

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 MARCH 2011 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairperson)
Mr Leslie Cree
Mr Trevor Ringland

**POLICE SERVICE OF
NORTHERN IRELAND (PSNI)
IN ATTENDANCE:** (1) Superintendent John McCaughan,
Command Secretariat
(1) One Official, Process Improvement Unit
(2) Mr John Tully, Head of Information &
Communications Systems

**NATIONAL POLICING
IMPROVEMENT AGENCY
(NPIA) IN ATTENDANCE:** (2) D/Superintendent Neil McGuinness
(2) C/Inspector Darren Miller

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE: (3) Mr Sam Hagen (Director of Corporate
Services)
Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
3 Board Officials

- (1) Item number 10 only
- (2) Item number 8 only
- (3) Item numbers 1 – 7

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Dominic Bradley (Chairperson) and Mr Gearóid Ó hEáira. NOTED.

In the absence of the Chairperson, the meeting was chaired by the Vice Chairperson, Professor Sir Desmond Rea.

Mr Trevor Ringland declared a possible conflict of interests in relation to hearing loss claims.

No other conflicts of interest arising from the agenda were declared by Members.

**2. MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2011**

The Committee considered the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 February 2011.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2011 be agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2011

**3.1 Minutes Of the Resources And Improvement Committee Meeting Held On
14 January 2011 (Item 2 of Minutes Refers)**

It had been agreed at the January 2011 meeting, that the Chairperson of the Resources and Improvement Committee should discuss with the Chairperson of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee, the position of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee on a newspaper report, published on 19 February 2011, regarding the costs of the Board's Human Rights Advisor.

In the absence of the Chairperson of the Committee, officials confirmed that the Chairperson had raised the matter and Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee had considered the issue at its March 2011 meeting. NOTED.

3.2 PSNI Budget for 2011/12 and Review of Years 2012/13 to 2014/15 (Item 5.2 of Minutes Refers)

The Committee considered a letter dated 23 February 2011 from PSNI, in response to a request from the Committee for further information on a number of points of detail raised on PSNI finances during the February 2011 Committee meeting.

In respect of the future funding for hearing loss claims, while the response from the PSNI was helpful, the Committee expressed concern that there was a lack of clarity in relation to the funding provision for future years.

It was:-

AGREED:

- To write to the Department of Justice (DOJ) to seek further clarification with regard to the provision of future funding for hearing loss claims;
- To place on record the Committee's concern in relation to future funding for such claims being funded from the PSNI budget.

In respect of questions raised in relation to the number of outstanding cases being investigated by the Historical Enquiries Team (HET) and the anticipated ending of the funding for HET at the end of 2012/13 and the consequences for the PSNI budget, it was:-

AGREED:

- That the Committee should pursue the number of outstanding cases with HET at a future date;
- To write to PSNI for further clarification regarding how the funding of any HET outstanding cases would be dealt with.

3.3 PSNI IS Strategy Six Monthly Update And Monitoring Information (Item 9.1 of Minutes Refers)

Officials referred the Committee to an information paper at item 13.2, which provided a 6 monthly update on the PSNI's IS Strategy. Officials advised that the update would be brought back to the next Resources and Improvement Committee meeting for consideration. NOTED.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

5. ASSISTED REMOVALS (PSNI)

The Committee considered a paper in relation to assisted removals.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

- To approve an extension to the police leased accommodation for 6 months from 27 May 2011 for ADM42;
- To approve an extension to the police leased accommodation for 6 months from 30 April 2011 for ADM53;
- To approve in principle* a payment for kennelling fees (if required) due to exceptional circumstances,* for 1 month from 18 March 2011 for ADM54.

*The Committee asked that a note be placed on file in respect of the exceptional circumstances surrounding the application, and the criteria considered by the Committee in reaching its decision and that the decision did not set a precedent.

6. PSNI REPORT ON EXPENDITURE FOR FEBRUARY 2011

The Committee considered a paper which provided an update in relation to various PSNI financial issues.

The Committee noted the details of the various PSNI financial issues.

	Actual £k	Budget £k	Variance £k
Staff Costs	493,709	510,406	16,697
Non Staff Costs	141,262	151,813	10,551
Historical Enquiries Team	4,988	5,559	571
Receipts	(6,518)	(6,151)	367
Cash Payment of Provisions	78,179	82,087	3,908
Depreciation & Impairment	29,143	28,057	37,347
Hearing Loss & Equal Pay Provision	31,530	20,531	(10,999)
DEL Pensions	9,141	10,749	1,608

NOTED.

7. POLICING BOARD REPORT ON EXPENDITURE TO FEBRUARY 2011

The Committee considered a paper which provided an update in relation to the Board's Management Accounts. Officials provided further information in response to questions from Members concerning areas of budget overspend. NOTED.

8. NATIONAL POLICING IMPROVEMENT AGENCY (NPIA) – 3RD INDEPENDENT VALIDATION REPORT ON PSNI IS STRATEGY “PSNI CONNECT”

The Committee considered the NPIA's 3rd Independent Validation Report on the PSNI IS Strategy. The report indicated, that since the reviews of 2009 and 2010, there has been a significant positive change across the PSNI and the use of IT. Based on the

findings of the review team, the PSNI Connect Strategy was considered to have a Green R/A/Gs status.

The Chairperson welcomed representatives from NPIA and PSNI to the meeting. The NPIA representatives confirmed, that overall the final validation of the PSNI Connect Strategy represented successful programmes and projects being delivered on or ahead of schedule. The projects were creating significant benefit for the end users.

The meeting discussed:-

- Issues that needed to be addressed and taken forward to enable frontend users to gain confidence and get the most from the systems, particularly NICHE;
- The key findings in the report;
- The opportunity for other forces to gain knowledge from the systems successfully deployed by PSNI;
- The benefits of the increased use of IT in releasing officers from administrative roles;
- The culture change that had occurred in relation to the introduction of improved IT;
- Training requirements on the usability of the systems;
- Co-operation with other agencies, e.g. Public Prosecution Service (PPS) in integrating systems;
- The standardisation of exchange of information between PSNI and An Garda Siochana.

The Chairperson thanked the NPIA representatives for their contribution throughout the Committee's tenure in validating the delivery of IT in PSNI. The Chairperson also thanked Mr Tully, PSNI for his contribution to the delivery of the new systems. The NPIA and PSNI representatives left the meeting.

9. ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENSURING ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN PLACE TO SECURE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN PSNI DURING 2011 – 2012

The Committee considered a paper which sought approval of the Board's requirements for ensuring that arrangements were in place to secure continuous improvement in PSNI during 2011 - 12. Officials highlighted that Part 3 of the Police (NI) Act 2000, requires the Board, *"to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions and those of the Chief Constable were exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, effectiveness and efficiency"*.

Officials were advised that representatives from PSNI would present the draft 2011 – 2012 Continuous Improvement Strategy later in the meeting.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

- That the Board should receive two 6 monthly reports (October 2011 and April/May 2012) on the progress of the 2011 – 2012 Strategy;
- Discussion between Board officials and PSNI officials should take place in December 2011 – January 2012 in advance of the final draft of the 2012 – 2015 Policing Plan being considered by the Board;
- That PSNI should be required to address recommendations from the Northern Ireland Audit Office Continuous Improvement Inspection Report;
- That the PSNI's ACPO lead for continuous improvement should attend the Continuous Improvement Strategic Working Group to provide PSNI input.

10. DRAFT 2011 – 2012 PSNI CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY

Officials apologised to Members for tabling the draft 2011 – 2012 PSNI Continuous Improvement Strategy at the meeting. Officials advised that a copy of the Strategy had

been received by the Board on Monday, 21 March 2011 and discussed the limited role that Board officials reported that they had had in relation to inputting to the Strategy.

The Chairperson welcomed the PSNI representatives to the meeting.

The Chairperson expressed the view of the Committee that it expected total openness between PSNI officials and Board officials in respect to the development of the PSNI Continuous Improvement Strategy and referred to the Board's statutory responsibilities in this area. He suggested that the level of co-operation received by Board officials had not been what it was in previous years.

The Chairperson advised that the Committee was prepared to treat the document as a draft and anticipated that there would be further discussions between officials in PSNI and the Board. He advised that ideally the Strategy should have the endorsement of Board officials prior to Board Members approval being sought.

The Head of PSNI Process Improvement Unit presented the draft Strategy, outlining the 3 strands and 12 projects that comprise the Strategy and advised that the approach was similar to the current year.

The meeting discussed:-

- How the projects were selected;
- The co-operation received by the Process Improvement Unit from other PSNI colleagues;
- The need to include measurement of outputs and benefits;
- The integration of the Strategy into organisational structures; and
- The projects relating to the Joint Public Services College in Desertcreat, human trafficking and organised crime and the expansion of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera systems.

The PSNI representatives left the meeting.

It was:-

AGREED:

To write to the Deputy Chief Constable setting out the expectations of the Board in respect of the 2011 - 2012 Continuous Improvement Strategy and future reporting requirement.

11. NIPB APPROACH TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT 2011 – 2012

The Board considered a paper which set out the NIPB approach to Continuous Improvement for 2011 – 2012, as proposed by the Board's Senior Management Team.

It was proposed that the NIPB approach should be the implementation of all actions contained in the Independent Assessment Report Implementation Plan, and it was planned that progress would be reported regularly to Resources and Improvement Committee or the Leadership Group, as considered appropriate by the Board. It was further proposed that in order to provide Members with additional independent assurance of progress, that the Board's internal auditors should be asked to validate the assessments made by Board officials in February 2012.

It was:-

RECOMMENDED:

That the Board approves the proposed approach to continuous improvement in the Board for 2011 – 2012 and that the independent validation process proposed be adopted at the meeting on 7 April 2011.

12. MONITORING OF PSNI ESTATE STRATEGY – MARCH 2011 UPDATE

The Committee considered a progress report on various projects and work completed on the police estate since October 2010. Following discussion, it was:-

AGREED:

- To clarify details regarding the completion of an accommodation project for a new helicopter/replacement fixed wing aircraft;
- To a question to the Chief Constable concerning the manner in which the Committee hold PSNI to account be improved.

During discussion regarding the provision of a new Public Services Training College, concern was expressed that the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety had expressed doubts as to whether it could guarantee the running costs in respect of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service. It was agreed that the new Board should pursue this concern.

13. INFORMATION PAPERS

The Committee considered the following information papers:-

13.1 Letter From The Chief Constable Dated 13 March 2011 Recording His Appreciation For The Support To The PSNI In The Recent Successful Bid For Securing Additional Funding Necessary To Address The Ongoing Security Situation

13.2 PSNI IS Strategy Six Monthly Update And Monitoring Information

NOTED.

14. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

Questions under agenda item 12.

15. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Board should issue a news release in relation to the validation report on the PSNI IS Strategy.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 Update from PSNI Estates Steering Committee

The Committee considered a paper, tabled at the meeting, which provided an update from a Board official who had attended the PSNI Estates Steering Committee meeting on 21 March 2011. NOTED.

The Chairperson recorded his thanks to the Members and staff of the Committee for their work throughout the last 4 years.

(Meeting closed 11:25am)

Secretariat

March 2011

Chairperson