

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE 42nd MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND
POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 24 MARCH 2005 IN
WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST AT 6:00PM**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Professor Sir Desmond Rea
(Chairman)
Mr Denis Bradley (Vice Chairman)
Mr Alex Attwood
Viscount Brookeborough
Mr Joe Byrne
(1) Mr Fred Cobain
Mr Brian Dougherty
Mr Sam Foster
Mr Barry Gilligan
Mr Tom Kelly
Lord Kilclooney
Mrs Pauline McCabe
Mr Eddie McGrady
Mr Alan McFarland
Mrs Rosaleen Moore
Mr Ian Paisley Jnr
Mr Suneil Sharma
(1) Mr Sammy Wilson

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs Sinead Simpson (Director of
Policy) (Acting Chief Executive)
Mr Peter Holt (Director of
Communications)
Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate
Services)
Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
Three Board Officials

Item 1 Part item 2 to close

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr Hay.

2. ATTENUATING ENERGY PROJECTILE

The Chairman reminded Members that it had been agreed at the Board meeting on 2 March 2005 that further consideration should be given to the proposed replacement by PSNI of the current L21 A1 baton round with the Attenuating Energy Projectile (AEP). It had also been agreed to consider the role of the Board in this decision making process.

The Chairman referred Members to a number of briefing papers that had been circulated prior to the meeting and advised that these were also tabled, together with some new items of correspondence.

The Board considered in detail a briefing paper comprising: -

- Part 1 – Executive Summary
- Part 2 – The Background to the Development of the AEP and progress to date on the relevant Patten recommendations
- Part 3 – The case that had been made for the replacement of the L21 A1 by the AEP, including details of Board deliberations to date and the views of interested parties
- Part 4 – The role which the Board has in the decision making process for the replacement of the baton round by the AEP, including relevant precedent cases, legal advice received to date and, again, views of interested parties.

The Chairman took the Board through each and every section of the briefing paper and the Board discussed a number of issues arising from each section of the paper.

With regard to Part 3 of the paper, the Board considered correspondence received from: -

- The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People
- Kevin Winters & Co, Solicitors
- British / Irish Rights Watch
- The Pat Finucane Centre
- Greater Belfast Community Network

The Board was further advised that comments made in approximately 70 faxes and e-mails had been received from other organisations and individuals expressing concern about the use of any form of baton round.

With regard to Part 4 of the paper, Members considered legal advice which had been received on the role that the Board had in the decision making process regarding the replacement of the L21 A1 baton round. Following lengthy discussion regarding the legal advice and other issues relating to the AEP, Members discussed the wording of a motion to be put.

After further discussion and an adjournment, a motion was proposed and seconded. Following a show of hands:

It was:

RESOLVED

At its meeting tonight, the Board took full cognisance of all the representations made to it. The Board decided to accept the Chief Constable's recommendation in respect of the adoption of the less lethal alternative to the Plastic Baton Round (the Attenuating Energy Projectile), subject to him fully demonstrating that he has consulted with relevant bodies, including the Children's Commissioner, at the Board meeting to be held on 7 April 2005.

The SDLP Members recorded their opposition to this resolution.

A Member requested details of the cost of the Special Board Meeting and officials undertook to provide the Member with the details requested.

A Member also suggested that the Board review the consultation process that had taken place between the NIO, PSNI and Board regarding the replacement of the baton round.

(Meeting closed 8:50pm).

Secretariat

March 2005

CHAIRMAN