

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 3 JULY 2025 AT 9.30AM IN JAMES HOUSE, BELFAST

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mr Mukesh Sharma (Chair)
- Mr Brendan Mullan (Vice-Chair)
- (1) Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
- (2) Ms Cheryl Brownlee MLA
- (3) Miss Nuala McAllister MLA
- Mr Tommy O'Reilly
- Mr Les Allamby
- (1) Mr Alan Chambers MLA
- (4) Mr Peter McReynolds MLA
- (5) Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
- (6) Mrs Linda Dillon MLA
- Mr Gerry Kelly MLA
- Mrs Marian Cree
- Mr Keith Buchanan MLA
- Mr Patrick Nelson
- Dr Kate Laverty

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (7) Mr Jon Boutcher, Chief Constable
- (7) Mr Bobby Singleton, Deputy Chief Constable
- (7) Ms Pamela McCreedy, Chief Operating Officer
- (7) Mr Mark McNaughten, Assistant Chief Officer Corporate Services
- (7) Mr Anthony McNally, Assistant Chief Constable
- (7) Mr Ryan Henderson, Assistant Chief Constable
- (7) Ms Melanie Jones, Assistant Chief Constable
- (7) Mr Davy Beck, Assistant Chief Constable
- (7) Ms Clare Duffield, Assistant Chief Officer People and Organisational Development
- (7) Ms Aldrina Magwood, Assistant Chief Officer Strategic Planning & Transformation
- (7) Four Officials

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

Mrs Sinead Simpson, Chief Executive
Mr Sam Hagen, Senior Director of Resources
Ms Jenny Passmore, Director of Partnership
Ms Sarah Reid, T/Director of Police Pensions
& Injury Benefits
Four Officials

**OTHER OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr John Wadham, Human Rights Advisor

- (1) Left after public session
- (2) From 9.45am, left after public session
- (3) From 10.45am, left at 1.55pm
- (4) Left at 3pm
- (5) From 9.45am
- (6) Left at 2.25pm
- (7) Item 10 only

The Chair opened the meeting and set out the programme.

Members **AGREED** the agenda.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Peter Osborne, Mr Frank McManus and Mr Mark H Durkan MLA.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

Members did not indicate any matters they wished to raise under 'Any Other Business' at agenda item 12.

3. DRAFT MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING(S):

The Chief Executive asked Members to **NOTE** that the draft minutes from the Board meeting held on 5 June 2025, and the draft minutes of the Special Board meetings held on 11 June 2025 and 12 June 2025 will be shared with Members at a later date to consider and approve for publication by written procedure.

4. QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

4.1 Chief Constable's Accountability Report

Members **NOTED** the Chief Constable's Accountability report to inform discussion with the PSNI Service Executive Team at today's public and private meetings.

4.2 Individual Members Written Questions and Responses

Members **NOTED** the follow up responses from PSNI to verbal questions at the Board meeting on 5 June 2025 and the PSNI responses to Members' written questions since the last meeting.

A Member recorded personal thanks to PSNI for the additional information provided in relation to a follow up question on the digital forensics company Cellebrite.

Members advised of any additional questions to the Chief Constable at the public and private sessions later in the meeting.

4.3 Committee Written Questions and Responses

There were no Committee written questions submitted during the reporting period.

4.4 Key Issues of Public Interest

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

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 Resources Committee – 26 June 2025

The Board **NOTED** the Resources Committee Chair's report of the meeting held on 26 June 2025.

A Committee Member asked about the status of a PSNI Above Delegated Authority request considered by the Committee at this meeting and was advised that a decision to recommend approval has been deferred following a request for further information by the Committee.

5.2 Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) – 19 June 2025

The Board **NOTED** the ARAC Chair's report of the meeting held on 19 June 2025 including the Committee's recommendation that the Accounting Officer sign the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

5.3 Performance Committee – 12 June 2025

The Board **NOTED** the Performance Committee Chair's report and draft minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2025.

5.4 Partnership Committee – 19 June 2025

The Board **NOTED** the Partnership Committee Chair's report and draft minutes of the meeting of the meeting held on 19 June 2025.

The Committee Chair advised of one recommendation in relation to the draft Engagement Strategy 2025-30 and it was subsequently **AGREED** by Members to:

- **APPROVE** the draft Engagement Strategy 2025-30 and publish the strategy on the Board's website.

6. BOARD BUSINESS

6.1 Justice Bill – Clause 22 – Delegation of functions to Members and Officials of the Board

The Chief Executive advised Members that this item was deferred at the Board meeting in June 2025 and referred Members to the clarifications provided in relation to the exercise of Clause 22 and to consider the scheme of delegations previously agreed at the Board meeting in May 2025.

In relation to clarifications, Members were reminded that functions agreed by the Board's Committees for delegation to Officials, in respect of matters where the Committee would normally make a recommendation to the Board, would carry through as delegations from the Board to Officials, and to ensure clarity these have been added to the Board scheme of delegations.

Additionally, the Chief Executive referred to matters in respect of delegations from the Board's Partnership Committee that have been amended to reflect discussions at the Board meeting in May 2025 regarding administration of the Police Property Fund.

Members were asked to:

- **NOTE** the clarifications provided in relation to the exercise of Clause 22, and
- **NOTE** the scheme of delegations for the Board.

6.2 Strategic Deep Dives

The Chief Executive presented a paper for Members to **NOTE** discussions which took place at the Board's Committees in respect of strategic deep dive themes.

As background Members were advised that the Independent Review of the Board recommended that over and above its statutory duties the Board should have a relentless focus on a small number of strategic thematic issues.

The Chief Executive provided a summary of deep dive recommendations following recent discussions at the Board's Committees:

- **Performance Committee** - recommended a deep dive into "Monitoring Community Background in the use of police powers" and, while acknowledging the work of PSNI in this area, and second, of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and gender based violence.
- **Partnership Committee** – recommended targeted academic work on how the Board can assert its good authority in advocating and supporting policing with the community, especially within communities where trust in policing has been historically low.
- **Resources Committee** - recommended the broad topic of Human Resources in PSNI with the exact scope to be determined by the Committee and secondly Firearms Licensing in respect of seeking

assurance that the system is being operated as efficiently and effectively as possible.

The Chief Executive outlined a benchmark approach to assess these recommendations to determine whether they merit the attention and resources that a deep dive would bring.

This benchmark includes assessing the strategic nature of the topic and whether it contributes to the objectives or outcomes of the Policing Plan. Consideration also needed to be given to whether the “ask” is deliverable..

Members were provided with an assessment of each suggestion against the benchmark and some early thoughts on how each could be delivered.

In relation to costs, the Chief Executive advised these were difficult to define in the absence of establishing the exact scope of the deep dive and without further discussions with delivery partners, however, this work can likely be managed by phasing work streams to align with internal staffing capacity at the Board and as part of the work of Committees.

Members raised the following matters:

- Support for the focused approach outlined along with the benefits of deep dives to redirect the work of Committees to deliver measurable outcomes; the need to follow a phased approach for delivery of the deep dive topics; and the view from some Members that expertise and experience exists within the Board and therefore there is limited need to engage external consultancy and add significant costs.
- Concerns regarding the suggested deep dive into ‘Monitoring Community Background in use of police powers’ given ongoing issues regarding data integrity at point of collection and the lack of progress

made over the years and how this has impacted on confidence in policing due to a negative perception of impartiality across communities.

Additionally, there was recognition of progress being made as part of a Community Background Monitoring (CBM) pilot on the collection of community background data from Stop & Search using the relevant Justice and Security (NI) Act (JSA) powers, and to request an update from PSNI on progress being made; the need to identify best practice across the UK to confirm it can be as success in NI with recognition of the differences in NI; the role of the Board to provide support and a methodology by utilising Members expertise; and whether the deep dive should reference any relevant recommendations from the Board's Human Rights Advisor's annual report.

- Support for the deep dive into PSNI Human Resources given ongoing concerns in relation to high levels of sickness/absence; the view that the Board's Resources Committee does not have the capacity for additional deep dive workload and historical issues persist which require a focus on what can be done differently; and the role of the Board as part of its governance responsibilities to ensure performance is properly scrutinised.
- A deep dive on Firearms Licensing should be wide ranging given concerns raised in the past regarding failures of the licensing system, and to explore options for the potential involvement of other bodies including Internal Audit, the NI Audit Office, PSNI ARAC, and the Criminal Justice Inspection NI.

Following discussion Members **AGREED** to initially focus on three areas for strategic deep dives with a phased approach to this work: **(AP1)**

1. **Stop & Search and the monitoring of Community Background** – To engage with Members over the summer period in relation to draft Terms of Reference (TOR).
2. **To address building confidence in policing** within communities where trust in policing has been historically low and to consider how this could be progressed by way of academic research.
3. **Effective processing of Firearms licensing** - To consider how an audit office style report on this process can be progressed.

It was **AGREED** to issue correspondence to PSNI outlining the deep dive topics and the phased approach to them and to indicate the issues for future deep dive topics. **(AP2)**

6.3 Appointment of new Human Rights Advisor to the NI Policing Board

The Panel Chair for the appointment of a new Human Rights Advisor at the Board provided Members with an update on the recruitment process including confirmation of the preferred candidate, that two reserve candidates have been selected by the Panel, and the preferred candidate has accepted the position and is expected to take up the position of Human Rights Advisor to the NI Policing Board when security clearance has been completed.

The Board Chair and Vice Chair thanked the Panel Chair and Panel Members for their time and dedication to the recruitment process.

Members **NOTED** the update provided.

6.4 Human Rights Annual Report 2024 - 25

The Board's Human Rights Advisor (HRA) presented Members with the final draft of the Human Rights Annual Report 2024-25 and a final draft Executive Summary.

The HRA provided an overview of the NI Policing Board's Human Rights Annual Report for 2024-25, which examined 12 important areas of policing in Northern Ireland and provided an assessment of PSNI's current performance of each, and the 10 strategic recommendations made.

In-depth analysis included hate crime and a specific focus on PSNI's treatment of minority groups; a PSNI pilot to collate statistics on community background as part of stop and search with an assessment of PSNI's use of stop and search; and the recent inspection by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office of the covert surveillance arrangements of PSNI.

In relation to Recommendation 10 and the provisions which should apply to any future outsourced investigations/ independent reviews the Board's Performance Committee did not finalise the exact wording of the recommendation and Members were provided with an overview of 3 alternative options.

In relation to the 3 options outlined Members discussed the benefits of using independent external Forces as part of future outsourced arrangements for independent reviews and the role of the Board in the consultation and selection process; the decision making process and selection criteria for using certain external Forces; matters relating to potential conflicts of interest for PSNI and the need for the Board to be fully independent; the need for the Board to have sight of draft/ final reports and draft TOR; that the Board should not be involved with PSNI operational matters including outsourced investigations but should have a role with independent reviews; and the impact on the Board and its ability to function effectively if it is excluded from certain investigations.

In response the Chief Executive advised Members of correspondence issued to the Chief Constable in November 2024 following a briefing to the Board from the Head of Operation Kenova and the Board's expectations for arrangements in relation to independent investigations and reviews.

Following discussion of the wording for Recommendation 10 and feedback on the 3 options outlined, Members were provided with a new draft for consideration.

Members discussed the proposed language and whether it should demonstrate a more robust approach with clearer intent; that a distinction is made between independent investigations and reviews to ensure clarity; preference for wording of previous versions of the Recommendation (option 1 or 3); the need for the Board to be consulted on certain matters as opposed to being advised on others; governance/ consultation arrangements; whether there are fundamental changes to the role of the Board as part of the outworkings of Operation Kenova; and the need to have a clear separation between PSNI and commissioned independent investigations.

A Member raised concerns in respect of the wording of Recommendations 2 and 4 and following discussion an amendment was made to Recommendation 2, and a disclaimer was added to reflect that not every Member of the Board endorses each and every part of the Human Rights annual report.

Following discussion Members:

- **AGREED** the revised wording for Recommendation 10, and
- **APPROVED** the final draft Executive Summary and the final draft Human Rights Annual Report 2024-25, subject to the implementation of the amendments discussed, with final checks to remove typographical errors, and

- **AGREED** that both documents be published.

6.5 NI Policing Board Chief Executive Performance Review and Objectives 2025-26

The Chair advised that this item was a reserved matter for Members only and requested all Board Officials not required for the purposes of minute taking to leave the meeting for this item.

Following the withdrawal of Board officials, the Board Chair thanked Members for their input and briefed the Board on the paper provided which included details of his year-end discussion with the Chief Executive and proposed objectives for the Chief Executive for the 2025-26 year.

During discussions Members agreed 2 minor amendments to one of the Chief Executives Priorities for the 2025-26 year.

Following consideration, the Board:

- **AGREED** the revised Individual Performance Review (IPR) Objectives for the NIPB Chief Executive for the 2025-26 year.

Board Officials rejoined the meeting at this point.

7. ACTION LOG

Members **NOTED** the action log for the Board meetings held on 5 June 2025, 8 May 2025, 3 April 2025, 6 March 2025 and 6 February 2025.

In relation to the open action points from the Board meeting on 5 June 2025 the Chief Executive provided the following updates:

- Action point 2 – this relates to a Member written question on the PSNI dedicated Illegal Money lending Officer and a written response has been received. The Member was advised there will be an opportunity to raise the matter with PSNI later in the meeting and this action can now be closed.
- Action point 3 – this relates to the Chief Constable's performance objectives for 2025-26. The revised objectives have been shared with the Chief Constable for comment, and due to operational priorities a response is awaited and will be shared with Members.
- Action point 4 – the NIPB Business plan has been shared with Department of Justice (DOJ) for approval and a response is awaited.
- Action point 5 – this relates to an update on the PSNI Code of Ethics and Members will be briefed following the conclusion of the public consultation. This action can now be closed.
- Action point 6 – a response had been received from PSNI in relation to the NI Audit Office Continuous Improvement Arrangements in Policing Report, outlining PSNI's observations of the recommendations. This action can now be closed.
- Action point 7 – this relates to the Board's comments on the Public Interest Immunity Policy and this action can now be closed.
- Action point 8 – this relates to Whistleblower correspondence issued to DOJ. This matter will be followed up at a future Board meeting and this action can now be closed.
- Action point 9 – this relates to the proposed formation of a small group of Members to discuss the issue of political dominance referenced in the

Independent Review of the Board Report. This matter will be discussed later in the meeting and this action can now be closed.

- Action point 10 – this relates to deep dives topics following discussion at the Board's Committees. This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting and this action can now be closed.
- Action point 11 – correspondence was issued to the Chief Constable on the issues raised by Members on the TOR for the VAWG review and a response has been received.

A follow up response will now be issued regarding the VAWG work being undertaken by an Independent KC highlighting the Board's previous correspondence on this matter in November 2024 and include the Board's views from earlier in the meeting in respect of Recommendation 10 of the Human Rights Annual Report regarding the independent reviews of PSNI work areas. **(AP3)**

- Action point 12 – in relation to PSNI funding for legacy cases correspondence has been issued on funding more generally as well as legacy and this action can now be closed.

In relation to action point 6 from the Board meeting on 6 February 2025 and the schedule for publication of the McCullough Review report it was agreed that correspondence be issued to PSNI to set out the Board's expectations regarding access to the final report, briefings with key stakeholders, publication arrangements, and to emphasise that whilst the Chief Constable commissioned the work the Board has previously made it clear that the report is submitted to the Board under the Section 59 procedure. **(AP4)**

Members raised the following matters with the Chief Executive:

- The publication schedule of the McCullough Review report provides the Board with sufficient time to consider the report in advance of a

scheduled Board meeting; that the report meets the requirements under Section 59 and implications if it does not; the joint nature of the report involving PSNI and the Board; and whether the Board will receive the report at the same time as PSNI.

In response the HRA outlined the process in respect of report disclosure and redactions and his role with oversight of all versions of the final report to provide the Board with the necessary assurance.

- Concerns regarding the Chief Constable's response on the VAWG review TOR as these have been agreed without prior engagement or consultation with the Board, and the need for Recommendation 10 from the HRA annual report to apply as part of defining the Board's expectations in future.

Members **NOTED** the updates provided.

8. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

The Chair drew Members attention to the following matters in respect of the Sweeney Independent Review of the Board.

The Chair reminded Members that it was agreed at the Board meeting in June 2025 that independent Members would provide further information on the issue of political dominance within the Board, as highlighted in the Independent Review Report, and that one member would collate views which would then be considered by the small working group set up to consider the Independent Review Report recommendations before further consideration by the full Board.

(AP5)

Additionally, Members were advised that a recommendation in the Independent Review Report highlighted the need to redefine the Board's relationship with the

PSNI Service Executive Team (SET) to ensure it was “based on mutual respect, openness, transparency and purpose”.

This recommendation was accepted in the Board’s response to the Review Report and the Chief Executive highlighted the success of previous Board development events with PSNI as a means of fostering collaboration and teamwork and focussing discussions on strategic thematic issues.

The Chair proposed that Board Members meet with PSNI SET in the coming weeks to acknowledge recent operational challenges and thank them for their work, and open up discussions on other thematic issues which would further develop effective working relationships, and it was agreed that Board Officials will plan accordingly. **(AP6)**

Members **NOTED** the updates provided.

8.1 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 6 June 2025 to 3 24 June 2025.
- A full list of correspondence issued and received by the Chair during the period 6 June 2025 to 2 July 2025.

In respect of engagements which may be of particular interest Members were referred to Appendix 1A of the report for a summary of the key issues discussed.

The Chair did not highlight any engagements and in relation to correspondence drew Members attention to the following:

- Several items of correspondence regarding PSNI funding and the involvement of key stakeholders including the Secretary of State (SOS) for Northern Ireland, the Finance Minister, the Chief Constable and the Board Chair.
- Correspondence between the Chief Constable and the Executive Committee of the NI Assembly in relation to recent public disorder including the policing response and bringing offenders to justice. Members were also referred to correspondence from church leaders to offer encouragement and support for policing at this difficult time.
- Correspondence from the Chief Constable in relation to the Assistant Chief Officer Strategic Planning & Transformation role following the agreement by the Board to two further one year extensions of the role, and that following a request and subsequent provision of key deliverables over the next 2 years, and confirmation from PSNI that in the long term the organisation would benefit from continued leadership beyond a two year period. Members were advised this matter will be brought back to the Board at a future meeting.

Members discussed correspondence to the NI SOS in relation to legacy funding and the extent of the Board's involvement to facilitate discussions and to remain politically neutral; the role of the Board to hold the PSNI to account, particularly in the public session as part of its scrutiny role; the Board's role as an arm's length body to advocate for PSNI as well as to highlight inefficiencies/ areas for improvement, for example, in respect of labour utilisation and estate rationalisation; support for the strategic deep dives discussed earlier in the meeting to focus on key themes and hold PSNI to account; and the purpose of the new Policing Plan as part of a new approach to measure key outcomes in policing.

Members **NOTED** the updates provided.

9. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

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

The Chief Executive drew Members attention to the following matters:

- The Board and Committee meetings schedule for the remainder of 2025 has been provided for Members information and as previously advised there is a change to the Board meeting date in December 2025.

In relation to the date of the Board's Audit and Risk Assurance in September it has been confirmed as the originally scheduled date of 25 September 2025.

- In relation to the Omagh Bombing Inquiry the Board has received the Determination from the Chair of the Inquiry that the application for Core Participant Status will not be granted. The decision will not be appealed.
- On Finance there is no further update since the last Board meeting In June 2025, and the results of June Monitoring is awaited.
- On the Board's Management Accounts, end of May accounts show an underspend of almost £60k and the reasons have been provided in the paper.
- In relation to ARAC the Board has received a clear audit certificate and the Annual Accounts will be laid in the NI Assembly in the coming days. The Chief Executive put on record thanks to the Board's Finance team

led by the Director of Resources, and the work of the Strategic Planning and Governance Manager, Communications manager and their teams in delivering this piece of work.

- In relation to information management, work continues to manage a backlog of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, reviews of Board decisions on FOIs, and Data Protection Act requests. It is anticipated that the completion of recent recruitment activity will help provide the team with additional support.
- Upcoming dates for Attestation ceremonies have been provided for information should Members wish to attend, and Board Officials will follow up with Members to confirm dates for the upcoming TEAM PSNI events.
- The Policing Plan Survey official statistics have been published and the main findings have been provided in the Chief Executive's report and full survey results have been published on the Board's website..
- In relation to the provision of IT equipment all Independent Members have been issued with IT Assist Laptops and work continues to explore connectivity solutions for NI Assembly devices used at James House and options available to ensure Members receive a timely notification when communication has been issued.
- The Mid Ulster District Council has ratified the decision to purchase the Desertcreat site following the Board's decision to grant a 3 month period for completion, and work continues to schedule contractual obligations and confirm a completion date.
- The Director of Partnership will be leaving the Board in December 2025 and temporary cover will be put in place pending a review of the Board's Senior Management structure.

- Additionally, a Board Staff Officer competition has recently concluded to fill existing vacancies and appointable candidates are expected to take up their roles subject to security clearance, with the merit list remaining live for 2 years to fill additional recruitment needs at this level.
- A recruitment competition for Executive Officers (1) will be launched after the summer period.
- In relation to privacy issues at the public meeting in June 2025 Members were advised to remain vigilant regarding data protection in the presence of the media.

The Chief Executive highlighted correspondence in respect of the development of a Memorandum of Understanding on mutual aid between PSNI and An Garda Síochána to expedite requests of a particular nature in future, and this will be taken forward by the Board's Resources Committee.

Members **NOTED** the updates provided.

9.1 2025 International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference

The Chief Executive presented a paper and advised that following an initial discussion at the June 2025 Board meeting Members requested further information and further details on the 2025 IACP conference including the participation bid and the proposed Board's engagement.

Members were provided with background on IACP; the joint bid from DOJ and PSNI to participate at IACP 2025 and present on the topic of "Policing is too important to leave it to the police alone – building legitimacy, trust and confidence in a post conflict Northern Ireland justice system"; timings of the presentation and speakers involved from PSNI/ DOJ; and considerations

including costs to participate, potential benefits; and the number of attendees from the Board should the decision be taken to attend.

Members supported the Board's attendance at the conference; requested clarity on the role and number of attendees as delegates and/or speakers; and a Member recorded some concern at the Board, which is part of the new policing arrangements, being part of a delegation including the RUC GC Foundation.

Members discussed the number of attendees from the Board and the potential make-up of the delegation to include the Chair, Members, and senior Board Officials.

Members **NOTED** the updates provided in the paper and it was **AGREED** by a majority of Members that the Board Chair, Chief Executive and one Senior Board Official should attend the IACP 2025 as representatives of the Board.

10. PRIVATE SESSION WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE AND PSNI SERVICE EXECUTIVE TEAM

The Chair welcomed everyone to the private session of the meeting and as the Chief Constable had no initial comments to make in the private session, the Chair moved directly to Board Member questions.

The Chair asked the Chief Constable to comment on PSNI's current use of drone technology; its impact if any on PSNI use of helicopters and any benefits (including in respect of cost) being realised as a result of the use of drones. PSNI discussed the contribution of the Air Support Unit in managing the recent disorder, the challenges of an ageing helicopter fleet including high maintenance costs, current limitations on the use of drones due to CAA regulations, and progress in respect of a business case to support investment in the Air Support Unit.

In response to a Member's question on any lessons which have been learned following the recent disorder, while acknowledging that some images did not show the PSNI response in the best light, the Chief Constable noted overall positive response from communities and that communication between PSNI and the affected communities had been very positive. PSNI also updated Members on the debrief process following this critical incident, and how lessons learned following last year's disorder had led to the more confident use and deployment of some tactics during the recent disorder in Ballymena and more widely. Members also discussed with PSNI what the likelihood is of similar circumstances developing in future and the importance of the first 24-48 hour initial response from PSNI and other agencies.

Other areas discussed in private session included:

- Progress in respect of the review of CPU.
- Priorities in terms of the deployment of the 76 new officers anticipated to join PSNI this year and what this means for decisions in respect of moving other more experienced officers to specialist roles/departments.
- Any ongoing work to facilitate lateral entry transfers from officers serving in other jurisdictions who wish to join PSNI.

The Chair thanked the Chief Constable and members of the wider PSNI SET and they left the meeting.

11. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

The Communications manager provided an update on upcoming activity in relation to the Board's areas of work.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 4 September 2025 at 9.30am in James House.

The meeting closed at 3.40pm.

Strategic Planning & Governance
July 2025

Chair