

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 9.05AM IN JAMES HOUSE, BELFAST**

#### **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Mr Mukesh Sharma (Chair)
- Mr Brendan Mullan (Vice-Chair)
- Mrs Marian Cree
- (1) Ms Cheryl Brownlee MLA
- (2) Miss Nuala McAllister MLA
- Mr Tommy O'Reilly
- Mr Les Allamby
- (3) Mr Alan Chambers MLA
- (4) Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
- Mrs Linda Dillon MLA
- (5) Mr Gerry Kelly MLA
- Mr Keith Buchanan MLA
- (6) Mr Patrick Nelson
- Dr Kate Lavery
- (4) Mr Peter Osborne
- (7) Mr Frank McManus
- (8) Mr Colin McGrath MLA

#### **POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**(9)** Four Officers/ Staff

**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  
Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of  
Performance  
Ms Sarah Reid, T/Director of Police  
Pensions & Injury Benefits  
Ms Paula Gow, T/Director of Partnership  
Four Officials

- (1)** From 9.35am, left at 2.30pm
- (2)** From 9.30am, left after public meeting
- (3)** From 9.50am, left after public meeting
- (4)** From 09.20am
- (5)** Left after public meeting
- (6)** Left at 3pm
- (7)** From 10am, left at 3.10pm
- (8)** From 9.10am left after public meeting
- (9)** Items 6.1 & 10 only
- (10)** Item 6.1 only

The Chair opened the meeting and set out the programme.

Members were reminded of the care that is needed in respect of protecting the confidentiality of Board business and requested that all electronic devices were turned off or placed in silent mode for the duration of the meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr Peter McReynolds MLA and Mr Cathal Boylan MLA.

Members **AGREED** the agenda.

## **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 MEETINGS:**

### **3.1 Thursday 2 October 2025**

The Chair asked Members to consider the draft minutes of the Board meeting held on Thursday 2 October 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- Subject to updating a Members' attendance the minutes of the Board meeting held on Thursday 2 October 2025 be **APPROVED** for publication on the Board's website.

### **3.2 Wednesday 1 October 2025 – Special Meeting**

The Chair asked Members to consider the draft minutes of the Special Board meeting held on Wednesday 1 October 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- The minutes of the Special Board meeting held on Wednesday 1 October 2025 be **APPROVED** for publication on the Board's website.

### **3.3 Tuesday 23 September 2025 – Special Meeting**

The Chair asked Members to consider the draft minutes of the Special Board meeting held on Tuesday 23 September 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- The minutes of the Special Board meeting held on Tuesday 23 September 2025 be **APPROVED** for publication on the Board's website.

## **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 leadership team at today's meetings in public and in private.

### **4.2 Individual Members Written Questions and Responses**

Members **NOTED** the follow up responses from PSNI to oral questions at the Board meeting held on 2 October 2025 and the PSNI responses to Members' written questions since the last 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.

Members advised the Chair and Chief Executive of additional questions for the Chief Constable and PSNI leadership team at the public and private sessions later in the meeting.

## **5. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **5.1 Discipline Committee – Friday 3 October 2025**

The Board **NOTED** the Discipline Committee Chair's report of the meeting held on Friday 3 October 2025.

### **5.2 Performance Committee – Thursday 9 October 2025**

The Board **NOTED** the Performance Committee Chair's report and draft minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9 October 2025.

### **5.3 Resources Committee – Thursday 23 October 2025**

The Board **NOTED** the Resources Committee Chair's report of the meeting held on Thursday 23 October 2025.

The Director of Resources advised Members of the Committee recommendation to approve two PSNI Above Delegated Authority requests for legacy related compensation cases.

A Member asked for clarification regarding the PSNI budget allocation to settle cases of this type and was advised that affordability had been determined as part of the budgetary planning process.

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

- **APPROVE** the two PSNI Above Delegated Authority Request outlined for the legacy related compensation cases.

## **6. BOARD BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Briefing on how PSNI is making effective use of available resources**

The Chair welcomed the Chief Constable and Service Executive Team (SET) to the meeting and thanked the PSNI leadership team for taking the time to brief the Board in respect of ongoing efforts to enhance efficiency, drive transformation, and ensure long-term sustainability amidst a challenging operating environment.

The Chief Constable and Chief Operating Officer provided opening remarks on the resourcing challenges and service impacts facing PSNI due to a continuing lack of support to fund the Service at the required level; work taking place to maximise effectiveness and efficiency; transformation initiatives; enablers for change; and legacy.

The Deputy Chief Constable briefed Members on 'service impacts, and covered the following:

- Overview of how sustained budget pressures are critically eroding PSNI's ability to deliver core policing functions in the areas of neighbourhood policing, non-emergency and emergency call times, investigation capabilities, and offender management.
- Wider consequences and impact on public safety outcomes including road safety, enquiry office closures, ability to respond to public disorder,

health and social care dependence, and increasing pressure from partner agencies.

- Performance assurance provided by His Majesty Inspectorate and Constabulary (HMIC) with an overall 'good' rating from 6 inspections since 2015. Recent concerns from HMIC highlight 'concerns about the performance of the service in keeping people safe, preventing crime and providing victims with an effective service'.

The Chief Operating Officer highlighted the following matters in respect of the 'Efficiency and Effectiveness' of PSNI:

- 25-year journey since the Patten Report in 2001 and the establishment of new policing arrangements, with approximately 80% of report recommendations implemented, and the current challenge of an ongoing reduction in Officer and Staff numbers.
- Non – pay costs lower today than in 2010-11 and over the same period PSNI has removed 40% of non-pay costs, and options to reduce further is extremely limited with 99% of non-pay costs being contractual, and overall non-pay costs are lower today as a proportion of total costs than in 2010-11 [21% vs 18%].  
99% of expenditure is effectively unavoidable, and in relation to the budget context, over the past 5 years the challenge has been a reliance on in-year funding to address a consistent budget shortfall.

The Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) for Strategic Planning and Transformation provided an update on PSNI 'Transformation', covering the following areas:

- Transformation is aligned with Policing Plan Outcome 3 and making the best use of Resources, under the key priorities of victim focus, community focus, and workforce focus, and there are difficult choices

and challenges compared to other UK Forces to improve measurable outcomes and ensure financial sustainability.

- Overview of the 'TEAM PSNI' approach supported by the Service Operating Model with Culture at the centre supported by the following elements:
  1. Our People – Officers & Staff
  2. Technology & Assets
  3. Process (es)
  4. Performance Management
  5. Governance & Decision making
  6. Partners & Stakeholders
- Paths to sustainability include workforce recovery underpinned by business case objectives, and a transformation programme which incorporates 3 key themes - workforce modernisation, efficiency & effectiveness and demand management.

In relation to Theme 1 and 'Workforce Modernisation' the Superintendent in the meeting provided an update on the Video Officer Attendance Team (VOAT) digital model for dealing with volume crime, maximising the efficiency of the workforce and providing role adjusted officers with meaningful work; an overview of the pilot scheme launched in April 2025; a video demonstration of VOAT; savings and efficiencies of VOAT; victim feedback comments; and next steps following a successful pilot including plans to expand the service to 3 hubs to increase confidence in policing, and offer more choice and appointments for victims of crime.

In relation to Theme 2, 'Efficiency & Effectiveness', the ACO for Corporate Services outlined areas of digital change including Voice 2 Text; collision reporting (Mobile App); My PSNI Portal; utilising Artificial Intelligence (AI)



agents to carry out tasks; and making use of available platforms to build AI agents.

In respect of Theme 3, 'Demand Management', Assistant Chief Constable McNally and the ACO for Corporate Services outlined the following points:

- The goal of understanding current and future demand, moving from a reactive to proactive service, and measures to remove or reduce service demand, for example, working in partnership to ensure an appropriate response to non-core policing demand (Right Care Right Person), and embedding new ways of working/ innovation.
- Enabling strategies include estate services and a reduction in the number of stations to generate capital receipts, future actions to achieve value for money, the strategic rationalisation and transformation of Greater Belfast, wider asset management plans, and environmental sustainability.
- Digital enabling strategies including the new 'Digital Strategy 2025-30', with a focus on Digital Engagement, Digital Investigation & Transformation, Digital Collaboration, and Mobility.
- Fleet enabling strategies include modernisation of the vehicle fleet, increasing the number of liveried vehicles, working towards a low emission fleet, exploring electric vehicles options including bikes and scooters, and an overall reduction in fleet size.
- The impact of existing legislation and/ or legislative changes on efficiency & effectiveness and financial stability due to the funding required to support implementation.

Legislative framework enablers and the need to provide a suite of new offenses including domestic abuse, stalking, and non-fatal strangulation.

However, challenges include the lack of additional funding to implement the costs of legislative change including IT, recurrent costs of annually mandated training, and costs associated with biometrics and retention periods.

Other areas of change include a legislative review of firearms licensing; a review of public order legislation and introducing specific offenses similar to other UK Forces, including locking on, being equipped to lock on, and interfering with national infrastructure; a review of Anti-Social Behaviour legislation; and a review of the Justice Healthcare model, for example, using nurse practitioners rather than Force Medical Officers.

- Key differences in the role of policing in justice and society compared to the rest of the UK, including the unique security situation in NI; the Summons process; work with the wider Justice family including Courts and the execution of fine enforcement warrants, prisoner transport and court attendances; additional administration costs associated with file building for the Public Prosecution Service; and civil contingencies with PSNI designated as the Category 1 responder for civil emergencies.
- In relation to 'Legacy', escalating costs which do not have ring fenced funding in support of legacy related matters including Public Inquiries, servicing the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery and its evolution, demand from Inquests, and civil investigations.

The Chief Constable provided closing remarks on the substantial impact on service delivery from a sustained reduction in Officer numbers, the positive impact of the VOAT pilot, the need for a change in approach regarding legacy related issues, work taking place to manage adjusted duties, sickness absence, and Ill Health Retirement; the goal to have a more proactive approach to police reform; identifying and implementing best practice following an analysis of other Forces across the UK; and the need for PSNI to be properly funded to address

and resolve current challenges to ensure Northern Ireland remains a safe place to live for all its citizens.

The Chair thanked the Chief Constable and the leadership team for their briefing to the Board and Members raised the following matters:

- PSNI's ability to manage offenders and risk management given the ongoing resourcing challenges and whether more can be done to use technology to drive out efficiencies or release officers to address high harm/vulnerability areas of business.
- Clarification on the breakdown of non-pay costs; whether the goal should be to establish more than 3 VOAT hubs given the success of the pilot scheme; and work taking place to address the high numbers on adjusted duties and high levels of sickness absence.
- Consideration given to legislative change for Professional Standards and support for RCRP as part of a holistic approach involving wider agencies including Health, as the PSNI continues to face health related pressures as the service of first and last resort.
- View that opportunities have been available in the past for PSNI to improve effectiveness and efficiency, for example, in the areas of estate disposals and firearms licensing.

The Chair thanked the Chief Constable and his team for the briefing to the Board and the private meeting was adjourned.

## **6.2 25 Year Anniversary of new Policing arrangements**

The Chief Executive asked Members to **NOTE** a paper providing an update on preparations for the 25 year anniversary of new Policing arrangements in NI.

Following discussion Members were content that another meeting of the working group established to take forward plans for the 25 year programme of events be convened in the coming weeks, noting that representatives from Queens University Belfast and University of Ulster will also be in attendance.

**(AP1)**

## **7. ACTION LOG**

Members **NOTED** the action log for the Board meetings held on 2 October 2025, 4 September 2025, and 3 July 2025.

In relation to the open action points from the Board meeting held on 2 October 2025 the Chief Executive provided the following updates:

- Action point 7 – this relates to the delivery of initiatives by Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) to support confidence in policing and has been referred to the Board’s Partnership Committee. This action can now be closed.
- Action 9 – this relates to the Board’s draft submission to the NI Affairs Committee (NIAC) Inquiry into Policing and Security in NI and will be discussed later in the meeting at agenda item 8.2.

In relation to action point 5 from the meeting in July 2025, the matter highlighted by the independent review of the Board on real or perceived political dominance will be discussed by the working group at its next meeting, scheduled at the end of November 2025.

Members **NOTED** the updates provided.

## **8. CHAIRPERSON’S BUSINESS**

## 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 October 2025 to 30 October 2025.
- A full list of correspondence issued and received by the Chair during the period 1 October 2025 to 4 November 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.

In relation to correspondence the Chair drew Members' attention to the following matters:

- Correspondence from PSNI in response to concerns raised by Members in relation to engagement with minority associations on the PSNI Inclusion survey.
- Correspondence from the Chief Constable on the McCullough review report and a detailed response to the recommendations, and it was suggested that Officials and the Board's Human Rights Advisor (HRA) review the material and provide an update at the next Board meeting in December 2025. **(AP2)**
- Correspondence from the Law Society on the findings of the McCullough Review and that the Board invokes its powers under s.60, and Members were referred to other items of correspondence issued in relation to the Board's agreed actions.

- Copies of correspondence from the Chief Constable to the Justice Minister and Department of Finance (DOF) in relation to the Police pay award, and to His Majesty's Treasury regarding funding for the PSNI data breach.
- Correspondence from the Justice Minister regarding the Ill Health Retirement scheme, and that Officials were considering a response on this matter.
- Overview of Board business in the coming months, including an update on Policing Plan outcome 2, 'We have safe and engaged communities with confidence in policing', and a meeting with the National Crime Agency Director General in December 2025, a Board Member development event planned in January 2026, and a review of outcome 3 of the policing plan in February 2026.

Members were advised of other meetings for the Board in the coming months including a discussion on the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) review being undertaken by Rachel Langdale KC, a meeting with the Justice Minister, and an update on Operation Kenova following completion of the final report.

Members raised the following matters:

- Clarification on the status of the response from the Justice Minister on the review of the Board recommendations.
- That a copy of correspondence issued to the Justice Minister on dealing with assaults on police by way of penalty notices or Community Resolution Notices be shared with Members, and Officials agreed to action accordingly. **(AP3)**

- Correspondence from the Police Leadership Commission regarding a review of police leadership at all levels and whether the Board will be submitting a formal response.  
Members were advised that the Board will not be submitting a formal response and will be updated of any changes which result in a blueprint for police leadership at a national level.
- Status of response to correspondence from the Law Society in relation to the McCullough Review report, and Members were advised this has been issued and included in the Chair's report.
- Correspondence from the Chief Constable in relation to the McCullough Review report and reference to Senior Counsel being instructed to provide an assessment of any misconduct or criminality by any member of PSNI, and that this will also cover a practice known as the 'defensive operation' by the PSNI.
- Update on the President of the National Black Police Association and scheduled return to PSNI following a period of secondment..
- Correspondence from the Chief Constable to His Majesty's Treasury (HMT) on the PSNI data breach compensation in respect of the rejection of a reserve claim, and whether the Board should respond on this matter. Members discussed adherence to protocols and norms and acknowledged the limits to available options; a Member indicated support for this direct approach and the Board's role to hold PSNI to account; the alternative option to write to the Justice Minister and copy in HMT; and to include reference to legacy funding.

Following discussion it was **AGREED** to write to the Department of Justice outlining the Board's support for the Chief Constable on funding for the data breach compensation and supportive of the view that HMT

should be funding legacy related matters, and to ensure HMT get a copy of the correspondence. **(AP4)**

- Plans for the next Board development event in January 2026, and the programme will take account of a scheduled PSNI Attestation scheduled at this time.

Members **NOTED** the updates provided.

## **8.2 Draft submission to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee**

The Chief Executive presented a paper to Members, drafted by the communications manager, with contributions from the Chair, SMT and the Board's HRA, to provide Members with the Board's proposed response to the NIAC Inquiry on the main challenges facing policing and security in Northern Ireland.

Members were advised that the paper addresses as many of the elements as possible within the terms of the NIAC inquiry and seeks to reflect the successes and challenges over the last 24 years.

The Board has also been granted an extension to submit a response and Members were asked to provide views in advance of the deadline of 12 November 2025.

A Member suggested the following additions to the draft submission and Officials agreed to action the following suggestions: **(AP5)**

- In relation to embedding human rights, to reference that it is based on the European Convention on Human Rights treaty as incorporated by the Human Rights Act 1998.



- In relation to the PRÜM Convention and the data sharing operation for law enforcement cooperation within the European Union, to include reference to data sharing challenges including biometric data (particularly between NI, Ireland, and Italy), and the UK government response to restoring these capabilities post Brexit.
- Duplication of work by PSNI and the Legacy Commission in relation to the NI Troubles Bill, given that PSNI will be required to identify sensitive/prejudicial information before sharing with the Commission, following which the Legacy Commission will complete the same process.

Members **NOTED** the update provided and timeline to submit views on the draft submission.

### 8.3 2026 Schedule of Meetings

Following discussions with PSNI the Chair asked Members to **NOTE** the final version of the 2026 schedule of Board and Committee meetings.

## 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 in the report:

- In relation to Finance and the Board's management accounts, the outcome of the latest monitoring round exercise produced an easement with an explanation provided.

An easement is reported for salaries in recent months due to labour turnover and the anticipated gap before staff will be replaced, and highlighted other easements spread across several budget lines.

- On governance matters, the corporate & business plan performance report has been provided as a summary of progress made against the annual business plan 2025-26 actions in Quarters 1 & 2. Additionally, the first iteration of the Corporate Plan Objective E Reporting Dashboard was considered at the most recent meeting of the Board's Audit and Risk Assurance Committee in September 2025.
- Upcoming dates for PSNI Attestations and TEAM PSNI Events have been provided for information with an open invitation for all Members to attend.
- Update provided on a Police Appeals Tribunal (PAT) case which the ex-officer applied to have appealed to the Supreme Court and leave was refused, bringing that PAT to a close.

In relation to a matter not included in the report the Chief Executive highlighted the theft of data from a Board Official which has been reported in the media. This occurred in October 2025 and Members were assured that appropriate remedial measures have been taken including reporting the laptop and bag theft to the PSNI and Information Commissioner; that the encrypted laptop was immediately decommissioned; other material taken was recovered by PSNI; confirmation of no residual risk to any police officer, police staff member, former police officer or former police staff member; and that a reminder has been issued to all Officials and Members in relation to their responsibilities for protecting Board information when 'on the move'.

The Chief Executive also took the opportunity to welcome two new Officials including the T/Director of Partnership, who recently returned to the Board following a period of secondment.

Members raised the following matters with the Chief Executive:

- Update on progress being made to provide Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) with access to custody records and whether the new Justice Bill could resolve this issue.

Following discussion it was **AGREED** to issue correspondence to the Chair of the NI Assembly Justice Committee to request an amendment to the Justice Bill in relation to ICVs access to custody records. **(AP6)**

- Clarification on plans to review PSNI legal cases and it was confirmed that the next update will be considered at the Board's Resources Committee meeting in February 2026.
- The Vice-Chair provided positive feedback on the structure and content of the Corporate Plan Objective E reporting dashboard, and Members were asked for additional feedback as the dashboard evolves.

In relation to items of correspondence the Chief Executive provided the following update:

- PSNI response to correspondence on the non-disclosure by PSNI of a document relating to the ongoing issue of mining services. It was proposed that correspondence be issued to the individual concerned to provide an overview, and to outline that the matter is subject to ongoing proceedings and further engagement should take place through this mechanism.

- Correspondence from the NI Assembly Justice Committee to request the Board's views on Community Resolution Notices, and it was noted that the Board's Partnership directorate will provide a response on this matter.

In relation to correspondence not included in the report the Chief Executive advised Members that copy correspondence received by the Board regarding a complaint to the Chief Constable about PSNI's handling of Freedom of Information requests was not tabled in papers due to an administrative oversight, but has been sent to PSNI requesting a response to be provided to the Board on the issues raised.

The correspondence and PSNI response will be tabled for Board Members information at the December 2025 meeting. **(AP7)**

Members requested an update on a response to the NI Assembly Justice Committee on Community Resolution Notices, and were advised that a draft response will be shared with the Board's Partnership Committee for comment; as well as clarification on a query relating to a Police Property Fund application. **(AP8)**

Members **NOTED** the updates provided

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

The Chair welcomed everyone back to the private session of the Board meeting and noted that a number of questions remained outstanding from this morning's briefing on '*Making Best Use of Resources*'. He then invited remaining questions from Members to the Chief Constable and his team on this topic.

A Member commended the PSNI on the use of Video Officer Attendance Team (VOAT) and noted the assumption that a younger cohort may use this more. The Member asked PSNI to advise if they are monitoring gaps where VOAT may not work. PSNI confirmed that a range of people from diverse backgrounds are using VOAT and noted the use of the THRIVE assessment model to identify suitable cohorts, however no tracking of specific demographics is currently in place. PSNI advised that in due course a full evaluation will include an assessment of who is using the service (noting that use of VOAT remains a choice for the service user) and will also monitor the impact on the workforce and on the organisation overall.

Follow up questions and observations on this subject related to the sharing of pictures from an intelligence perspective (not by way of VOAT), the reliability of digital evidence versus the use of officers' notebooks and whether there were increased risks of cases being dismissed on technicalities, and finally, a Member cautioned that this should not become a substitute for officers dealing with the public on a face to face basis. On the first point PSNI advised that in such circumstances officers would provide a link to the individual which could then be used to upload the relevant information. On the second point PSNI acknowledged that cases have been lost due to quality of evidence and went on to update the Board on ongoing work in relation to Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) and workplans in place to invest in video analytics which would, for example, reduce officer time spent analysing CCTV footage.

Other areas discussed which related to the PSNI's earlier briefing to the Board included:

- The expansion of the existing Charging Framework for police services. PSNI noted some of the differences in the legislation between Northern Ireland and England & Wales and advised they would revert to the Board in writing on this point.

- Transformation plans over the coming years and what will be required (over and above the requirement outlined in the Workforce Recovery business case), in terms of additional capital and resource to progress these projects.
- New legislation in England & Wales in relation to Locking-on offences and the protection of key infrastructure, and the options this now provides to GB officers that are not currently available to PSNI officers. Issues raised by Members on this point included that, should the NI Executive move to adopt similar legislation public perception may be that the Executive is trying to limit protests and also concern that the introduction of such legislation in NI could lead to the criminalisation of non-violent acts of protest.

The Chair thanked the PSNI again for this morning's presentation and advised that there was one remaining question for the private session which was unrelated to the earlier briefing. A Member then asked the Chief Constable for his views on the proposed new NI Troubles Bill to replace the Legacy Act and its implications for the PSNI, specifically in relation to the requirement for PSNI to review material for sensitive/prejudicial information before sharing with the ICRIIR following which the ICRIIR must then complete the same process. The Chief Constable acknowledged the implications of this on police resources and the impact on victims and families of delays in the legacy processes noting that this matter had been raised in his submission to the NI Affairs Committee.

The Board Chair thanked the Chief Constable and the SET their responses and they left the meeting.

## **11. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

None.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next full Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 11 December 2025 at 9.30am in James House, and the National Crime Agency Director General will also be in attendance.

The meeting closed at 3.15pm.

**Strategic Planning & Governance**  
**November 2025**

**Chair**