

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 9.30AM IN NIPB HQ, JAMES HOUSE, BELFAST

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr Mukesh Sharma (Chair)
- Mr Brendan Mullan (Vice Chair)
- (1) Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
- (2) Mr Mark H Durkan MLA
- (3) Mrs Cheryl Brownlee MLA
- (4) Ms Nuala McAllister MLA
- (5) Mr Peter Osborne
- Mr Les Allamby
- (6) Dr Kate Laverty
- (7) Mr Frank McManus
- Mr Tommy O'Reilly
- Mr Patrick Nelson
- (8) Mr Alan Chambers MLA
- (9) Mr Keith Buchanan MLA
- (10) Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
- (11) Ms Marian Cree
- (12) Mr Gerry Kelly MLA

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (13) Mr Jon Boutcher, Chief Constable
- (14) Mr Chris Todd, T/Deputy Chief Constable
- (14) Ms Pamela McCreedy, Chief Operating Officer
- (14) Mr Bobby Singleton, Assistant Chief Constable
- (14) Mr Mark McNaughten, Assistant Chief Officer Corporate Services
- (14) Ms Clare Duffield, Assistant Chief Officer People & Organisational Development
- (15) Ms Aldrina Magwood, Assistant Chief Officer Strategic Planning & Transformation
- (14) Ms Melanie Jones, T/Assistant Chief Constable
- (14) Mr Davy Beck, T/Assistant Chief Constable
- (14) Mr Ryan Henderson, T/Assistant Chief Constable

(14) Three Officials

(13) One Official

**OPERATION KENOVA IN
ATTENDANCE:**

(16) Sir Iain Livingstone

**NORTHERN IRELAND
POLICING BOARD OFFICIALS
IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs Sinead Simpson, Chief Executive

Mr Sam Hagen, Senior Director of
Resources

Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of
Performance

Ms Jenny Passmore, Director of
Partnership

Ms Sarah Reid, T/Director of Police
Pensions & Injury Benefits

Five Officials

**OTHER OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr John Wadham, Human Rights Advisor

(1) From 9.45am, left after public session

(2) Left at 2.55pm

(3) From 11.10am, left at 1pm

(4) Left at 1.10pm

(5) Left at 3.10pm

(6) Left after public session

(7) From 9.45am, left at 2.55pm

(8) Left at 2.20pm

(9) Left at 3.15pm

(10) From 9.45am

(11) Left at 3.10pm

(12) Left at 3pm

(13) Items 5.4 and 10 only

(14) Item 10 only

(15) Item 10 only, left at 2.50pm

(16) Item 5.4 only

The Chair opened the meeting and offered his deepest sympathies, on behalf of all Members, to a Board Official following the recent bereavement of a family member.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr Peter McReynolds MLA and Mrs Linda Dillon MLA.

2. **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest were declared and Members did not indicate any matters they wished to raise under 'Any Other Business' at agenda item 14.

3. **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETINGS HELD ON:**

3.1 **Thursday 3 October 2024**

The Chair asked Members to consider draft minutes from the Board meeting on 3 October 2024.

Members suggested several amendments and it was **AGREED** to update the minutes accordingly.

It was **RESOLVED** that: -

- Subject to these amendments the minutes of the Board meeting held on Thursday 3 October 2024 be approved for publication.

A Member highlighted comments made at a recent Justice Committee meeting in relation to the lack of formal representations from the Board on the Injury on

Duty (IOD) scheme. The Member highlighted the need to ensure that the record reflects the Board's previous and ongoing involvement in these matters over a number of years and clear position in relation to the need for the structural change identified in the NIAO report of 2020, and Board support for legislative change to effect this. The Member suggested that a public statement should be made outlining the Board's work in this area.

The Chair advised that correspondence had been issued to the Justice Minister to address this matter and a response is awaited.

4. **BOARD ACTION LOG**

Members **NOTED** the action log and verbal update provided by the Chief Executive in relation to the Board meetings held on 3 October 2024, 5 September 2024 and 6 June 2024.

In relation to action points from the meeting on 3 October 2024, the Chief Executive provided the following updates:

- Action point 1 – panel members for the upcoming Assistant Chief Constable recruitment competition have been confirmed and this action can now be closed.
- Action point 2 – PSNI will provide a briefing on the data breach recommendations at today's public meeting and this action can now be closed.
- Action points 3 and 4 – a response is awaited from the Department of Justice (DOJ) in respect of matters raised by Members with the Justice Minister at the Board meeting in October 2024, so these actions will remain open.

- Action point 5 – matters relating to ‘The McCullough Review’ and the status of Board initiated inquiries will be discussed later in the matter at agenda items 5.2 and 5.3 respectively, and these actions can now be closed.

In relation to the open action points from the meeting on 5 September 2024, the following updates were provided:

- Action point 5 – in relation to oversight of the data breach recommendations PSNI have committed to providing the Board with an update at today’s meeting and it has been confirmed that the Board’s Resources Committee will be responsible for reviewing progress. This action can now be closed.
- Action point 7 – proposed changes to the membership of the Board’s Special Purposes committee will be discussed later in the meeting at agenda item 8.3 and this action can now be closed.
- Action point 11 – further discussion on development of the Board’s Corporate plan for 2025-30 will take place at agenda item 8.1 of today’s meeting and this action can now be closed.
- Action point 12 – in relation to the Board’s governance of the executive function a meeting took place with several Members in October 2024 and a note of the meeting will be brought to either the December 2024 Board meeting or the next Member development session, so this action will remain open.

In relation to open action point 6 from the meeting on 6 June 2024, the Chief Executive advised that matters relating to actions from the Members development session will be brought to the Board meeting in December 2024, and this action will remain open.

In relation to the next development session Members were asked for their availability on 2 sets of dates proposed for January 2025 and following a vote it was agreed to progress this matter outside of the meeting to ensure confirmation of dates preferred by the majority of Members. **(AP1)**

5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

5.1 Chair's Report

The Chair asked the Board to **NOTE** the Chair's report and associated addendum which advised Members of:

- The Chair's engagements carried out during the period 2 October 2024 to 29 October 2024.
- A full list of correspondence issued and received by the Chair during the period 2 October 2024 to 5 November 2024.

In relation to engagements the Chair referred Members to Appendix 1A of the report providing details of engagements which may be of particular interest.

In terms of future engagements Members were asked to **NOTE** the following updates:

- The interview process for the recruitment of a new PSNI Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) will take place next week and a Special Board meeting will be convened to consider and approve the panel decision.
Members were provided with provisional timings for the meeting which will take place on video conference only and advised that final arrangements will be confirmed in due course.

- A briefing from the lead reviewer of the ongoing review of the Policing Board will take place at the end of November 2024, and a further update will be provided to Members at the next Board meeting in December 2024.

A Member raised concerns regarding the purpose of a proposed meeting between the Justice Minister and Independent Members, and both the Chair and Chief Executive advised the Minister had requested the meeting, similar meetings had taken place in the past, and advised that they understood the purpose of the meeting to be to seek views and feedback from Independent Members on their role on the Board. It was noted that independent Board Members were appointed by DoJ, but that the purpose of the meeting is not to assess independent members.

On this matter, a Member suggested that Independent Members meet before the meeting with the Justice Minister to consider discussion points and it was agreed that Officials will explore potential dates to facilitate. **(AP2)**

In relation to correspondence the Chair highlighted the following items:

- Update from PSNI on lessons learned from Operation Yurta.
- Correspondence from a member of the public to the T/DCC, and also copied to the Board, in relation to allegations of criminal misconduct by former officers, with Members advising they were content that views were sought from the T/DCC on this matter and whether it falls within the remit of the McCullough Review.
- Correspondence from the Justice Minister on the recent victims of crime survey undertaken by the Victims Commissioner designate, requesting the Board's response to the concerns raised, with Members advised that a response is being developed and will be issued in due course.

- Correspondence included as part of the addendum of the Chair's report from the Justice Minister to 'His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services' (HMICFRS), and also copied to the Board, in relation to the formal commission of an upcoming Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy (PEEL) inspection, and that an issue regarding formal communication appears to have been resolved.

Members raised the following matters with the Chair:

- In relation to the correspondence about allegations of criminal misconduct by former officers it was agreed to provide Members with a chronology/summary of the issues. **(AP3)**

The Chair raised an ongoing matter in relation to the Code of Conduct for Members of the Policing Board, and recent requests from Board Officials that all Members confirm they have read and understand the code.

Members raised the following points with the Chair and Chief Executive:

- Reasoning behind the timing of asking all Members to now confirm their understanding of and compliance with the Code of Conduct given that the Code has been in existence for many years.
- A Member recorded concerns around the timing and expressed an intention not to respond to this request as a matter of principle.

The Chair and Chief Executive outlined reasons for the request which initially arose from the events of summer 2023, and concerns about Members maintaining confidentiality of Board business. It was noted that initial expectations were that such matters would fall within the remit of the independent review of the Board, but that with the timing and scope of that

review being uncertain for the best part of 23/24, the chair and vice-chair agreed to undertake some internal housekeeping. The timing thereafter was largely down to capacity of officials to take the matter forward.

5.2 Meeting with Justice Minister at October 2024 Board

Members **NOTED** the verbal update provided by the Chair and Chief Executive and did not raise any specific matters in relation to the meeting with the Justice Minister at the October Board meeting.

5.3 Meeting with Angus McCullough KC at October 2024 Board

Members **NOTED** the verbal update provided by the Chair and discussed whether the Angus McCullough report is compliant with the requirements of a Section 59 report.

The Board's Human Rights Advisor advised Members of the likely timings of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal (IPT) and subsequent impact on the publication of the McCullough review report.

Members asked for further consideration to be given as to whether the McCullough Report will be accepted as Section 59 report and it was agreed to discuss further at the Performance Committee meeting in November 2024, and for a recommendation on these matters to be brought to the December 2024 Board meeting. **(AP4)**

5.4 Briefing from Chief Constable and Sir Iain Livingstone on Operation Kenova

The Chair welcomed the Chief Constable and Sir Iain Livingstone to the meeting and thanked them for the briefing note provided to support the discussion, and for taking the time to speak with the Board and provide a progress report on the work of the Operation Kenova team.

Following a brief introduction from the Chief Constable, he handed over to Sir Iain Livingstone to update the Board and noted his thanks to Sir Iain for agreeing to step into the role following his appointment as Chief Constable of PSNI.

Mr Livingstone thanked the Board for the invitation and acknowledged the importance of the governance and oversight of arrangements in place but also noted the importance of the independence of Operation Kenova in terms of satisfying Article 2 ECHR requirements for the investigations under its remit.

Mr Livingstone referenced the written briefing note and provided Members with a high-level update on the 4 inquiries currently falling within the scope of the Operation Kenova Team. This included background information on how each of the investigations came to the team, a brief chronology of each inquiry and the current status and likely timeframes to bring each to a conclusion. The 4 inquiries discussed were OPERATION TURMA, OPERATION MIZZENMAST, OPERATION DENTON and finally, OPERATION KENOVA itself.

Regarding Operation Kenova, Mr Livingstone noted the publication of the Interim report and also that his final report would include, amongst other things, updates on the recommendations contained in the Interim Report.

Mr Livingstone also addressed the recent interventions from MI5 regarding materials not previously disclosed by them to the inquiry. He noted that he had raised concerns in writing with the NI Secretary of State in respect of this information being made available after the publication of the interim report, after the implementation of the Legacy Act legislation and following prosecutorial decisions being made by the DPP. He also noted the possible impact on being able to bring Operation Kenova to a conclusion while this matter remains live.

Following the briefing, Members' discussions with Sir Iain Livingstone included:

- Further questions in relation to the impact of the MI5 recent disclosures, whether these are still ongoing and whether other intelligence organisations may or may not be holding information relevant to Operation Kenova's work.
- Whether the additional information provided could have affected prosecutorial decisions had it been available at an earlier stage. While Mr Livingstone noted that would be a consideration for the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), he advised Members that opportunities to pursue lines of inquiry had been lost as a result of the delay in receiving this material.
- The potential impact on public confidence and the confidence of victims' families of these recent disclosures. Mr Livingstone acknowledged the resilience of the families and commended the dignity and respect they have shown throughout the process.
- Any lessons which can be drawn in terms of engagement with the DPP at an earlier stage in the investigative process, and
- The risk of losing the confidence of families if recommendations contained in the interim report are not actioned.

Following the briefing the Chair thanked the Chief Constable and Sir Iain Livingstone, and they left the meeting.

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Board **NOTED** a report from the Chief Executive which provided an overview of governance and other organisational matters and to inform the Board of key items of correspondence relating to Board business.

The Chief Executive raised a matter not included in the report regarding access to Committee papers for all Members and Researchers on the Board's digital sharing platform and outlined the differing approaches in place across the Board's Standing Committees.

It was proposed that papers for all Committees be made available to all Members and Researchers the day after the committee meeting to ensure consistency of approach.

A Member asked about the custom and practice of granting access to Committee papers for Researchers who do not sit on the Board's Committees.

Following discussion, the Chief Executive advised that agreement on this matter will be sought from Members by way of written procedure, as the meeting was not quorate for this agenda item. **(AP5)**

The Chief Executive highlighted the following matters in relation to correspondence received:

- Correspondence from Fermanagh and Omagh Council seeking Board views on the PSNI closure of the A5 in August 2024 due to a Parade in Ballygawley. Members agreed the Board response should note the matter was an operational one and should reference the response from PSNI to explain the rationale behind their approach.
- Invitation accepted by the Chief Executive to attend an Information Management Conference led by PSNI on 21st November 2024.
- Board invitation to be part of the 'Right Care Right Person' Strategic Oversight Group, co-chaired by the Department of Health (DoH) and DoJ. It was noted this is described as a governance group, which

includes PSNI, and as such may impact on the role of the Board as the primary accountability body for PSNI.

- Members discussed the appropriateness of the Board undertaking an observer role on this group or whether the Board should instead be provided with progress updates by PSNI, and Members were advised that as the meeting was not quorate for this agenda item agreement on the matter will be sought from Members by way of written procedure.

(AP5)

The Chief Executive advised Members of correspondence not included in the report due to its sensitive nature and volume of material:

- Correspondence to a Member and the Board, from a member of the public on alleged systemic police abuse, and Members agreed that all material is shared with the Chief Constable requesting the matters raised are reviewed and the response shared with Members.
- Correspondence to a Member from a serving Officer in respect of allegations that PSNI have facilitated homophobic abuse against said Officer. The material has been shared with the T/DCC, as lead on Professional Standards, and Members were content that a response will be shared in due course.

Members **NOTED** the update provided.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Performance Committee – 10 October 2024

The Board **NOTED** the Performance Committee Chair's report and draft minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2024.

A Member requested an amendment in the draft minutes to reflect the PSNI engagement in relation to allegations made in the Mary Ward case. **(AP6)**

7.2 Partnership Committee – 17 October 2024

The Board **NOTED** the Partnership Committee Chair's report and draft minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2024.

A Committee Member advised of one recommendation from the Committee in relation to a PSNI retrospective approval request regarding the alternative option for a specified fixed penalty offence.

It was subsequently **AGREED** by Members to:

- **APPROVE** the retrospective approval request for PSNI to charge a fee for enrolment on an approved course offered as an alternative to prosecution for a specified fixed penalty offence.

7.3 Resources Committee – 24 October 2024

The Board **NOTED** the Resources Committee Chair's report of the meeting held on 24 October 2024.

The Committee Chair advised of two recommendations from the Committee in relation to PSNI Above Delegated Authority (ADA) requests.

The first ADA request relates to the approval of compensation and legal fee payments. This case was originally considered by the Committee at the meeting in September 2024, at which Members requested further information from PSNI.

The second ADA request was submitted to the Committee at late notice and relates to the approval of compensation and other estimated costs.

It was subsequently **AGREED** by Members to:

- **APPROVE** the two PSNI Above Delegated Authority requests outlined above.

8. BOARD BUSINESS

8.1 NIPB Draft Corporate Plan 2025-30

The Director of Resources presented an updated paper outlining the proposed consultation document for the new Corporate Plan for Member's feedback and agreement to launch the consultation process in line with the previously agreed timetable. This followed Member feedback on the draft Corporate Plan at the Board meeting in September 2024.

The Director of Resources highlighted work taking place in respect of defining the vision of the Board, and noted the challenging timescales to ensure the consultation process was completed to allow for the implementation of the new Corporate Plan in the 2025 financial year.

Members raised the following points in relation to the proposed consultation document:

- Further consideration should be given to the Board's mission statement.
- Consider amendment to the wording of Objective E to reference the Board as an 'organisation'.
- Suggested that the two Board Members with points to raise meet with officials for a focused discussion on the changes they consider necessary on the consultation document and draft corporate plan.

Following discussion and to ensure the views of all Members were considered it was **AGREED** to convene a meeting with a small number of Members, in the next week due to time pressures, to discuss the Board's Draft Corporate Plan and consultation document, including written submissions from Members, and agree a final draft to be brought back for approval by the Board and subsequent public consultation. **(AP7)**

8.2 Board Response to Draft programme for Government

Members **NOTED** the final Policing Board Response to the draft Programme for Government 2024-2027 following agreement by written procedure, and it was subsequently **AGREED** by Members to:

- **APPROVE** publication of the Response on the Board's website.

8.3 Membership of Special Purposes Committee

Owing to time pressures, Members did not have the opportunity to consider this agenda item. As such consideration will be given by Board officials as to how this matter can be progressed.

8.4 Board Outreach & Engagement

The Engagement Manager asked Members to **NOTE** a paper providing an update in relation to current and upcoming engagement activities for the period covering September 2024 to April 2025.

The Chair reminded Members of the importance of attending Board outreach and engagement events, albeit conscious of Members busy schedules.

The Chief Executive outlined mixed success of previous engagement events with event focussing on specific issues and with a targeted audience producing better outcomes, and highlighted the opportunities to engage further, for example, with Policing and Community Partnerships outside of scheduled Policing Board meetings, and through 'Conversations with Purpose', which is a new initiative for 2025 and which can help inform our monitoring of the policing plan.

Members raised the following matters:

- Concerns that goal to hold a Board meeting outside Belfast is fully realised, with consideration given to areas including Derry/Londonderry and Dungannon etc.
- Point of accuracy in respect of the schedule of engagement activities and Members attendance at a recent PSNI Attestation event.
- Observations in respect of how to achieve better engagement with partners and to measure success.
- Need for further consideration of ways to promote public engagement and interaction during the public session of Board meetings including by facilitating questions from the public, which has taken place in the past. Members noted opportunities to discuss such matters at the next Member development days.

8.5 PSNI Independent Investigations

The Chief Executive presented a paper to Members with the purpose of ensuring the Board has an appropriate role in relation to reviews of PSNI workstreams and PSNI outsourcing of investigations, and to allow for the restating of the principles which should guide both.

In relation to the PSNI outsourcing of investigations it was proposed the Board should have visibility of the process to select the 'other service', sight of the Terms of Reference for their work, as well as costs and governance arrangements PSNI have in place

The Chief Executive outlined the importance of transparency in these cases, for example with Operation Kenova, and asked Members to **NOTE** the response from the Chief Constable on the two ongoing independent investigations including a brief narrative on how other services are sourced.

In relation to reviews of PSNI workstreams it was noted the Board role could be more substantial including taking a lead in the review or jointly agreeing TOR with PSNI.

A Member asked for a discussion with the Chief Constable at a future meeting to consider these matters further, specific cases in particular, and it was agreed to plan accordingly. **(AP8)**

Following discussion, it was **AGREED** to write to the Chief Constable to restate the Board's position as part of fulfilling its oversight responsibilities.

8.6 Human Rights Review – Policing and Children and Young People Report

Members **NOTED** the Board's Human Rights Advisor final draft report for Policing and Children and Young People and following a suggested amendment from a Member prior to the meeting, it was subsequently **AGREED** to:

- **APPROVE** the final draft Report and 'Easy Read' version for publication.

8.7 His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Crime Data Integrity Report

The Director of Performance presented a paper on the HMICFRS inspection report for 2023/24 entitled "The Policing Service of Northern Ireland – An inspection of crime data integrity".

Following consideration of the paper and associated annexes including the Chief Constable's response to the HMICFRS report, the draft letter to the Minister of Justice, and the draft publication report, Members **AGREED** to:

- **APPROVE** that officials submit the letter to the Minister with the publication report and make them available on the Board's website.

8.8 Policing Plan Community Survey 2024 Report

The Director of Performance presented Members with a paper to share the analysis of the community survey carried out earlier this year in relation to Measure 3.1.3 of the Policing Plan (assess and evaluate the impact of partnership working with local communities).

Members **NOTED** the survey report and associated infographics and **AGREED** to:

- **APPROVE** the Community Survey for publication on the Board's website.

8.9 Extension of Contract - Assistant Chief Officer Strategic Planning and Transformation

The Director of Resources presented a paper to seek Members views on the Chief Constable's request for the Board to extend the current contract for the Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) Strategic Planning and Transformation, which is

due to expire on 28 February 2025 after a tenure of three years, for a further period of two years

Members requested that a performance review mechanism is in place after year one of the extension, noting that the appointment was for an initial fixed term of three years with two possible further one year extensions. It was also agreed to seek legal and Human Resources advice in relation to a point raised on full time Employment rights. **(AP9)**

Following discussion and subject to a satisfactory response to the points raised above, Members:

- **AGREED** to offer the ACO Strategic Planning and Transformation a contract extension for a period of two years to the end of February 2027.

9. KEY ISSUES OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Members **NOTED** a paper which detailed recent issues of public interest relevant to the Board's areas of work.

10. PRIVATE SESSION WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE INCLUDING THE CHIEF CONSTABLE'S ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT TO THE BOARD

The Chair welcomed the Chief Constable Jon Boutcher, T/Deputy Chief Constable Chris Todd, Chief Operating Officer (COO) Pamela McCreedy, Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Bobby Singleton, T/ACC Melanie Jones, T/ACC Ryan Henderson, T/ACC Davy Beck, Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) People & Organisational Development Clare Duffield, Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) Strategic Planning & Transformation Aldrina Magwood and ACO Corporate Services Mark McNaughten to the meeting.

Following this the Board Chair invited Members' questions to the Chief Constable and the following matters were discussed with the PSNI Leadership team:

- Welfare support available to police officers and staff, waiting lists to access services and whether PSNI would welcome direct assistance from the Department for Justice to help deliver this important support.

PSNI provided details on the support available to officers and staff, (including mental health services, peer support, well-being resources and events to reconnect and re-engage with staff). It was acknowledged that whilst physiotherapy is more accessible through various contracted partners, challenges remain in relation to the provision of bespoke mental health services.

- The launch of Team PSNI events and whether these are part of a wider internal communications effort to build a more inclusive and trusted culture. Additionally, how feedback is sought, collated and used and the scope for sharing of the results with the Policing Board.

The Chief Constable noted that he wanted these events to become "business as usual" and that they would be an important part of improving culture, reconnecting and engaging with staff. He noted that feedback so far from these events have been positive and that future events are planned across Northern Ireland, to which Board Members are welcome to attend.

- Processes for risk identification and escalation to ensure early visibility and management of the issues highlighted in the recent Catfishing case including waiting list for analysis of devices and management of bail conditions, and a query as to whether these risks/impacts were included in the Recovery business case.

On this point PSNI detailed expansion in cybercrime efforts and highlighted progress in cybercrime processing. It was acknowledged that challenges

remain with high volumes and long processing times for digital evidence and continuing resourcing pressures.

It was highlighted that since 2016, PSNI has improved triaging and established specialised command structures within its Organized Crime Branch and work continues around AI and cloud-based tools to enhance efficiency and reduce human exposure to sensitive material. PSNI highlighted strengthening risk management and transparency efforts and offered to provide further detail around incorporating these issues into the risk register. In subsequent discussion Members **AGREED** to write to the Chief Constable to raise the issues highlighted in this case.

- Welfare of officers whose cars were rammed recently in South Armagh and Ballygawley and whether this an increasing and worrying trend.

PSNI advised that the officers were doing well but went on to highlight an increase in assaults on officers, often linked to cross-border crime gangs, placing an additional strain on resources. The PSNI then offered to provide detailed data on these incidents to better understand the frequency and impact on resources over the last five years

The Chair thanked the Chief Constable Jon Boutcher, T/Deputy Chief Constable Chris Todd, Chief Operating Officer (COO) Pamela McCreedy, Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Bobby Singleton, T/ACC Melanie Jones, T/ACC Ryan Henderson, T/ACC Davy Beck, Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) People & Organisational Development Clare Duffield, Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) Strategic Planning & Transformation Aldrina Magwood and ACO Corporate Services Mark McNaughten and they left the meeting.

11. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

11.1 Issues Arising from Committees

There were no issues arising from recent Committee meetings for the Board's attention.

11.2 Committee Written Questions and Responses

Members **NOTED** the PSNI responses to Committee written questions for the previous period since the last Board meeting.

11.3 Individual Members' Written Questions and Responses

Members **NOTED** the PSNI responses to written questions and follow up responses to oral questions from the Board meeting in October 2024.

12. Schedule of Meetings for 2025

Members **NOTED** the Board and Committee Schedule of meetings for 2025 and indicated they were content with the proposed schedule including arrangements around holiday periods and the change agreed in relation to the December 2025 Board meeting.

13. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

The Communications manager advised that publication of materials will be arranged for the various agenda items agreed at the meeting.

A Member asked about communication plans following the Operation Kenova briefing at the meeting and was advised that an update will be posted on the Board's social media channels.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Comments made by a Member earlier in the meeting following requests from the Chair that all Members confirm they have read and understand the 'Code of Conduct for Members of the Policing Board' were discussed.

Members raised several points including that it was good practice to renew commitment to the code of conduct annually, broader reasons for the request following discussions at the Board Members Development session in January 2024, and concerns in respect of confidentiality issues raised in summer 2023.

The Chief Executive agreed to provide to the Member a more fulsome explanation of the timeline of events leading to the request for Members to commit to adhere to the Code.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 5 December 2024 at 9.30am in James House and the National Crime Agency Director General will be in attendance.

The meeting closed at 4.05pm.

Strategic Planning & Governance

Date: November 2024

Chair