

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 27th MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2004 AT 10:00 AM IN COUNCIL OFFICES, OMAGH AND THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY AT 2.00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Professor Desmond Rea (Chairman)

Mr Alex Attwood

Viscount Brookeborough

(4) Mr Joe Byrne

(2) Mr Fred Cobain

Mr Brian Dougherty

Mr Sam Foster

Mr Barry Gilligan

Mr William Hay

(4) Lord Kilclooney

Mrs Pauline McCabe

(1) Mr Alan McFarland

Mr Eddie McGrady

Mrs Rosaleen Moore

(3) Mr Ian Paisley Jnr

(5) Mr Suneil Sharma

(3) Mr Sammy Wilson

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

(7) Mr Paul Leighton (Deputy Chief Constable)

(6) Mr Sam Kinkaid (Assistant Chief Constable, Crime Operations)

(6) Mr Duncan McCausland (Assistant Chief Constable, Urban Region)

(6) Mr Peter Sheridan (Assistant Chief Constable Rural Region)

(6) Ms Judith Gillespie (Acting Assistant Chief Constable, Criminal Justice Department)

(7) Mr Joe Stewart, Senior Director of Human Resources

(6) Mr Austin Hunter, Director of Media & PR

(6) Chief Inspector, Command Secretariat

(8) Mr David Best, Director of Finance

(8) Chief Inspector, Training, Education and Development

(8) Head of Estate Services

(8) 2 PSNI Officials

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- (4) Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
- (4) Director of Community Affairs
- (4) Director of Corporate Services
- (4) Director of Policy & Accountability
- (4) Acting Head of Audit Services
- 3 Board Officials

NIO OFFICIAL IN ATTENDANCE:

- (8) Mr N Perry

FCS CONSULTANTS IN ATTENDANCE:

- (8) Mr E Munroe

- (1) Item number 3 to close
- (2) Item number 3.2 to close
- (3) Item number 4.3 to close
- (4) Item 1 to Item 24
- (5) Item 3 to Item 24
- (6) Item 21 only
- (7) Items 21 and 25
- (8) Item 25 only

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr Bradley (Vice Chairman).

2. MINUTES OF THE 26th MEETING OF THE POLICING BOARD

2.1 Minutes Of The Policing Board Held On 3 December 2003

The minutes were agreed.

2.2 Minutes Of The Public Session Of The Policing Board Held On 3 December 2003

The minutes were agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 26th MEETING

3.1 District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) (Items 3.1 Of Minutes Refers)

3.1.1 DPP Training

The Chairperson of the Human Resources Committee updated the Board about presentations she had given to representatives from DPPs in Armagh and Newry about the Human Resources Strategy. The Board noted that the briefings had received a positive response and that the Chairperson planned to give further briefings to DPP representatives in Ballymena on 5 February and Omagh on 12 February 2004.

3.1.2 Statistical Information For DPPs

The Board noted that progress was continuing to be made to enable the Police Ombudsman's Office to provide more relevant and timely figures to DPPs via DCU Commanders. A number of tripartite meetings had been held and officials undertook to advise the Board when the matter had been satisfactorily resolved.

3.1.3 DPP Website

The Board noted that the Selection Panel to appoint consultants to build and maintain the DPP Website had met and successfully identified a company to provide the service. The Government Procurement Unit was currently agreeing final terms of appointment.

3.1.4 Complaints To OCPA

The Chairman referred the Board to paper 18 on the agenda concerning the appointment of independent DPP members and complaints to the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA). The Board noted the satisfactory outcome of the four complaints made to the OCPA.

3.1.5 Dungannon And South Tyrone DPP

The Chairman referred the Board to paper 19 of the agenda. The Board noted a letter issued by the Secretary of State to Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council concerning the establishment of a DPP in the Council area.

3.2 Police Training College (Item 3.2 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that the tripartite Project Board had met on 4 February 2004 and arrived at a decision concerning the site for a new Police College. It was planned to seek the approval of the Policing Board for the purchase of the site on 19 February 2004.

It was proposed and seconded that at the conclusion of the public session this Board Meeting should be adjourned to 19 February 2004 at 2:00pm, when the Board would receive a presentation from the Project Board on the proposals for the College. The Policing Board agreed to the proposal to adjourn the meeting to 19 February 2004.

3.3 Review Of Remuneration Of Members (Item 3.3 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that the Chairman and Vice Chairman had met with the Secretary of State to discuss the issue of remuneration of Board Members. It was anticipated that a substantive response would be received within the next month.

3.4 Recruitment Of Part-Time Officers (Item 3.4 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that the first appointees from the pilot Part-Time Officer recruitment exercise would commence training on 9 February 2004.

3.5 British / Irish Rights Watch Correspondence (Item 3.5 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that this issue would be dealt with under item 6 .3

3.6 Strategy Day (Item 3.6 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that the strategy day had been arranged for 28/29 April 2004.

3.7 Appointment Of Senior Board Staff (Item 3.7 Of Minutes Refers)

The Chief Executive updated members about developments in appointing senior Board staff.

3.8 Code Of Practice On Reports (Item 3.8 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that the Sub-Group considering the Code of Practice on Reports and Enquiries had met on 3 February 2004. The Group had agreed to discuss a number of issues, raised at the meeting, within their respective political parties and to meet again in one month to further consider the issues raised.

3.9 NIPB Recommendations On The Omagh Bombing Report (Item 3.9 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that a meeting of Omagh Sub Group had been held on 20 January 2004 and that a report on the meeting would be provided to the next Corporate Policy Committee.

3.10 Tackling Organised Crime (Item 3.10 Of Minutes Refers)

The Board noted that the Chairman had written to the Secretary of State seeking clarity in the role and powers of the Board if responsibility for criminal justice was devolved to a Northern Ireland Assembly.

The Board noted that the Head of the Assets Recovery Agency and Assistant Chief Constable Crime Operations had been invited to give a presentation to the March Board meeting concerning tackling organised

crime. A Member suggested that consideration should be given to inviting a representative from the Criminal Assets Bureau in the Republic of Ireland to the meeting. A Member also suggested that the presentation should include comment on the criminal activity of Triads.

The Board noted that in accordance with agreements reached with the Minister of State on the role of the Board in tackling organised crime, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman would receive a briefing from the Northern Ireland Office in the near future.

The Board noted that following the launch of the Organised Crime Task Force Year 4 Threat Assessment, due in early summer, that all Board Members would be invited for a briefing by the Minister of State on the assessment.

3.11 Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) Commentary (Item 3.12 of minutes refers)

The Board noted that this matter would be dealt with under item 6.3.

3.12 HMIC Review of Crompton Recommendations (Item 3.13 of minutes refers)

The Chairman confirmed that Assistant Chief Constable Crime Operations had briefed the Corporate Policy Committee on 13 January 2004 on the implementation of the Blakey, Stevens, Crompton reports and the implementation of the National Intelligence Model.

The Board noted that the Deputy Chief Constable would brief the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Human Resources Committee in late February on the staffing implications of the implementation.

A Member referred to a recent report on the implementation of the PSNI Human Resources Strategy and a discrepancy in the date for completion of

implementation of some of the staff restructuring. Officials undertook to clarify the date of completion.

3.13 Tackling Crime Against Older People (Item 3.15 of minutes refers)

The Board noted that a paper concerning a visit to Merseyside in connection with a alleygating scheme would be dealt with under item 17.

3.14 Police College Open Day (Item 3.16 of minutes refers)

The Board noted that the Chairman had written to PSNI recommending that the Service consider hosting a Police College Open Day for members of the wider community.

4 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

4.1 Opening Of Coleraine Police Station

The Board noted that the Chairman had officially opened Coleraine PSNI station on 15 January 2004.

4.2 Publications

The Board noted that the following publications had been placed in the library.

- Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary Report on Central Police Training And Development Authority 2003 Inspection – January 2004
- Public Service Review; Devolved Government - Winter 2003
- Opposite Sides Of The Same Coin Police Perspectives Of Informally Resolved Complaints – A report for the Police Federation – January 2004
- Law Enforcement And The Rule Of Law by David Bayley
- New Targeting Social Need (TSN) Annual Report 2003

Operation Viper

The Chairman gave a verbal report on his accompaniment of Assistant Chief Constable Urban during a police operation on 19 December 2003, related to Operation Viper.

Members discussed a number of issues arising from the report, including the process followed by PSNI officers pursuing stolen cars; aspects of policing the nightlife in Belfast and the arrangements for young people to return home from the city centre in the early hours of the morning; licensing arrangements for places of entertainment; and current car insurance arrangements.

Engagements

The Board noted that the Chairman had undertaken the following engagements on behalf of the Board: -

- Launch of the Human Rights Monitoring Framework on 15 December 2003
- Criminal Justice Inspection Stakeholder Conference on 14 January 2004
- Meeting in the Friends Meeting House on 15 January 2004
- Conference on Policing and Young People on 4 February 2004

The Chairman informed Members that he had also hosted a conference for the Chairpersons and Managers of District Policing Partnerships. The Board noted that it had been a positive meeting and feedback on a number of practical issues had been raised. The Board noted that many DPPs were moving towards opening up their meetings and processes to enable greater participation by the wider public.

Members discussed attendance levels at DPPs and noted that details of attendance were available on request from officials. Members also discussed DPP knowledge of the PSNI Human Resources Strategic Plan, the merits of issue based meetings and how times and venues for meetings

are communicated to the public. The Board noted that new guidelines for DPPs were being drafted and that they would shortly be brought to the Community Involvement Committee for consideration, during which these and other issues would be considered.

Conference On “Protecting Human Rights Through Bills Of Rights: Learning From Experience”

The Board noted that an invitation had been received from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission for Members to take part in a conference on “Protecting Human Rights Through Bills of Rights; Learning From Experience” in the Europe Hotel on 20 February 2004.

The Chairman advised that a copy of the details had been given into the Chairman of the Human Rights And Professional Standards Committee for consideration. It was noted that as the Committee was not due to meet until 13 February, it was open to all Members to indicate their interest in attending to Secretariat staff.

Conference On “Modernising Criminal Justice”

The Board noted details of a conference in Warwickshire on 4 March 2004, concerning “Modernising Criminal Justice”. Any Member interested in attending the conference was asked to notify Secretariat staff as soon as possible.

Police Foundation Report On Police Perspectives On Informally Resolved Complaints

The Board noted that a report had been received from the Police Foundation concerning informally resolved complaints and that it would be passed to the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee for consideration.

Measures To Tackle Anti Social Behaviour In Northern Ireland

It was noted that NIO officials were due to attend the Community Involvement Committee meeting on 12 February 2004 to give a presentation on this issue and that the meeting would be open to all Members to attend. Based on the discussion at the meeting, the Committee would draft a response to the NIO document.

Steering Group Report on Alternative Policing Approach to Managing Conflict

The Board noted that a copy of the 4th report of the Steering Group considering alternative policing approaches towards the management of conflict had been received and that it would be included on the agenda of the next Corporate Policy Committee for consideration.

Following a recommendation from a Member it was agreed that a senior official from the Northern Ireland Office should be invited to attend a future Corporate Policy Committee meeting to discuss the content of the Report.

Request For Police Adviser In Palestinian Territories

The Board noted the content of a letter from the Deputy Chief Constable dated 28 January 2004 advising that the Department for International Development wished to deploy a police adviser in the Palestinian Territories. The letter requested Board approval to the release of a Chief Superintendent to undertake a 5-10 day preliminary visit to Israel in week commencing 16 February 2004, funded by DFID, followed by a six month secondment to DFID, subject to appropriate financial arrangements being agreed with DFID.

The Board agreed to approve the request.

The Board also agreed that the PSNI be reminded of the appropriate process for making such requests and the need for suitable notice to be

given to the Board to enable the appropriate Committee to consider such requests.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS

The Chief Executive informed the Board about three conferences due to be held in March and April 2004.

- Children In Trouble With The Law – What Works? – 4 & 5 March 2004, Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle
- Reducing Crime on Public Transport – 29 April 2004 – London
- 21st IACP European Executive Policing Conference – 18 to 20 April 2004 – Belfast

The Chief Executive advised any Members interested in attending that details would be available from Secretariat.

6. CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

6.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 27th Meeting Held On 16 October 2003

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 27th meeting held on 16 October 2003.

Ratified Minutes Of The 28th Meeting Held On 16 December 2003

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 28th meeting of the Corporate Policy Committee held on 16 December 2003.

A Member requested details of all “Floating Members” appointed to the Committee since its inception, and officials undertook to supply the information.

Draft Minutes Of The 29th Meeting Held On 13 January 2004

DPPs/Funding For Minor Security Improvements (Item 3.1 of minutes refers)

The Board noted that the Chairman had written to the Minister of State regarding funding for the provision of minor security improvements at the homes of DPP members. A response had now been received indicating that while the NIO was prepared to arrange for advice to be given to householders that it would not finance minor improvements. The Board agreed that it should register its disappointment with the NIO.

A Member requested information about the number of DPP members who had been included in the protection scheme and officials undertook to provide this information to the Member concerned.

6.3.2 Correspondence from British/Irish Rights Watch (Item 3.14 of minutes refers)

The Board noted that the Chairman had written to PSNI concerning correspondence received from British/Irish Rights Watch regarding the arrests of Mr Clarke and Ms Johnston. The Board noted that a response had been received from the PSNI and that it would be considered by the Committee at its next meeting.

6.3.3 CAJ Commentary On The Work Of The NIPB (Item 3.15 of minutes refers)

The Board noted that, as indicated in the minutes, the Chairman had written to the Director of the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) concerning the content of a CAJ report about the work of the Policing Board. In his letter, the Chairman had offered a meeting to the Director to discuss the Report. The Board noted that the meeting had been arranged for 10 February 2004 and that any Member wishing to attend was welcome.

Members discussed the requirement, policy and procedures for the Board and its Chairman and Vice-Chairman to meet with pressure groups that were not statutory organisations. The Board noted that the Corporate Policy Committee had given approval for the Chairman to meet with CAJ and agreed that the meeting should go ahead as arranged. Mr Hay, Lord Kilclooney, Mr Paisley and Mr Wilson recorded their opposition to the decision that the Chairman should meet with the Director of CAJ

The Board agreed there was need for consideration of the Board's policy concerning meetings with pressure groups and that the Corporate Policy Committee should consider this matter as soon as practicable.

7 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

7.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 4th Meeting Of The Community Involvement Committee Held On 9 October 2003

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 4th meeting of the Community Involvement Committee held on 9 October 2003.

7.2 Ratified Minutes Of The 5th Meeting Of The Community Involvement Committee Meeting Held On 11 December 2003

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 5th meeting of the Community Involvement Committee held on 11 December 2003.

7.3 Draft Minutes Of The 6th Meeting Of The Community Involvement Committee Held On 14 January 2004

7.3.1 Policing Accountability and Young People (Item 13.4 of minutes refers)

The Board noted that the Committee had agreed in principle that it

should provide a contribution towards the cost of four regional conferences being organised by the PSNI for young people. The Board gave approval for £8,000 (50% of conference costs) to be met from the Board's budget.

In response to a request from a Member, officials undertook to obtain information about the success of the first conference and to inform the Community Involvement Committee accordingly.

8 PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

8.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 2nd Meeting Of The Press And Public Relations Committee Meeting Held On 9 October 2003

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the second meeting of the Press and Public Relations Committee held on 9 October 2003.

8.2 Draft Minutes Of The 3rd Meeting Of The Press and Public Relations Committee Meeting Held On 11 December 2003

There were no matters arising.

9 AUDIT AND BEST VALUE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

9.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 3rd Meeting Of The Audit And Best Value Committee Held On 8 October 2003

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Audit and Best Value Committee held on 8 October 2003.

9.2 Draft Minutes Of The 4th Meeting Of The Audit And Best Value Committee Held On 19 January 2004

9.2.1 Presentation On Best Value Review Programme Year 1: 2003 - 2004

The Chairman of the Committee drew the attention of Members to the presentation given by the Assistant Chief Constable Corporate Management and his colleagues. He advised that the Committee had discussed reviews that had been completed in respect of Headquarters Postal Unit, and on the strategic amalgamation of Transport Workshop sites. The Assistant Chief Constable had been asked to provide the Committee with further information concerning the quantification of costs of the introduction of shift patterns at Transport Workshops and an executive summary on all Best Value Reviews that had been undertaken.

The Chairman drew the attention of Members to a paper tabled at the meeting, outlining the responsibilities of the Policing Board regarding economy, efficiency and effectiveness, better known as Best Value. The Board noted the content of the paper and appendix summarising Best Value reviews in 2003/4, 05/06 and 06/07.

The Board noted a draft Best Value Performance Plan for 2004/05.

10 HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

10.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 7th Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 24 October 2003

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 7th meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 24 October 2003.

10.2 Ratified Minutes Of The 8th Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 28 November 2003

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 8th meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 28 November 2003.

10.3 Draft Minutes Of The 9th Meeting Of The Human Resources Committee Held On 19 December 2003

There were no matters arising.

10.4 10th Meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 30 January 2004

10.4.1 PSNI Human Resources Strategic Plan

The Chairperson of the Committee advised the Board that at the January meeting the Committee had been joined by the Deputy Chief Constable and the Senior Director of Human Resources to receive a presentation from Sir Dan Crompton on his 4th report on the implementation of the PSNI Human Resources Strategic Plan. The Chairperson described the meeting as positive and constructive.

During his presentation, Sir Dan had advised that: -

- All strands included in the strategy continued to be relevant
- There was a need to make adjustments to targets due to new developments and reorganisations
- Further progress was required to meet civilianisation targets
- The strategy had resulted in 1000 more officers being available for duty

The Chairperson of the Committee advised that the PSNI Senior Command Team were due to meet in February to review the Plan and to adjust targets and the Committee would receive an update following this meeting.

Members discussed the manpower level within DCUs, the requirement for the Full-Time Reserve and the strength of Internal Investigation Branch.

10.4.2 PSNI Officers - Iraq

The Board also noted a decision made by the Committee to approve the Chief Constable's request to release six officers of Chief Inspector or Superintendent rank for policing duties in Iraq. The Board noted that the release of the officers would not inhibit command teams within DCUs or key specialist skills personnel.

10.4.3 Appeals Tribunal

The Board considered a paper, tabled at the meeting, concerning the establishment of Appeals Tribunals to hear appeals received from former PSNI Officers.

The Board noted that two notices of appeal had been brought to the attention of the Committee.

The Board approved three persons recommended by the Committee to be appointed to an Appeals Tribunal. The appointees had been selected in accordance with the RUC (Appeals) Regulations 2000, and comprised a legally qualified chairman, a former chief police officer and a retired police officer of appropriate rank. The Board noted that the Regulations required that the fourth member be Policing Board Member. The Board gave approval for Mrs McCabe to sit as the fourth member of the first Appeal Tribunal. In response to a question, Mrs McCabe confirmed that if she anticipated any conflict of interest that she would step down from the panel.

A number of Members indicated their willingness to act as the Board representatives on future Tribunals and officials undertook to draw up a list of those interested.

11. HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

11.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 1st Meeting Of The Human Rights And Professional Standards Committee Held On 22 August 2003

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the first meeting of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee held on 22 August 2003.

Ratified Minutes Of The 2nd Meeting Of The Human Rights And Professional Standards Committee Held On 3 October 2003

The Board adopted the ratified minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee held on 3 October 2003.

11.3 Draft Minutes Of The 3rd Meeting Of The Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee Held On 16 January 2004

11.3.1 Meeting with the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (Item 2 of minutes refers)

The Chairman of the Committee drew the attention of Members to a meeting that had been held with representatives of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. The Board noted that the Board's Human Rights Advisor had highlighted that he did not intend to duplicate work of the Commission, but to draw upon it.

11.3.2 Committee On Administration of Justice Commentary On The Work Of the Police Ombudsman For Northern Ireland (Item 24.2 of minutes refers)

The Chairman of the Committee drew the attention of Members to the intention of the Committee to prepare a draft response for the Board to a request from the Committee in the Administration of Justice to comment on the work of the Office of The Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland.

12. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

12.1 Ratified Minutes Of The 3rd Meeting Of The Finance And General Purposes Committee Held On 17 October 2003

The Board adopted the 3rd meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 17 October 2003

12.2 Draft Minutes Of The 4th Meeting Of The Finance And General Purposes Committee Held On 12 December 2003

There were no matters arising

12.3 5th Meeting Of The Finance And General Purposes Committee Held On 23 January 2004.

12.3.1 Report of Independent Validator

The Chairman of the Committee advised that at the January Committee meeting, Members had received a presentation from the Independent Validator in respect of the Police Service Information and Communications Systems Strategy. The Senior PSNI Personnel responsible for the Strategy had attended the Committee meeting and also heard the Independent Validator's verbal report. The Independent Validator had expressed a number of concerns regarding the progress made to date. The PSNI representatives, the Independent Validator and the Committee had agreed a number of action points to resolve the difficulties.

The Board agreed that it would be helpful for Mr Gilligan to fully involve himself in his issue.

A Member sought and received clarification concerning the spending in relation to Patten severance and non-severance budgets.

13. POLICE OMBUDSMAN SECTION 62 STATEMENT ON THE INVESTIGATION BY THE POLICE OF THE MURDER OF MR SEAN BROWN ON 12 MAY 1997

The Chairman referred the Board to a copy of the Police Ombudsman's Section 62 statement on the investigation by police of the murder of Mr Sean Brown. The Chairman confirmed that all Members had received a copy of the statement prior to the meeting.

The Chairman reminded Members that the Chief Constable had publically stated that he had accepted the findings of the Police Ombudsman.

The Board noted correspondence received from the solicitors of the family of Mr Brown regarding the establishment of an independent review. The Chairman outlined the proposals that the Chief Constable had made regarding the review of the investigation and sought the advice and views of Members on how the matter should be progressed.

The Board discussed the review recommendations and the letter received from the legal representatives of the Brown family. Following discussion, the Board agreed that legal advice should be sought on the Board's position and that this should be brought to the Corporate Policy Committee for consideration.

14. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE APPOINTMENTS PROCESS FOR ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLES TO PSNI

The Board considered a paper, which provided information relating to a number of proposed amendments to the Procedures Document, which sets out how Assistant Chief Constables are appointed to the PSNI. The Board noted the paper and that recent developments concerning the course provision of the Police National Assessment Centre would impact on the Assessment Centre Process.

The Board agreed to await further information and to refer the matter to the Corporate Policy Committee for further consideration.

The Board noted that the Chief Constable was content to delay the initiation of the appointments process until these matters were resolved.

15. APPROVAL OF COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CONVERSION OF 5TH FLOOR AT WATERSIDE TOWER TO OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

The Board considered a paper, which provided a complete breakdown of costs associated with the conversion of 5th floor Waterside Tower to office accommodation.

The Board noted that a recommendation had been put to the Corporate Policy Committee in January 2004 seeking approval to the conversion. The Committee had requested further information concerning the costs associated with the renovations.

Having considered the paper and the breakdown, the Board agreed to approve the conversion at an estimated cost of £126.5k, using the Department of the Environment Construction Service. The Board noted that financial provision had been made for the work to be carried out during the current financial year.

The Board also agreed that a letter should be forwarded to the Construction Service seeking comment on the apparent higher costs of building work provided to the public sector, compared to the private sector.

16. PUBLIC CONSULTATION – PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO BE LAY MAGISTRATES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Board considered a paper, referred at the request of the Community Involvement Committee, seeking the views of Members on eligibility to become a Lay Magistrate in Northern Ireland and the exclusion placed on Members of the Board and District Policing Partnerships.

Following discussion, the Board agreed that it should accept the exclusion placed on Board members, staff, PSNI Personnel and DPP members.

17. BOARD MEMBERS VISIT TO MERSEYSIDE

The Board noted a paper, presented to the January 2004 meeting of the Community Involvement Committee, concerning the arrangements for Board members to visit with the Safer Merseyside Partnership to look at security measures in housing developments and alleygating schemes in Liverpool. Any Members interested in taking part in the visit were asked to contact officials.

18. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS – COMPLAINTS TO THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS (OCPA)

The Chairman referred Members to previous discussion at item 3.1

The Board noted a paper, considered that the January 2004 Community Involvement Committee, concerning 4 applicants who were unsuccessful in being appointed to DPPs that had made complaints to the Office Of The Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA).

The Board noted that each case had been investigated by OCPA who had found no evidence to suggest that there had been any breach of the NIO Code Of Practice on the appointment of independent members to the DPPs, or OCPA's own Code Of Practice, or of the principles that underpin both codes.

19. SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT MEMEBRS FOR THE DUNGANNON AND SOUTH TYRONE DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP

The Chairman referred Members to previous discussion at item 3.1

The Board noted a paper, referred at the request of the Community Involvement Committee, concerning a report on the review of appointments of independent members to Dungannon and South Tyrone District Policing Partnership by the Office of Commissioner of Public Appointments.

20. BACKGROUND INFORMATION PAPER ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SELECTED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER AND CURRENT ISSUES IN RESPECT OF THE MEDICAL RETIREMENT PROCESS

The Board noted a background information paper in relation to the medical retirement/injury on duty process, prior to the appointment of the selected medical practitioner to act on behalf of the Board as independent medical advisors.

The paper also addressed the current position. The Board noted that significant progress had been made over past months and a service agreement had been entered into with the selected medical practitioner with clear target dates and measurable outcomes. The Board noted that the procedures are under constant review in order to meet the number and complexities of the cases being referred.

21. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Board agreed a number of questions to be put to the Deputy Chief Constable during the public session.

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

In opening discussion, the Deputy Chief Constable updated members regarding the PSNI response to the Police Ombudsman's Section 62 statement on the investigation by the police of the murder of Mr Sean Brown on 12 May 1997.

On behalf of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the Vice Chairman of the Committee indicated that its Members were pleased to note that the PSNI was achieving its target for reduction in overtime work during the current financial year. He asked the Deputy Chief Constable to comment on the fact that there is still a significantly greater level of expenditure on overtime by the PSNI in comparison with forces in Scotland, England and Wales.

The Deputy Chief Constable outlined requirements that had impacted on overtime levels within PSNI including preparation work for responding to the “marching season”; operational requirements associated with the provision of security; preparation for response to potential to public order situations; stand-by operations associated with prison disturbances and responses to specific terrorists threats. The Deputy Chief Constable indicated that overtime was a flexible way of using existing resources. The Board noted that targets for regions and departments would include further reductions.

A Member asked the Deputy Chief Constable to comment on the success of anti- social behaviour orders being dependent upon vigilance of the Community Policing Teams and the co-operation of the public. The Member asked what measures would be undertaken to train PSNI Officers on the use of anti-social behaviour orders and to increase public awareness of the benefits of anti social behaviour orders.

The Deputy Chief Constable reminded members that anti-social behaviour orders were not yet available in Northern Ireland. He advised that officers were already being trained in problem solving and that there would be a transition from existing training courses to include training on anti-social behaviour orders. The Deputy Chief Constable emphasised a need for a partnership approach as the success of the orders depends on the work of other agencies, as well as the police.

In response to a question from a member, the Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that the operation to investigate the so-called "Spy Ring" at Stormont continued. He also confirmed that the PSNI and Northern Ireland Office were in regular contact regarding the security of public buildings.

In response to questions about the Police Ombudsman's Report into the investigation of the murder of Mr Sean Brown, the Deputy Chief Constable advised that the PSNI had not yet received a formal response from Mr Brown's family.

In response to a question the Senior Director of Human Resources updated the Board on the distribution of citations to former officers of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. It was estimated that approximately 23,500 citations had been issued to date and the process of contacting of other entitled persons was ongoing.

In response to a question about a number of allegations contained in the press concerning the behaviour of student trainees, the Deputy Chief Constable advised they were without foundation.

22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising

23. PRESS ISSUES

There were no matters arising

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 3 March 2004 in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

The Board agreed to change the date of the May Board Meeting from 5 May to 12 May 2004.

As previously agreed at item 3.2, the meeting was adjourned to 19 February 2004.

(Meeting adjourned 1:00pm)

25. POLICE TRAINING COLLEGE – SELECTION OF SITE

The Chairman welcomed Members and the Police College Project Board and PSNI and NIO officials to the re-convened meeting, adjourned from 4 February 2004.

In response to a question from a Member, the Chairman confirmed that there had not been any discussion about the site of the new college during the Corporate Policy Committee meeting, which had preceded the commencement of the Board meeting.

Mr Gilligan and the Deputy Chief Constable introduced the Project Board members, each of whom contributed to a detailed presentation about the project to establish a new Police Training College.

The presentation centred on the background to the project; its vision and scope; the concept plan; accommodation within the facility including a simulated learning centre; the site selection and evaluation process; the procurement timetable and target completion dates. A copy of the slides used in the presentation is attached at Annex A.

The Project concluded the presentation by unanimously recommending to the Board that the new site for the College should be Desertcreat, near Cookstown.

Members discussed a wide range of issues arising from the presentation with the Project Board. Issues included: -

- Funding - the representative from the NIO emphasised that the Government was fully committed to the project
- Site acquisition and consultants fees would be funded from the Patten non-severance budget
- Members noted the cost of the land in respect of the 3 sites that were short listed and that Desertcreat was the lowest
- The Outline Business Case will be amended to take account of a recent review and will be within the existing estimate of £70 to £80 million
- The NIO representative advised that it was anticipated that ongoing revenue costs would be met from the police budget
- Travel costs and travel time in respect of students and trainers had been estimated and were partly offset by savings in the cost of the land and set up
- The development potential for the 210 acre site was discussed
- The Project Board confirmed that any expressions of interest in providing a site that were received after the advertised closing date were not accepted
- A Member highlighted the media speculation about the site and the Deputy Chief Constable emphasised that he had not spoken to the press or any Member of the Board, nor the PSNI senior command team about the recommended site
- It was anticipated by the Project Board that there should not be any major planning issues associated with the site
- During discussion of the accommodation to be provided, the Project Board highlighted that the College would need to provide

accommodation for trainee students, serving police officers/civilian support staff, and in the initial stages, at least, for trainers

- During discussion of the criteria for the site the Board noted that the natural topography of the site facilitated a variety of training opportunities
- Members noted the lack of interest from the 2 main universities to date in providing partnerships to the College

Following discussion a motion was put and seconded, 'That the Board should endorse the unanimous decision of the Project Board to select the Desertcreat site, near Cookstown, as the site for the new Police College'.

An amendment to the motion was put and seconded 'That the Board should endorse the unanimous decision of the Project Board to select the Desertcreat site, near Cookstown, as the site for the new Police College and that additional revenue costs be provided by the Northern Ireland Office'. The Board unanimously agreed the amended motion.

The Chairman thanked the Project Board for the presentation and their helpful response to questions from Members.

The Board noted that an announcement would be made to the media immediately following the conclusion of the meeting.

(Meeting closed 4.10pm)

Secretariat
February 2004

CHAIRMAN

REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

ITEM NUMBER

25 **Slide Presentation -
New Police Training College
Patten Recommendation 131
Site Selection**