

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2025 AT 1.30PM ON ZOOM

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Mukesh Sharma (Chair)
Mr Brendan Mullan (Vice Chair)
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Miss Nuala McAllister MLA
Mr Gerry Kelly MLA
Mr Peter McReynolds MLA
Mr Alan Chambers MLA

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

Deputy Chief Constable Singleton
ACC Ryan Henderson

BOARD'S HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISOR

Mr John Wadham

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Sinead Simpson, Chief Executive
Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of
Performance
Two Board Officials

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** The Chair opened the meeting and thanked those in attendance at this virtual meeting for their presence at such short notice and in light of 2 nights of violence in Ballymena. He particularly thanked the Deputy Chief Constable and ACC Henderson for taking time to brief Board Members on the ongoing Operation Angle 441 and for the provision of a written updated situation report to inform the briefing to Board Members.

The Board Chair put on record the Board's thanks to PSNI for work being done by PSNI to work towards calming the situation and asked that Members' best wishes be passed on to those officers injured during the violence. He also

condemned the violence and asked Board Members, where possible, to exercise their influence in communities to restore calm.

The Chair then invited the DCC and ACC Henderson to brief Members.

2. PSNI BRIEFING

2.1 The DCC thanked the Board Chair for convening the meeting and welcomed the opportunity to brief Members on the current situation and the significant ongoing police operation. He noted that throughout this operation PSNI are drawing on lessons learned from last year's disturbances and acknowledged the operational, funding and resourcing impact of the current situation. He advised Members that ACC Henderson had taken overall Gold command for this incident (which has now expanded beyond Ballymena) and invited him to provide Members with an operational update.

2.2 ACC Henderson thanked the DCC and Board Members and proceeded to provide an update which included:

- A synopsis of events surrounding the trigger incident which related to an alleged sexual assault of a teenage girl in Ballymena on Saturday 7th June. Members were advised that 2 teenagers had been arrested and charged in relation to the incident.
- A summary of the policing operation and structure put in place to support the peaceful demonstration which took place following the Saturday incident and the circumstances which prevailed when smaller groups broke away from the protest which led to disorder taking place.
- Details on the escalation of police mobilisation since the weekend and that PSNI have now moved to full-service mobilisation which includes emergency 12 hours shift patterns to allow greater numbers of TSUs.
- Details on the tactics being used to address the violence including the use of police dogs, watercannon and AEP rounds.

Members were also advised that this had been declared a critical incident and in parallel with the policing operation, the Civil Contingencies Group (which includes representation from the NIO/DOJ/TEO and others to trigger multi-

agency response) has been stood up which PSNI will chair in the initial phase. PSNI also acknowledged the significant support being received on the ground from the NI Fire & Rescue service as well.

Members were advised of a further press facility taking place later in the day and were advised on the likely resourcing/funding implications of dealing with the disorder to date. PSNI noted concern in respect of potential “copycat” incidents and the wider spread of disorder in the coming days.

3. MEMBER QUESTIONS

3.1 Member questions following the presentation centred on:

- Rumours circulating on social media in respect of a third person potentially involved in the trigger incident.
- Concerns that the disorder could spread province-wide and issues.
- The young age of some participating in the violence and the lack of parental guidance/guardianship being demonstrated.
- The wider criminal justice response and the need for this to be dynamic.
- Any actions which could be taken to disrupt the live streaming of some of these scenes.
- Numbers of arrests made so far in relation to the disorder.
- Mutual Aid – whether a request as been made and if so, how many officers, when would they be available and how they would be deployed.
- The extent to which there is/may be paramilitary involvement in the orchestration of the disorder.
- The use of AEPs – PSNI provided assurances around the authorisation processes in place regarding the use of AEPs including the dynamic assessment process in place and the discriminatory and thoughtful way authorisations for use have been given and rescinded.

The Chair thanked the PSNI for the briefing and also welcomed the statement from the First and Deputy First Minister in relation to the disorder. Members noted that there would likely be a media facility in Ballymena the following day to which the Board Chair was invited to attend.

DCC Singleton and ACC Henderson left the meeting.

4. CONCLUSION

Members considered that a public statement should be issued as there had been reporting in the media that the Board was being briefed. It was agreed that a draft statement be circulated for comment and return by 3pm following which the Board Chair and Vice-Chair would clear the final text for issue.

Members then discussed the invitation for the Board Chair and Vice Chair to attend the media facility in Ballymena the following day and agreed that the Board should be represented.

Finally, the Chief Executive noted the potential for a further briefing from the Chief Constable the following day, particularly in light of the fact that not all Board Members received the invite to today's briefing due to change of IT kit, and advised Members that additional information on this would follow as things developed.

Meeting closed at 2.30pm

STRATEGIC PLANNING & GOVERNANCE

JUNE 2025

Chair