

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 5.15PM IN NIPB HQ, JAMES HOUSE, BELFAST

PRESENT:

- Ms Deirdre Toner (Chair)
- Mr Edgar Jardine (Vice-Chair)
- Dr Janet Gray
- Mr Mukesh Sharma
- (1) Ms Joanne Bunting MLA*
- Mr Maurice Bradley MLA
- (2) Mr Trevor Clarke MLA*
- Mr Les Allamby
- Mr Gerry Kelly MLA
- Mrs Linda Dillon MLA
- Mr John Blair MLA
- Ms Nuala McAllister MLA
- Mr Frank McManus*
- (1) Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA
- Mr Mark H Durkan MLA*
- Mr Peter Osborne*

BAR LIBRARY

- (3) Mr Ian Skelt KC

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Sinead Simpson, Chief Executive
Mrs Aislinn McGuckin, Director of Police
Pensions and Injury Benefits
Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of Performance*

Four Board Officials

OTHER OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr John Wadham, Human Rights Advisor*

- (1) From 5.30pm
- (2) Left at 6.45pm
- (3) Item 4 only

*Attended meeting by video conference facility

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dr Kate Lavery, Mr Brendan Mullan and Ms Liz Kimmins MLA.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared and the Chair thanked Members for attending this Special Board meeting at short notice.

3. SUGGESTED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR REVIEW OF NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

The Chair outlined the current situation in respect of the suggested Terms of Reference (TOR) for review of the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB). The matter was previously discussed at the Board meeting on 7 September 2023 and the Chief Executive provided Members with a verbal summary of the key points that were subsequently submitted in writing.

The Chair asked for Members comments and the following matters were raised:

- Suggested TOR needed to be focused to ensure desired outcomes could be achieved.
- The role of Department of Justice (DoJ) in carrying out review and process for signing off final TOR.
- The need for the review to address working relationships between PSNI and Board, enhancing information sharing, ensuring discussions took place during scheduled meetings, and a reset of culture and relationships between the Board and PSNI.
- The need for timeliness in concluding the review.

- The need for the outcomes from the review to provide learning that would help improve Board effectiveness.

Following discussion it was **AGREED** that the matters discussed in respect of the suggested Terms of Reference for the Board review will be collated and the Board will meet again the next day to consider further and agree a final version of the suggested Terms of Reference for the Board review.

4. LEGAL ADVICE RECEIVED RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Chair welcomed Mr Ian Skelt KC to the meeting to answer Members questions following the receipt of advice to the Board in respect of issues arising from the absence of a Chief Constable.

A separate confidential annex to this minutes details the privileged legal advice received by the Board.

A gist of the Board discussion with its legal advisors was that options to address the current leadership challenge were examined including the operational impact and legal viability of each.

Following discussion it was **AGREED** that the only legally viable route was to ask the DCC to utilise the power vested in him under section 34 to temporarily promote a senior officer to the role of reserve DCC for the purpose of fulfilling the role and responsibilities of the office of the DCC to provide necessary authorities should the current DCC become incapacitated.

It was further **AGREED** that the process for conducting an interim CC competition should continue to be explored with partners but no further action be taken until such times as SOSNI has the power to ratify such an appointment.

5. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

None raised.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was conducted.

The private meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Strategic Planning & Governance

Date: September 2023

Chair