendance to answer questions.

It was:-

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<sup>1</sup> the date of the meeting was subsequently changed to 18 September 2008

**AGREED:**

That further details in relation to the arrangements for the Public Community Engagement meeting should be considered by the Committee.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement Committee held on 22 May 2008.

**9. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**9.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 8 May 2008**

A Member of the Committee highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee and outlined Committee discussions/recommendations:-

**9.1.1 Police Pensions– Selected Medical Practitioner (SMP) Statistics For March 2008 And Actions Taken By Officials Acting Under Delegated Authority**  
(Item 5 Of Minutes Refers)

**9.1.2 Selected Medical Practitioner Contract - Estimated SMP And Independent Medical Referee Cases And Fees For The Financial Year 1 April 2008 – 31 March 2009** (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)

**9.1.3 Police Pensions Consolidation – RUC Pensions Regulations 1988 And The Police Pension Regulation 1987** (Item 7 Of Minutes Refers)

**9.1.4 PSNI Training And Development Strategy And Business Plan 2008/09** (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 8 May 2008.

**9.2 Consultation On The Draft Police Trainee (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008**

The Committee considered a paper regarding correspondence received from the Minister of State, identifying further redrafting of the Draft Police Trainee (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008. The Board was asked to submit its views on the redrafting. Officials advised that the draft Regulations would normally have been brought to the Human Resources Committee for recommendation, but the draft arrived too late to take it to the Committee and because of the tight timescale involved, it had been referred to the Board. The Board considered a draft response.

Following discussion, the majority view of the Board was that it be:-

**RESOLVED:**

That the Board should note the changes to the draft regulations and the discretion, in relation to the establishment of suitable criteria, which the amendments to the Regulations would confer on the Chief Constable and that recommendation be made to the Minister that the Chief Constable's discretion in this regard should be exercised in consultation with the Board.

The Sinn Fein representatives indicated that they wished to record their opposition to the resolution made by the Board in respect of the regulations.

## **10. RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **10.1 Minutes Of The Meeting Of The Resources And Improvement Committee Meeting Held On 16 May 2008**

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

#### **10.1.1 Residual Savings 2009/10, 2010/11 (Item 6 Of Minutes Refers)**

#### **10.1.2 PSNI Managed Vehicle Recovery Scheme (Item 9 Of Minutes Refers)**

#### **10.1.3 PSNI Estate Strategy**

A Member referred to future Committee consideration of the PSNI Estate Strategy refresh, and the initial consideration planned for the Committee meeting on 20 June 2008. The Member highlighted a number of well publicised ongoing local PSNI public consultations at Area/District Command level concerning the review of stations and suggested that the public needed reassurance that no decisions would be taken regarding closures in advance of the Board considering and approving the PSNI Estate Strategy 2008 – 2012.

It was:-

#### **AGREED:**

- that the matter should be discussed with the Chief Constable during the private session;
- that all Board Members should receive a copy of the PSNI Estate Strategy 2008 as soon as possible;
- that the Board, should issue a news release clarifying the Board's role regarding the review of the PSNI Estate Strategy and emphasising that no

decisions would be taken on the future of individual stations before the overall Estate Strategy was considered and approved by the Board.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Resources and Improvement Committee held on 16 May 2008.

**11. ANNUAL REAPPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CHAIR/VICE CHAIRS**

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To suspend Standing Orders 20(f) and 20(n) and defer this item of business to a future meeting.

**12. ASSOCIATION OF POLICE AUTHORITIES – NOMINATIONS TO NEW BODIES**

The Board considered a request from the Association of Police Authorities (APA) to make nominations to new bodies established as a result of a review of the APA's governance structures. The APA had requested to receive nominations by 18 June 2008.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

- To endorse the continued nomination of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board as the Board's representatives at the APA Council (formerly the APA Plenary);
- That as previously agreed, the Chairman of the Board would be the Board's representative at the APA Council (formerly the APA Executive); and
- That the following representatives be nominated to each of the following APA Policy Networks:-
  - People Policy Network - Chair of Human Resources Committee;
  - Business/Corporate Policy Network - Chair of Resources and Improvement Committee;
  - Citizen Focus Policy Network - Chair of Community Engagement Committee;
  - Strategic Policing Policy Network - Chair of Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee.

**13. NIO CONSULTATION – ALTERNATIVES TO PROSECUTION**

The Committee considered a discussion document received from NIO entitled 'Alternatives to Prosecution'.

It was:-

**AGREED:**

To defer this item of business to a future meeting.

**14 INFORMATION PAPERS**

There were no matters arising.

## **15. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

It was:-

### **AGREED:**

To issue a news release in relation to Board consideration of the PSNI Estates Strategy.

## **16. 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:-

- The proposed PSNI approach to policing the consumption of alcohol in and around parades over the coming months;
- The impact on the PSNI budget of a change in commutation factors relating to police pensions;
- The potential risk to the security of individuals following the loss of a computer disc containing information relating to the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry;
- The ongoing investigation into the attempted murder of a constable at Spamount, Co Tyrone;
- The development of a new Information Systems Strategy;
- The comprehensive review of the PSNI Estate Strategy and public perceptions regarding the future closure of stations in relation to a number of local consultations that had been initiated in Area/District Commands.

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

## **17. REPORT ON THE INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL REVIEW – OMAGH BOMBING INVESTIGATION**

The Chairman welcomed Sir Dan Crompton, Mr David Blakey and Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC), Mr Ken Williams to the meeting.

Sir Dan Crompton and Mr Blakey presented their confidential report on the Independent External Review of the Omagh Bombing investigations. Members discussed the content of the report with the authors.

The Chairman thanked HMIC, Sir Dan Crompton and Mr Blakey for their contribution and they left the meeting.

Following further discussion, it was:-

### **AGREED:**

- That Members should further consider the content of the Report;
- The Report should be included on the agenda for the next Corporate Policy, Planning and Performance Committee meeting and the July 2008 Board meeting;
- That the content of the report should remain confidential.

## **18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no matters arising.

## **19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 3 July 2008 at Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 2.50pm).

**Secretariat**  
**June 2008**

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**Chairman**