

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 12 JUNE 2025 AT 2.25PM IN JAMES HOUSE AND VIA ZOOM*

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Mukesh Sharma (Chair)
Mr Brendan Mullan (Vice Chair)
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Miss Nuala McAllister MLA
Mrs Linda Dillon MLA
Mr Peter McReynolds MLA
Mr Peter Osborne
Ms Marian Cree
Mr Patrick Nelson
Mr Tommy O'Reilly
Miss Kate Lavery*
Mr Frank McManus*
Mr Alan Chambers MLA*
Mr Mark H Durkan MLA*
Mr Les Allamby

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Jon Boutcher, Chief Constable
ACC Ryan Henderson

BOARD'S HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISOR

Mr John Wadham

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Sinead Simpson, Chief Executive
Two Board Officials

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** The Chair opened the meeting and thanked those in attendance for their presence at short notice and for being available to receive a briefing from the Chief Constable on the last 24 hours following a third night of violence. The Chair noted that Members would welcome being updated on the toll that it is taking on the service, PSNI's resilience and approach to dealing with the ongoing disorder (including in relation to mutual aid support), and work being done at a community level by PSNI and others.

The Chair condemned the violence of the past few days and reiterated the Board's support for PSNI officers going out and again standing between vulnerable families and those who are seeking to intimidate and inflict violence on them. The Chair also acknowledged the work of a significant number of community and voluntary sector groups on the ground across Northern Ireland, as evidenced at the on-line briefing session on Wednesday 11 June

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

2. PSNI BRIEFING

2.1 The Chief Constable thanked the Board for the opportunity to brief Members and commenced by giving a brief update on the ongoing investigation regarding the alleged sexual assault on a teenage girl which triggered the ongoing disorder. Members were advised that following the arrest of 2 teenagers, a third adult male who had been arrested had now been released without charge and is not connected to the crime. The Chief Constable also noted and acknowledged the impact on the young person at the centre of this incident and her family's wish that the Chief Constable would, on their behalf, make a public appeal for the violence to end.

2.2 The Chief Constable's update to Members included:

- Commentary and personal testimony which he had heard regarding the bravery and courage of PSNI officers and also accounts from the NI Fire Service in respect of the levels of disorder being experienced.
- Information on the growing number of officers now injured as a result of the disorder and the increasing number of arrests being made. The Chief Constable noted that in due course and where appropriate to do so, footage of those responsible would be released.
- The tactics being deployed by PSNI to contain the violence including the use of watercannon, the growing number of AEPs deployed and the increasing rhythm of arrests being made.

- The number of mutual aid officers arriving in Northern Ireland, where they would be accommodated and for how long.
- An update on the attack in Larne at a local leisure centre, and,
- An update on positive strategic engagement with communities which took place in Ballymena earlier this morning, and on the previous afternoon.

Looking forward, the Chief Constable acknowledged the uncertainty in terms of how long the disorder could last and noted a number of factors which may have a bearing on this, such as the use of releasing images of those involved, enforcement activities, the plea from the family involved for the violence to stop and the weather.

Following the Chief Constable's comments ACC Henderson provided some additional updates in terms of the current intelligence picture, ad-hoc violence which is breaking out in other areas, full-service mobilisation of PSNI and what that means for resources on the ground, ongoing engagement with minority communities in the Ballymena area and OHW support being provided to injured officers. He also highlighted the dynamic decision making of silver and bronze commanders around the deployment of AEP and water cannon.

3. MEMBER QUESTIONS

3.1 Following the briefing Member questions focussed on:

- The overall intelligence picture regarding this evening (12 June) including in respect of incidents taking place in North Belfast.
- The time taken to deploy resources to the incident at Larne Leisure Centre.
- Whether any role exists for Social Services where parents are allowing children to take part in the violence.
- The stockpiling of materials to use in the disorder and actions being taken to address this.
- Any further actions which can be taken by the Board in support of PSNI.
- The role, if any, of paramilitaries in orchestrating the violence.

- Caution around the use of AEPs, and,
- Actions, if any, which can be taken in respect of social media accounts where racism/live streaming of these events are being published.

4. CONCLUSION

The Chair thanked the Chief Constable and ACC Henderson for the comprehensive update and requested the Board's thanks be passed on to all who continue to work hard to restore calm. The Chair again requested the Board's best wishes be passed on to those officers injured during the disorder.

The private briefing concluded, and this was followed by a media facility in the main James House conference room.

Meeting closed at 3:40pm

STRATEGIC PLANNING & GOVERNANCE

JUNE 2025

Chair