

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 44th MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 2 JUNE 2005 IN THE CITY HOTEL, DERRY / LONDONDERRY ON 2 JUNE 2005 AT 10:00 AM

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman)
- Mr Denis Bradley (Vice-Chairman)
- (1) Mr Alex Attwood
- Mr Joe Byrne
- Mr Brian Dougherty
- Mr Sam Foster
- Mr Barry Gilligan
- (2) Mr Willie Hay
- (2) Mr Tom Kelly
- Mrs Pauline McCabe
- (1) Mr Alan McFarland
- Mrs Rosaleen Moore
- Mr Ian Paisley Jnr

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (3) Mr Hugh Orde (Chief Constable)
- (3) Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)
- (3) Mrs Judith Gillespie (ACC Criminal Justice Department)
- (3) Mr Sam Kinkaid (ACC Crime Operations)
- (3) Mr Duncan McCausland (ACC Urban Region)
- (3) Mr Peter Sheridan (ACC Rural Region)
- (3) Ms Sinead McSweeney (Head of Media)
- (3) Deputy Director of Human Resources
- (3) Chief Superintendent, Command Secretariat
- (3) Chief Inspector, Command Secretariat

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
- Mr Peter Holt (Director of Communications)
- 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)
- Three Board Officials

- (1) Item 4 to close
- (2) Item 1 to item 7 and item 11
- (3) Item 11 only

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non attendance were received from Viscount Brookeborough and Mr Sharma. NOTED.

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE POLICING BOARD

**Minutes Of The 43rd Meeting Of The Policing Board Held On
7 April 2005**

It was:

RESOLVED

That, subject to the inclusion of the commencement dates for new building work at Ballymoney and Downpatrick stations, at paragraph 10.2, the draft minutes of the 43rd Board meeting held on 7 April 2005 be approved.

2.2 Minutes Of The Board Meeting In Public Held On 7 April 2005

It was:

RESOLVED

That the draft minutes of the Board meeting in public held on 7 April 2005 be approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE POLICING BOARD MEETINGS

3.1 Dealing With The Past (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The NIAC Interim Report had been considered by the Board's Working Group which is considering the role of the Board within the policing architecture. Discussion at the Working Group meeting focused on a submission by the Chairman / Vice Chairman / Chief Constable to a conference in Dublin on 10 June 2005. The Working Group did not develop a response to the Interim Report. NOTED.

The conclusions and recommendations in the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee (NIAC) Interim Report on 'Ways Of Dealing With Northern Ireland's Past' were considered by the Board under item 6.4.

3.2 Duty Payment For Part-Time Reserve Officers (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board was advised that the Corporate Policy Committee, at its meeting on 12 May 2005, had received a presentation from Mr Ross Hussey, in which he had proposed that a gratuity should be paid to Part-Time Reserve officers. The Committee had agreed that the Chief Constable's views should be sought regarding recognition of the service of Part-Time Reserve officers and payment of a gratuity. NOTED.

3.3 Protocols – Movement Of Officers Between Garda Siochana And PSNI (Item 3.5 Of Minutes Refers)

The attention of Members was drawn to a reply from the Commissioner of An Garda Siochana to the Chairman concerning a letter from the Board proposing a joint PSNI / Garda briefing to the Board on protocols regarding movement of

officers between the 2 Services. The Commissioner responded, that as issues surrounding police exchanges and secondments are being actively pursued, that any further consideration of such a joint briefing could await the outcomes in this regard. NOTED.

3.4 Board Members Visit To Boston / Chicago / Washington In March 2005
(Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)

A summary paper of issues arising and learning points from visits by Members to the USA was considered and noted at the May 2005 Community Involvement Committee meeting.

A more detailed report on the visit to Chicago would be presented to a future Community Involvement Committee meeting. NOTED.

3.5 Independent Assessment Of The Board's Performance (Item 3.11 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board considered a paper that provided details of the arrangements and terms of reference for the independent assessment of the Board. Offers had been made to 4 individuals to form an Independent Assessment Panel. It is planned that the Panel will meet at the end of June and receive briefings from Committee Chairmen. NOTED.

During discussion of the membership of the Panel, it was noted that further consideration of names for a 5th member was ongoing and a further name was suggested by a Member.

3.6 Presentations To The Board On Organised Crime (Item 4.1 Of Minutes Refers)

Officials advised that dates had yet to be finalised for briefings to the Board on the work of the Organised Crime Task Force and on the implementation of the Proceeds of Crime Act. All Members would be advised of the dates when they were agreed. NOTED.

3.7 Crime Prevention Briefing (Item 4.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chairman advised Members that there had been no further developments regarding discussions with ACC Crime Operations on the protection given by PSNI to vehicles taking high value supplies across the border.

3.8 Presentation On Flying Of Flags (Item 4.6 Of Minutes Refer)

A briefing from PSNI had been arranged for the next Community Involvement Committee meeting on 8 June 2005 on the protocol for the flying of flags and the policing of contentious parades. All Members were invited to attend the meeting. NOTED.

3.9 Future Policing Arrangements – Belfast City Centre (Item 5.5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Community Involvement Committee had received a briefing at its meeting on 13 April 2005 regarding future policing arrangements for Belfast City Centre. The attention of Members was drawn to the minutes of the meeting (Item 7.1) The Vice-Chairman summarised the discussion that had taken place at the Community Involvement Committee meeting. NOTED.

The Board discussed the introduction of a pilot partnership scheme for financing of additional policing in Belfast City Centre. A number of Members expressed misgivings about the principle of private funding for the provision of policing in the City Centre.

The Community Involvement Committee will receive a report on the pilot partnership in 6 months time. NOTED.

3.10 HMIC Baseline Assessment Of PSNI (Item 3.8 Of Minute Refers)

A Member referred the Board to the PSNI Baseline Assessment Refresh Report which had been issued to all Members 30 March 2005 and enquired when the Board would consider the report. Officials advised that the report had been circulated to each of the Board's Committees for consideration.

It was

AGREED

That a paper that provided composite views of each Committee should be provided to a future Board meeting for consideration.

3.11 PSNI Estates Strategy

The Chairman reminded the Board that it had made a number of recommendations to PSNI regarding the wording and content of the PSNI Estates Strategy at its previous meeting. The Board had also given delegated authority to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to sign off the Strategy. At its meeting on 20 May 2005, the Finance and General Purposes Committee had considered the revisions made to the document by PSNI and agreed to endorse the PSNI Estates Strategy. NOTED.

A Member referred to item 10.2 of the minutes and reminded Members that during the meeting senior PSNI officers had advised the Board of specific dates that new building work would commence at Ballymoney and Downpatrick stations. The Member asked that these dates be recorded in the minutes.

4. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Engagements

The Chairman advised Members that he had undertaken the following engagements on behalf of the Board:-

- Meeting with Security Minister - 13 May 2005. NOTED
- Dinner in honour of a visit to Northern Ireland by a delegation from the Royal College of Defence Studies – Hillsborough – 16 May 2005. NOTED
- ACPO Conference – Birmingham – 17-19 May 2005. NOTED
- Launch of PSNI Statistical Report for the period 1 April 2004 – 31 March 2005 – Belfast – 23 May 2005. NOTED
- Visit to the Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Centre – 31 May 2005. NOTED
- Opening of Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Room – Bramshill – 1 June 2005. NOTED
- Meeting with Chief Executive of Bramshill Training College – 1 June 2005. NOTED

4.2 Publications

The following publications had been placed in the Library: -

- NIO Statistics and Research Branch – Adult Reconviction in Northern Ireland 2001 – February 2005. NOTED
- 12th Annual (2004) Report of the Independent Commissioner for Detained Terrorist Suspects – May 2005. NOTED
- 5th Report of the Independent Monitoring Commission – May 2005. The report will be referred to the Corporate Policy Committee for further consideration. NOTED
- The Youth Justice Agency Corporate Plan 2005/ 08, Business Plan 2005 / 06 – May 2005. NOTED
- Child Safety North Belfast – May 2005. NOTED

With regard to the 5th Report of the Independent Monitoring Commission:

It was:

RESOLVED

That an invitation should be issued to the Independent Monitoring Commission to meet with the Board to discuss general policing issues.

4.3 Correspondence

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

- Letter from NIO, dated 16 May 2005, regarding the NIO part-funding of the Association of Police Authorities 2005 Reception. NOTED
- Letter from the Police Ombudsman, dated 17 May 2005, regarding a Regulation 20 report in respect of the discharge of CS Incapacitant Spray at Lurgan on 4 October 2004. NOTED
- Letter from Mr Paul Murphy MP, dated 18 May 2005, in response to the Chairman's letter of thanks to the former Secretary of State. NOTED
- Letter from Mr Sean Woodward MP, acknowledging receipt of the Board's and Chief Constable's responses to HMIC's Baseline Assessment of PSNI up to December 2003. NOTED

During discussion, officials confirmed that figures in respect of the PSNI use of CS Spray during the first 6 months of its introduction would be considered by the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee at its next meeting.

The Chairman informed Members that he had forwarded letters to PSNI and army officers regarding policing in Newry and Mourne.

4.4 News Releases

There were no matters arising.

4.5 Part-Time Policing - Briefing

The Chairman reminded Members that a briefing regarding part-time policing arrangements had been arranged for 15 June 2005. Representatives from West Yorkshire and Sussex police will brief Members on their experiences with Police Community Support Officers. All Members of the Board were invited to attend the briefing.

4.6 Posters – Making Our Community Safer

The Chairman advised Members about the issue of a number of posters which will be used in District Command Units regarding 'Making Our Community Safer Together'. NOTED.

4.7 Venue For Policing Board Meetings

Officials updated Members about arrangements to hold Board meetings outside Waterside Tower. With regard to a previous Board decision to hold a meeting in Enniskillen, officials advised that it had not proved possible to find appropriate accommodation on the required date.

It was:

RESOLVED

- That the next Board meeting on 30 June 2005 should be held Ramada Hotel, Belfast.
- That the Board meeting on 1 September 2005 should be held in Ballymena.

4.8 End Of Term Dinner

It was:

RESOLVED

That arrangements should be put in place to hold a dinner on 5 October 2005 to mark the occasion of the end of the term of office of the current Policing Board.

4.9 Defining The Role Of The Board Working Group

The Chairman updated Members on a meeting of the 'Defining The Role Of The Board Working Group' held on 26 May 2005.

It was:

RESOLVED

- that the Board should consider commissioning research into policing techniques; innovative approaches around the world; tackling police myths. The Board should determine the scope of the research; how it should be conducted; and by whom. A paper should be developed for consideration at the July Corporate Policy Committee meeting.
- The Board should again advance the case for having a role on the Organised Crime Task Force. A paper should be developed for the July Corporate Policy Committee, restating the Board's position and including models as to how this might be achieved.
- That a paper should be developed to consider ideas about how the Board could better discharge its duty to "make arrangements for securing the co-operation of the public in the prevention of crime"
- A draft letter to the new NIO Minister should be prepared for consideration by the Community Involvement Committee in relation to District Policing Partnerships and merging these with Community Safety Partnerships.

4.10 Conference – Northern Ireland Police Fund Conference

The Chairman informed Members about a conference being organised by the Northern Ireland Police Fund (NIPF) for 8 and 9 November 2005. Invitations to interested organisations, including the Board, will be issued by the NIPF in the near future.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

5.1 Conferences / Events

The Chief Executive advised the Board about the following conferences / events:-

- Effective Looking Policing – What Research Tells Us – Stratford Upon Avon - 7 and 8 June 2005
- Turning Young People Away From Crime – London – 21 June 2005
- Changing The Way Local Crime Reduction Works: Joining Up National Priorities And Local Action – London – 23 June 2005
- Domestic Violence – Lagan Valley Island Centre, Lisburn – 22 June 2005
- Simulated Learning Unit – Steeple – 21 June 2005

The Chief Executive advised Members that further details were available from Secretariat for any Member interested in attending.

5.2 District Policing Partnerships (DPPs)

The Chief Executive advised Members about:-

- An attack on a member of Ballymoney DPP
- A briefing given to DPP members by PSNI and the Parades Commission

- The launch of a report by the Committee on the Administration of Justice on 9 June 2005 in Belfast.

5.3 European Working Group On Non Lethal Weapons

The Chief Executive drew the attention of Members to a letter he had received from the Northern Ireland Policing Fund advising that the European Working Group on Non Lethal weapons would hold their next meeting in Belfast in September 2005 and arrangements were being made for the meeting. The Acting Chief Executive of the NIPF had invited the Board to meet with the Working Group during their visit.

It was:

RESOLVED

That arrangements should be made for the Board to meet with the European Working Group on Non Lethal weapons during its visit to Belfast in September.

5.4 Policing Arrangements – Northern Ireland – v – Germany Football Match

The PSNI had written to inform the Board that 8 German police officers would be attending the Northern Ireland v Germany football match on 4 June 2005 to act as “spotters” for travelling fans. In accordance with normal practice, the German officers would have no powers in Northern Ireland and would be acting in a civilian advisory capacity. NOTED.

6. CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

6.1 Minutes Of The 43rd Corporate Policy Committee Meeting Held On 21 April 2005

It was:

RESOLVED

To adopt the minutes of the 43rd Corporate Policy Committee meeting held on 21 April 2005.

6.2 Minutes Of The 44th Corporate Policy Committee Meeting Held On 12 May 2005

It was:

RESOLVED

To adopt the draft minutes of the 44th Corporate Policy Committee meeting held on 12 May 2005.

6.3 Review Of Committee Structures

The Board considered a paper containing recommendations from the Corporate Policy Committee on a revised Committee structure for the Board and related matters.

Members discussed the recommendations in detail. During discussion, Members were mindful of the imminent independent assessment of Board performance.

It was:

RESOLVED

- That the Board adopt in principle each of the recommendations contained in the paper entitled “Review of Committee Structures”, with the proviso that amendments should be made in the light of any recommendations received in a future report from the Independent Assessors.

- That standing orders 19 (f), (g), (m) and (n) be suspended so that the current Committee membership and chairs / vice-chairs continue beyond the scheduled re-appointment date of June 2006 until the end of the Board's term in October 2005.

6.4 Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Interim Report On 'Ways Of Dealing With Northern Ireland's Past – Victims And Survivors'

The Board considered a paper which highlighted issues identified in the recent Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Interim Report on "Ways Of Dealing With Northern Ireland's Past". NOTED.

7. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

7.1 Minutes Of The 18th Meeting Of The Community Involvement Committee Held On 13 April 2005

It was:

RESOLVED

To adopt the minutes of the 18th meeting of the Community Involvement Committee held on 13 April 2005.

7.2 Minutes Of The 19th Meeting Of The Community Involvement Committee Held On 19 May 2005

It was:

RESOLVED

To adopt the draft minutes of the 19th meeting of the Community Involvement Committee held on 19 May 2005.

7.3 Independent Custody Visiting Association – Annual Conference

The Board considered a recommendation from the Community Involvement Committee to host and contribute to the cost of the annual Independent Custody Visiting conference.

Following discussion:

It was:

RESOLVED

That the Board agree in principle to host the Independent Custody Visiting conference and that officials discuss specific funding with the NIO.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

8.1 Minutes Of The 37th Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 31 March 2005

It was:

RESOLVED

To adopt the minutes of the 37th meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 31 March 2005.

8.2 Minutes Of The 38th Meeting (Quorum) Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 31 March 2005

It was:

RESOLVED

To adopt the minutes of the 38th meeting (Quorum) of the Human Resources Committee held on 31 March 2005.

8.3 Minutes Of The 39th Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 29 April 2005

It was:

RESOLVED

To adopt the minutes of the 39th meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 29 April 2005.

8.4 Minutes Of The 40th Meeting (Quorum) Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 29 April 2005

It was:

RESOLVED

To adopt the minutes of the 40th meeting (Quorum) of the Human Resources Committee held on 29 April 2005.

8.5 Recommendation From Human Resources Committee – Section 33 Request For Reports Relating To The Police College

The Chief Executive referred Members to a recommendation from the Committee to request from PSNI, copies of a number of reports recently produced in relation to the Police College under Section 33(a) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000. He advised the Board that PSNI had agreed to supply copies of the reports and these were being delivered to the offices of the Board later that day. In view of this development there was no longer a requirement to request the documentation from PSNI under Section 33(a).

The Board discussed the background to the request for the documentation. Members considered the appropriate mechanism to consider the reports.

After further discussion:

It was:

AGREED

That a sub-group comprising the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Chairperson of the Human Resources Committee, the Vice-Chairman of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee, Mr Willie Hay and the Chief Executive, should consider the documentation and provide a synopsis for Board consideration.

9. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

9.1 Minutes Of The 14th Meeting Of The Finance And General Purposes Committee Held On 20 May 2005

It was:

RESOLVED

To adopt the draft minutes of the 14th meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 20 May 2005.

The Vice-Chairman of the Committee highlighted the discussion that had taken place on the level of PSNI overtime and the request made by the Committee for a further breakdown of overtime figures requested at the meeting.

10. AUDIT AND BEST VALUE COMMITTEE MEETING

10.1 Minutes Of The 10th Meeting Of The Audit and Best Value Committee Held On 29 April 2005

It was:

RESOLVED

To adopt the draft minutes of the 10th meeting of the Audit and Best Value Committee held on 29 April 2005.

11. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The meeting discussed the questions to be put to the Chief Constable and given the extensive number of questions submitted by Committees and Members:

It was:

AGREED

That four questions should be dealt with by way of written answer.

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

In response to a question from a Member, the Chief Constable updated the Board on the current position regarding a legal action being taken by former police officers concerning post traumatic stress.

On behalf of the Human Resources Committee, a Member referred to comments made in the HMIC Baseline Assessment Report, that there was a perception among middle managers that the devolvement of budgets was notional rather than real. The Chief Constable outlined the measures taken to devolve budgets to local

budget holders. He advised that PSNI had asked HMIC for clarification in respect of some of his comments and that when this was received further information would be brought to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Members of the Corporate Policy Committee referred to a presentation they had received regarding the recognition of the service of officers of the Part-Time Reserve by the payment of a gratuity or other form of recognition and asked the Chief Constable for his views. The Deputy Director of Human Resources, identified a number of medals and commendations that were available to the Part Time Reserve. The Chief Constable and Members acknowledged the sacrifice and service that Part-Time officers had given to the community and discussed the principles of awarding a gratuity.

Following discussion, the Chief Constable indicated that he would reflect on the discussion and that Board officials would write to PSNI to formally seek the views of the Chief Constable.

The Board received further information about:-

- Police investigations into illegal actions associated with a parade in Strabane on 20 February 2005.
- The procedures and alternatives that are considered and actioned by police prior to a young person being made the subject of an Anti Social Behaviour Order.
- Police actions in relation to an incident in Violet Street in Derry/Londonderry on 30 April 2005.
- Reports of a court case that referred to there being 'no go' areas in Derry/Londonderry. The PSNI representatives indicated that the form of words used had been reported incorrectly and confirmed that there were no such areas in the city.
- The present level of terrorist threat against security personnel and others and the content of the recent IMC Report.

- The number of Full-Time Reserve officers scheduled to leave PSNI between April and June 2005 – total 114 and the number of Full-Time Reserve officers scheduled to be in post on 1 July 2005 - total 1194.

The Board moved to its meeting in public and following the completion of this session, the PSNI personnel left the meeting.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

13. PRESS ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Board confirmed the date of the next meeting for 30 June 2005 at the Ramada Hotel, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 5:00 pm).

Secretariat

June 2005

CHAIRMAN