

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER 2022 AT 9.30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, CLARENDON DOCK.

PRESENT:

Ms Deirdre Toner (Chair)
Mr Edgar Jardine (Vice-Chair)
Mr Michael Atkinson
Mr Maurice Bradley MLA
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Dr Kate Lavery
Mr Les Allamby
Mr Gerry Kelly MLA
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA
Mrs Linda Dillon MLA
Dr Janet Gray
Mrs Carmel McKinney
(1) Mr John Blair MLA
(2) Ms Nuala McAllister MLA
Mr Peter Osborne
Mr Frank McManus
Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA
Mr Mark H Durkan MLA

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

(3) Mr Simon Byrne, Chief Constable
(3) Ms Pamela McCreedy, Chief Operating Officer
(3) Mr Mark McNaughten, Assistant Chief Officer,
Corporate Services
(3) Mr Chris Todd, Assistant Chief Constable
(3) Mr Mark McEwan, Assistant Chief Constable
(3) Ms Clare Duffield, Assistant Chief Officer
People and Organisational Development
(3) Ms Aldrina Magwood, Assistant Chief Officer
Strategic Planning and Transformation
(3) Director of Strategic Communications &
Engagement
(3) Ms Zoe McKee, Detective Chief
Superintendent
(3) Mr Bobby Parkhill, Strategic Communications &
Engagement

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

Mrs Sinead Simpson, Chief Executive
Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of Performance
Ms Jenny Passmore, Director of Resources
Ms Aislinn McGuckin, Director of Police
Pension and Injury Benefits
Four Board Officials

**NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY
ATTENDANCE:**

- (4) Mr Graeme Biggar, Director General
- (4) Mr Miles Bonfield, Deputy Director
- (4) Ms Natalie Stokes, External Communications
Senior official
- (4) Ms Louise O'Brien, Staff Officer to Director
General

**OTHER OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr John Wadham, Human Rights Advisor

- (1) From 9.40 on
- (2) From 9.45 on
- (3) Items 10 and 11 only
- (4) Item 10 only

The Chair welcomed Members and reminded everyone present of the revised schedule for the meeting which is being trialled for a three-month period. The Member's private session will be followed by the public session from 11am to 12pm and the private session with the Chief Constable and the National Crime Agency Director General will take place afterwards.

1. APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed new Board Members Les Allamby, Kate Lavery and Peter Osborne to their first monthly Board meeting and also expressed her thanks to the outgoing Board Members Mr Doug Garrett, Dr Tom Frawley and Mr Colm McKenna for their contribution to the work of the Board over the last four years following their term of office ending on 30 November 2022.

Apologies were received from Ms Joanne Bunting MLA.

On behalf of the Board the Chair expressed condolences to Peter Osborne on the recent death of his mother.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared and when asked if there was “Any Other Business” no further items were declared.

3. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETINGS HELD ON:

3.1 Thursday 3 November 2022

3.2 Thursday 1 December 2022

It was **RESOLVED:-**

- That the minutes of the Board meetings held on 3 November 2022 and 1 December 2022 be approved.

4. BOARD ACTION LOG

Updates as detailed within the Action Log from the Board meeting held on 3 November 2022 were noted in addition to the following verbal updates provided by the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive noted that all of the items from the November 2022 Board meeting have been actioned as described in the log at item 4 and suggested that, if Members were content, these could now be closed.

Action Point 1 from the meeting on 1 September 2022 in respect of the draft tripartite agreement between NIPB, PSNI and Department of Justice (DoJ) – the

Chief Executive advised that as agreed at the previous Board meeting on 3 November 2022 this action will remain open and will be revisited in the New Year.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

5.1 Chair's Report

The Board noted a Report from the Chair who advised Members of:

- The outgoing Chair's engagements carried out during the period 4 November 2022 to 30 November 2022.
- A full list of correspondence issued and received by the outgoing Chair since the Board meeting on 3 November 2022.

The Chair noted that all engagements were undertaken by the outgoing Chair and highlighted the tripartite meeting which took place on 30 November with Board Members, the PSNI and Department of Justice (DoJ) representatives to discuss the current budgetary position. The Chair noted this presented a welcome opportunity for discussion to clarify the current financial position and take a forward look at how the next 12 – 18 months may develop in light of the Secretary of State's recently confirmed NI budget for the current year and advised we will revert to the budget issue in more detail as the meeting progresses.

In relation to correspondence, the Chair highlighted the following items:

- Correspondence issued to the Permanent Secretary of the DoJ and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in relation to the extreme budget situation being faced by PSNI

- Correspondence received from Mr Maoliosa McHugh MLA which relates to the disposal of Castlederg station which will be considered in the context of the report from the Chair of Resources Committee under agenda item 7.3, which includes a recommendation in relation to the disposal of Castlederg
- A statement of condemnation in relation to the recent attack on the police officers in Strabane.

The Chair noted she had several other items of business to bring to Members attention:

- The Chief Constable has advised that the chapter of a book on police leadership he has written will be published in late 2023. The Board were advised when he first agreed to write the chapter and he has recently confirmed the publication arrangements. The Chair noted that any/all proceeds from the sale of the book will go to a nominated police charity. Members **NOTED** the update.
- The PSNI have asked Members to consider a proposal regarding the restructuring of the Chief Constable's monthly accountability report. The Chair advised PSNI are proposing that the Board receive a more fulsome quarterly report – the same format/content/style that is currently received, but on a quarterly basis instead of monthly. However, on a monthly basis PSNI have suggested moving to more of a dashboard/highlights format, along with topical issues.

Following discussion Members **AGREED** they were content to trial the suggested new format of Chief Constable monthly accountability report. Members would like to discuss with PSNI in due course the KPIs/statistics they would like to see represented on the monthly dashboard.

- The Chair requested feedback from Members on how effective they felt running the public and private sessions of the meeting in reverse was going, as trialled for the past 3 month period. The Chair advised the Chief Executive has had feedback from Board officials and PSNI over recent days and the feedback so far has been positive. The Chair invited further feedback and noted that if anyone had any issues they would like to raise to let the Chief Executive know.

Following discussion Members **AGREED** the new format of holding the public session first was working well and agreed to adopt this as the new format for Board meetings from February 2023 onwards.

5.2 UPDATED COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Chair highlighted the updated membership of each of the Board's Committees as agreed by Members at the Board meeting on 1 December 2022.

Members **NOTED** the updated Committee membership.

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Board **NOTED** a report from the Chief Executive which provided an update on various items of business. The Chief Executive highlighted the following items:

- Budget - noting that the Board have been allocated £189k towards its pressure which, due to the timing of that allocation, coupled with efforts already made to live within budget, plus a significant reduction in dilapidation costs means that the Board are not in a position to utilise the additional monies in year and this has been highlighted to the Department of Justice (DoJ).

- Policing Plan – noting that work is underway in relation to the 2023 Policing Plan Survey, and the Policing Plan Review Working Group (PPRWG) continues to meet and hopes to bring proposals for the 2023/24 Plan to the Board at its meeting on 2 February 2023.
- Engagement – noting that the Engagement Manager will be seeking to meet one-on-one with Members around the Board's Engagement Strategy and Plan, in advance of a workshop which will hopefully take place in the New Year.

Members raised the following point with the Chief Executive:

- A query with regard to the cost of completing FOI requests; noting the response from the Director of Police Pension and Injury Benefits that if the cost of complying with the request exceeds the 'Appropriate Limit' threshold of £450 under FOI legislation the Board has the option to decline to answer on the grounds of costs. Officials noted that in such instances they endeavour to work with the requestor to narrow the parameters of their request to enable the Board to provide a response.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Performance Committee – 10 November 2022

The Board noted the Performance Committee Chair's Report and draft minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2022. The Chair also provided a verbal update on matters considered at the meeting which included an update on Policing Plan Measure: 1.1.2 – Organised Crime Gangs (OCGs) noting that the report shows an increase in frustrations and disruptions, and whilst there have been no change in the number of OCG's dismantled it is assumed that this will have had an impact on decreasing the capacity and capability of OCGs.

The Committee also discussed the Independent Reviewer of Justice and Security (JSA) (NI) Act 2007, the Draft Human Rights Annual Report 2021/22, the Human Rights Advisors' monthly update report; a presentation from the Deputy Director of the Committee on the Administration of Justice, the 6 monthly update from the National Crime Agency and Serious and Organised Crime Unit and the draft report on the Human Rights Review of PSNI's Use of Force.

Members **NOTED** the report.

7.2 Partnership Committee – 17 November 2022

The Board noted the Partnership Committee Chair's Report and draft minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2022. The Chair also provided a verbal update on matters considered at the meeting which included an update on Policing Plan Measures 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 (People who feel safe, and places repeatedly victimised).

The Committee also received a briefing from the PSNI's Strategic Community Engagement Team (SCET) and Members also discussed the Targeted Consultation in respect of Amendments to the Code of Practice for appointment of PCSP/DPCSP Independent Members and an update on the Police Property Fund.

Members **NOTED** the report.

7.3 Resources Committee – 24 November 2022

The Board noted the Resources Committee Chair's Report of the meeting held on 24 November 2022. The Chair also provided a verbal update on matters considered at the meeting which included an update on Sickness Absence recommendations, an update on the PSNI Transformation programme, PSNI monthly Finance Report; an Above Delegated Authority request for costs

associated with settlement of a Civil Claim, Draft NIPB Equality Scheme, Audit of Inequalities and Equality & Disability Action Plans 2023-25; and the Disposal of the Castlederg PSNI Station.

Following the Chair of Resources of Committee delivering his report, the Board Chair put the Committee's recommendations to Members on the matters noted below:

I. Above Delegated Limits approval – Legal Costs.

Members agreed to **APPROVE** the legal costs associated with a previously approved Above Delegated Authority legal settlement, as outlined in the papers provided.

II. Draft NIPB Equality Scheme, Audit of Inequalities and Equality & Disability Action Plans 2023-25.

Members agreed to **APPROVE** these documents to progress for public consultation noting that consideration of feedback from the Vice-Chair may lead to a short delay in commencing the public consultation.

Ahead of moving on to deal with the Committee's recommendation regarding the disposal of the former Castlederg PSNI station, the Chair noted that she was aware several Members wished to make contributions on this agenda item but advised that she would invite the Chief Executive to update the Board first due to receipt of a number of related items of correspondence this morning which officials had not had the opportunity to share with Members.

The Chief Executive referenced recent correspondence received from a West Tyrone MLA in which several questions were raised in relation to the sale of the former Castlederg PSNI station. She also read correspondence received within the previous few hours from the Mayor of Derry City & Strabane District Council

and the Derry City & Strabane District Council Environment and Regeneration Committee. Members noted the strong preference in each of these items of correspondence for the Board to prioritise the bid from Apex Housing Association due to their intention to develop the site for the purposes of social housing in the area. The Chief Executive advised Members that on receipt of the correspondence from the West Tyrone MLA, she had engaged with PSNI to obtain responses to the questions raised and noted that much of this information had been included in the papers previously considered by the Committee in June 2022. The Chief Executive read out extracts from the relevant Committee papers.

The Board Chair then invited comments from Members and the subsequent discussion centred on the points detailed below:

- The need for social housing in the area and the procedural difficulties highlighted throughout this process that in future, could prevent any former PSNI site being sold for the purpose of social housing due to the nature of the D1 process;
- The make-up and relatively recent formation of the Derg & District Cultural Association;
- Weighing the need for social housing against the Board's responsibility to PSNI to dispose of the site to the party who is currently in a position to close. A Member noted that particularly in light of the current well documented budgetary circumstances, this would allow PSNI to release the value of this site in the current year. It was acknowledged that Apex Housing Association's bid for the site is contingent on a yet to be completed business case and planning permission while Derg & District Cultural Association are in a position to proceed with the purchase now.
- Consideration of the recently received correspondence referenced above and the extent to which the Board should take account of the local council's view in reaching a decision.
- The ongoing monthly costs of maintaining the Castlederg site should Members decide on a further deferment of a decision on this matter;

- The detail of the D1 process which is managed by LPS. Members were advised that all interested parties are subject to the same process and that each party requires a sponsor body to progress through the process. The Chief Executive advised that, while sponsors do not provide funding, NIHE are the sponsoring body for the Apex Housing Association bid and Development Trust NI [DTNI] are the sponsoring body for Derg & District Cultural Association;

A number of Members noted their preference to put forward alternative proposals to the Board for consideration, however a Member noted that, from a governance perspective, the Board had before it a recommendation from the Resources Committee which had been carried by majority vote at the Committee stage and that this should be put to the Board for decision.

While noting the points made by Members during the discussion, the Board Chair advised that she would, in the first instance, put the Resources Committee's recommendation to the Board for consideration, decision and a recorded vote;

Members indicated their vote by a show of hands and, by a majority of 8 to 7, to approve the Committee's recommendation that the former Castlederg PSNI station be disposed of to Derg and District Cultural Association.

Details of the recorded vote are noted below:

For	Against	Abstain
Edgar Jardine	John Blair	Peter Osborne
Janet Gray	Gerry Kelly	Les Allamby
Michael Atkinson	Liz Kimmins	
Carmel McKinney	Linda Dillon	
Frank McManus	Nuala McAllister	
Trevor Clarke	Kate Laverty	
Maurice Bradley	Mark Durkan	
Mike Nesbitt		

--	--	--

It was therefore **AGREED:**

- To **APPROVE** the Resources Committee's recommendation to dispose of the former Castlederg PSNI station to Derg and District Cultural Association.

As the Resources Committee's recommendation to the Board was carried by a majority vote, no alternative proposals were subsequently put to the Board for consideration.

Following the vote it was also agreed that the Board would write to LPS/Department of Finance (DoF) to highlight the issues encountered by the Board during this disposal process and in relation to the D1 process. **(AP1)**

Members also requested sight of the recently received correspondence, from the Mayor of Derry City & Strabane District Council and the Derry City & Strabane District Council Environment and Regeneration Committee. Board officials to arrange for these pieces of correspondence to be uploaded to Decision Time and issued to Members. **(AP2)**

8. BOARD BUSINESS

8.1 NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY REPORT

The Director of Performance presented a paper which provided Members with a summary report of the NCA's and the PSNI's performance and activity in Northern Ireland in respect of Serious and Organised Crime covering the Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 periods of April to September 2022. The paper highlighted the key issues that Members may wish to consider and discuss

further with the NCA Director General Graeme Biggar and the PSNI Chief Constable Simon Byrne later in the meeting.

Members **NOTED** the report.

8.2 HUMAN RIGHTS ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

The Human Rights advisor presented a paper which provided Members with the final draft of the Human Rights Annual Report 2021/22 and outlined proposals for the launch of the report, subject to its approval by the Board at today's meeting.

The Human Rights Advisor explained that this Human Rights Annual Report was presented to the Performance Committee at its meeting in October 2022, following which comments and feedback were received and considered by the Human Rights Advisor. The final Report was considered by the Committee again at its November Committee meeting, taking account of the concerns and comments raised by Members. Following consideration, the Committee agreed for the Report to be presented to the Board.

The Human Rights advisor noted the Human Rights Annual Report 2021/22 addresses seven key areas of policing that are examined for their Human Rights compliance with analysis and updates provided. These areas cover issues such as:

- Training and PSNI human rights awareness;
- Policy;
- Operations;
- Use of Force;
- National Security and Covert Policing;
- Vulnerable Victims of Crime; and
- Treatment of Suspects.

The Human Rights Advisor noted that he has made 11 recommendations where it has been identified that PSNI action is necessary. A fact checking exercise has since been carried out by PSNI, which identified no inaccuracies.

The Human Rights Advisor noted the arrangements for the launch event in January 2023, advising that it is proposed that the event takes the format of a seminar with a panel discussion. The panel would comprise the Policing Board Chair and Human Rights Advisor along with a senior PSNI officer. There will be an opportunity for the audience to submit questions in advance and to also ask questions in respect of the issues raised at the end of the panel discussion. The Human Rights Advisor advised it is intended that the Board builds on the opportunity for the launch of the Human Rights Annual Report to secure engagement with the issues highlighted in the Report; facilitate debate and enhance understanding of the issues.

Following discussion Members:

- **AGREED** the final draft of the Human Rights Annual Report 2021/22; and
- **NOTED** the arrangements for the launch proposal on 18 January 2023.

8.3 HUMAN RIGHTS REVIEW OF PSNI'S USE OF FORCE

The Human Rights Advisor presented a paper which provided Members with the final draft of the Human Rights Review of PSNI's Use of Force and sought Member's approval of the report and to agree to its publication.

The Human Rights Advisor advised that a draft of the Human Rights Review of PSNI's Use of Force was presented to the Performance Committee at its meeting on 10 November 2022. Comments and feedback were provided by Members and the Human Rights Advisor has updated the report to reflect these.

The Human Rights advisor noted the report considered the following areas:

- Human Rights Review of PSNI's Use of Force;
- Human Rights Review of PSNI's Use of Conducted Energy Device (CED);
- Human Rights Considerations;
- The Impact of use of CEDs; and
- Safeguards and Protections.

The Human Rights advisor advised he has identified ten recommendations in the report where it is considered that PSNI action is necessary. A PSNI fact checking exercise has also been carried out and a number of factual amendments have been identified. These are highlighted in pages 3 and 4 of the paper and it is recommended that these are accepted in the final report.

The Human Rights Advisor added that during discussion at the Performance Committee not all Members agreed with all the recommendations. In particular, Members engaged in discussion with the Human Rights Advisor on the use of force on children, including police dogs and Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs). Following discussion at the Committee regarding Recommendation 3 – Police Dogs - Members agreed that the use of force on children should be discussed more widely in the future and the original recommendation should remain in the Report.

In relation to Recommendation 9 – CEDs- Members agreed, following a vote that CEDs should never be used where the officer is either aware or believes that it is likely that the child is 14 years of age or younger and as such this part of the recommendation was removed from the final report.

Following discussion it was **AGREED**:

- To approve the final draft of the report; and
- To publish the report

9. KEY ISSUES OF PUBLIC INTEREST

The Board noted a paper which detailed recent issues of public interest which were relevant to the Board's areas of work. Recent news stories of concern will be addressed when PSNI attend the meeting.

10. PRIVATE SESSION WITH THE NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY DIRECTOR GENERAL AND THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Chair welcomed Mr Graeme Biggar, Director General of the National Crime Agency (NCA), and his colleagues to the meeting.

The Director General updated Members on the NCA's recent work, noting that in the past year since his appointment there has been a change in the strategy the NCA are implementing which has resulted in a change to the overall picture of Serious and Organised Crime.

The Director General noted the two most significant things that have happened this year which have influenced Serious and Organised Crime are:

- The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and
- The increase in illegal immigration in small boats across the channel

In respect of the Russian invasion of Ukraine the Director General advised the NCA have set up a specialist taskforce who are engaged in pursuing illicit finance from Putin linked activities through which money has been laundered or invested in the UK. The NCA have intensified efforts which have been in place for the past few years in this regard which has resulted in 85 successful disruptions since February 2022. The Director General added that new legislation (Economic Crime (Transparency and Enforcement) Act 2022) was passed in Westminster earlier this year and another bill is currently going

through Parliament at present, which, if passed, will further the NCA's capabilities to trace illicit finance throughout the UK and internationally and will be beneficial for pursuit of Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) generally, as well as for Russian oligarchs.

In respect of the increase in illegal immigration the UK has seen a significant increase in the amount of migrants crossing the channel illegally with some 70,000 people coming to the UK illegally this year. The Director General advised that this illegal immigration is facilitated through organised crime and as such the NCA, with a range of domestic and international partners, are focused on trying to identify and disrupt these OCGs. The Director General noted they have had some success this year, however the flows of people are regrettably continuing.

In terms of change to the strategy the Director General advised it is his intention to move the organisation more upstream, overseas and online in an effort to target the ever increasing rise in online crime, acknowledging that a lot of online/internet crime is usually international and is very rarely based solely in one country. The Director General added he believes this is where the NCA can have the biggest impact that does not overlap on work already being done by UK police forces.

The Director General updated Members on some recent successful results relevant to Northern Ireland:

- Disruption of the Kinahan OCG who were responsible for a large supply of drugs across the UK and Northern Ireland, resulting in the imposition of Financial Sanctions by the United States Drug Enforcement Agency
- With regard to Asset Recovery the first account freezing order under the Criminal Finances Act in Northern Ireland was applied for in April 2022, coupled with a bankruptcy order for £200k;

- The first Unexplained Wealth Order (UWO) for someone based in Northern Ireland is going through the courts at present;
- Use of a Civil Recovery Order in July 2022 to target a property and bank account of an individual linked to a paramilitary organisation
- A PSNI led operation, with NCA input to bring down/disrupt a modern slavery and human trafficking organisation linked to 27 brothels across Northern Ireland resulting in a number of arrests and charges being brought.

In addition to the above the NCA Director General addressed a range of questions from Members and agreed to provide follow up information concerning:

- NCA budget allocation for Northern Ireland and impact of PSNI budgetary pressures on NCA work
- The percentage of drugs intercepted through the parcel system and work taking place with parcel companies to intercept drugs in transit
- Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
- Sub-groups within paramilitary organisations willing to transition away from criminality.

The Chair thanked the Director General and the NCA officials for their private briefing to the Board and they left the meeting.

11. PRIVATE SESSION WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE INCLUDING CHIEF CONSTABLE'S ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

The Chair welcomed the Chief Constable, Chief Operating Officer (COO) Pamela McCreedy, Assistant Chief Constable Mark McEwan, Assistant Chief Constable Chris Todd, Assistant Chief Officer Corporate Services Mark McNaughten, Assistant Chief Officer People and Organisational Development Ms Clare Duffield, Assistant Chief Officer Strategic Planning and Transformation

Ms Aldrina Magwood, Detective Chief superintendent Zoe McKee, Executive Support Team, and Bobby Parkhill, Strategic Communications & Engagement, and the Director of Strategic Communications and Engagement to the meeting. The Chief Constable advised Members there were a number of issues which would be coming up over the next few weeks that will attract additional scrutiny which the PSNI would like to give Members early warning of:

1. Supreme Court Holiday Pay ruling – The Chief Constable explained that a long standing legal case in respect of the rate and period of entitlement of holiday pay is due to come before the Supreme Court on 14 and 15 December 2022. A decision on the case is expected in 2023 and the Chief Constable advised that, dependent on the judgement, this ruling is likely to have severe financial repercussions not only for the PSNI but for the wider public sector as a whole in terms of applicable back pay. The Chief Constable noted that once a decision has been confirmed in 2023, the consequent financial outworkings are likely to impact budgetary planning exercises going forward for years 2024-25 and beyond.
2. HMIC Inspection – The Chief Constable advised that His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS) will be carrying out a Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) Inspection in the New Year. One of the areas they will be looking at is crime recording, specifically the end to end investigation of crime, from the initial phone call reporting the crime through to prosecution. The Chief Constable noted that he anticipates it is likely the inspection will identify some criticisms with regard to crime recording, specifically that not all crimes are recorded within 24 hours. Members noted the reasons for this include that due to resourcing pressures it is not possible to staff the Contact Management Centres in Northern Ireland on a 24/7 basis, therefore some crimes are not officially recorded until after the 24 hour period. PSNI are currently exploring the possibility of developing a technological solution to help remedy this, however there is nothing

definitive in place at present. The Chief Constable also noted that he believed there was more work to be done in relation to the recording of statistics relating to antisocial behaviour.

3. Op Yurta – The Chief Operating Officer advised that the PSNI are now in receipt of the legal costs in relation to Op Yurta and these will be coming to Resources Committee in due course for approval as an Above Delegated Authority request. For the benefit of the new Members in particular, Board officials to issue information to all Members explaining the history/background to Op Yurta. (AP4)

The Chair asked for Member questions and the following matters were discussed with PSNI Leadership team:

PSNI Budget – The Chief Constable advised that PSNI continues to face significant financial challenges. The Chief Constable noted that only a few weeks ago the PSNI were looking at an overspend of £80m for the 2022-23 financial year, however as a result of savings plans and mitigations identified for £63m and a positive outcome in the Secretary of State's revised budget allocation for 2022-23, resulting in an award of additional funding of £17m this will address the residual in year pressure. As a consequence, for the first time this year the PSNI are able to project close to a break-even position for the full year.

The Chief Constable cautioned however, that although this in-year relief is welcome and avoids a further round of in year cuts, the financial outlook for next year is still daunting and remains uncertain. Based on another flat opening budget baseline, the Chief Constable advised the PSNI could be facing a substantial gap in their opening budget and he expressed his concerns regarding the impact this will have on services to communities.

The Chief Constable advised the Deputy Chief Constable and Chief Operating Officer have recently received proposals from all PSNI Departments on cost saving measures. These will be evaluated against the need to deliver savings and the potential risks and impact on service delivery. The Service Executive Team will consider the final proposals and engage and update the Board through the Resources Committee over the forthcoming months.

The Chief Constable thanked the Board for its efforts in lobbying for a more sustainable funding package to date and asked all Members to continue to do so where possible in the months ahead.

In addition to the above the PSNI Leadership team addressed a range of matters from Members concerning:

- The recent death of Matthew McCallan
- The recent outcome of an Investigatory Powers Tribunal and the PSNI's decision to settle a case just before going into court
- PSNI perspective on the interception of drugs sent through the mail/parcel network
- An update on the Independent Reporting Commission recommendation re Fresh Start funding
- Additional support in the event of a prolonged period of public disorder

The Chair thanked the Chief Constable, Chief Operating Officer Pamela McCreedy, Assistant Chief Constable Mark McEwan, Assistant Chief Constable Chris Todd, Assistant Chief Officer Corporate Services Mark McNaughten, Assistant Chief Officer People and Organisational Development Ms Clare Duffield, Assistant Chief Officer Strategic Planning and Transformation Ms Aldrina Magwood, Detective Chief Superintendent Zoe McKee, Executive Support Team and Bobby Parkhill, Strategic Communications & Engagement, and the Director of Strategic Communications and Engagement, for their private briefing to the Board.

12. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

12.1 Issues Arising from Committees

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

12.2 Committee Written Questions and Responses

There were no responses to Committee questions to note within this period.

12.3 Individual Members' Written Questions and Responses

Members noted the responses received from the Chief Constable in relation to Members written questions and follow up responses to verbal questions from previous Board meetings on 6 October and 3 November 2022.

13. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2023

Members **NOTED** the schedule of meetings from now until 31 May 2023.

14. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

None raised.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was conducted.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 2 February 2023 at 9.30am in Waterside Tower.

The private meeting closed at 11am.

The Board then moved into the public session from 11am to 12.30pm which was held by a video conference facility and livestreamed.

A verbatim recording of the Board meeting in public is available on the Board's YouTube page @nipolicingboard

This was followed by the private session with the National Crime Agency Director General and Chief Constable from 12.50pm to 1.50pm.

Corporate Services

Date: December 2022

Chair