

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD

14th May 2026 at 9:30am

PRESENT:

Mr Gerry Kelly, Chair
Mr Les Allamby, Vice Chair
(4) Mr Trevor Clarke
Mr Frank McManus
Ms Cheryl Brownlee*
(4) Ms Nuala McAllister
Ms Deirdre Hargey
Mr Peter Osborne*
(3) Mr Thomas O'Reilly
Mr Patrick Nelson
Mr Colin McGrath

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE

(1) ACC Davy Beck
(1) Det Chief Superintendent Emma Neil
(1) Det Chief Superintendent Eamon Corrigan
(2) Deputy Chief Constable Bobby Singleton
(2) ACO Aldrina Magwood
(2) Lindsey Jeapes
(2) Johnny McBride

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of Performance
Mr Aonghus Kelly, Human Rights Advisor,
5 Officials

*Attended via video conferencing

(1) Attended for Item 6.1

(3) Attended from Item 4.1

(2) Attended for Item 6.2

(4) Attended from Item 4.1 to Item 6.2

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received in advance of the meeting.

The Committee agreed the agenda for the meeting.

The Chair asked Members to advise of any items they wished to raise at Item 9 under “Any Other Business”. None were advised.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interests were declared.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the Performance Committee meeting held on 16th April 2026.

It was **AGREED**

That Minutes of the Performance Committee meeting on the 16th April 2026 were agreed.

4. UPDATE ON ACTION LOG

The Director of Performance provided an update on the open actions listed on the Action Log.

The Director provided an update on AP1 from the meeting held on 12 February 2026 – Officials to write to the PSNI to request a copy of their internal guidelines in respect of use of Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS). A response from ACC Beck is provided at Item 4.1 of today’s

agenda. The Director outlined that the ACC states that the document is protectively marked and therefore there is limited ability to share this with the Committee. However, the ACC states that he is currently re-drafting the document in order for it to be shared with Members. The Human Rights Advisor has agreed a date to dip-sample and view CHIS material and also view the Draft CHIS Guidelines.

The Director provided an update on AP1 from the meeting held on 12 March 2026 – Officials to write to PSNI to request a copy of their Cyber Transformation Plan and request further detail on device risk assessment matrix applied in respect of digital forensics progression. Letter issued to ACC Beck on 19 March 2026 requesting this information and a response from PSNI is provided at Item 4.1. The Director outlined that PSNI have provided an executive summary of their Cyber Transformation Plan and an overview of Device prioritisation risk assessment matrix. PSNI advise that the Cyber Transformation Plan is a “live” document spanning several financial years, resource reviews and strategic reviews. As such, there is no singular and current document. Following discussion

It was **AGREED**

Human Rights Advisor to clarify with ACC McNally how automation software is used by PSNI. (**AP1**)

Officials to clarify with PSNI the Prioritisation Matrix (eCop) weighting statistical information. (**AP2**)

The Director provided an update on AP3 from the meeting held on 12 March 2026 – Officials to share Members views on MoU with the NCA. Officials met with NCA Officials to provide feedback on the MOU and NCA are currently assessing the Members request for inclusion of additional wording. The

Director confirmed that the NCA MOU would be table at the June Board meeting for Board approval.

The Director provided an update on AP1 from the meeting held on 16 April 2026 – Officials to seek clarity on the powers of the Police Staff Investigators, what diluted powers they have and who will manage them. The response from PSNI is provided at Item 4.1 that outlines the powers and management responsibilities. Members were content with this response.

The Director provided an update on AP2 from the meeting held on 16 April 2026 – Officials to provide Members with the updated Spit and Bit Guard and Strip Search 2025/26 figures when they become available. The Director confirmed that these would become available by 20th May and would be brought to June's Committee meeting.

The Human Rights Advisor provided an update on AP3 from the meeting held on 16 April 2026 – Human Rights Advisor to follow up on use of appropriate adult in custody. Following discussion

It was **AGREED**

Human Rights Advisor to clarify with PSNI if a specific custody suite is used for those children detained. (**AP3**)

The Director provided an update on AP4 from the meeting held on 16 April 2026 – Officials to clarify when the Notifiable Membership 6 Month Review Report will be available and bring back to Committee. The Director stated that PSNI confirmed that the new Conflict of Interests SI went live in April 2026. A 6-month Review Report will be up to the end of October 2026 and

PSNI will make this available to the Board when completed in November 2026.

The Director provided an update on AP5 from the meeting held on 16 April 2026 – Officials to write to OPONI to request they provide further statistics in relation to victims. A response was received and is included at Item 4.1 providing Members with the relevant statistical information.

The Director provided an update on AP6 from the meeting held on 16 April 2026 – Human Rights Advisor to provide an initial impression on oversight and accountability gaps for Members. The Human Rights Advisor is continuing to work on this report and will bring it to a future Committee meeting.

The Director provided an update on AP7 from the meeting held on 16 April 2026 – Officials to write to PSNI to provide Members feedback on Business Interest Appeals process. A letter with Members feedback was issued to PSNI on 21st April 2026 and a copy of this letter is provided for reference at Item 4.1.

It was: -

NOTED

Members were content with the responses received.

5.0 CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

The Chair confirmed that there were no other items of business.

6. ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6.1 Policing Plan Indicator 2.4 - The Effectiveness in Tackling the Threat Posed by Terrorism, Paramilitaries and Serious and Organised Crime Groups (OCGs)

Board Officials presented a paper providing Members with an analysis of PSNI's Performance to date in relation to Indicator 2.4 - The Effectiveness in Tackling the Threat Posed by Terrorism, Paramilitaries and Serious and Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) with progress measured through the impacts identified within the Policing Plan 2025 to 2030.

In terms of impacts, a Board Official referred to the report card provided by the PSNI and advised Members that it does provide some improved performance. The Official highlighted the main issues within the report card and asked Members to note and consider the information provided by PSNI and detailed analysis of the paper to assist with oversight and scrutiny of police performance.

The Chairperson welcomed the PSNI to the meeting. He invited them to brief Members on the work relating to Policing Plan Indicator 2.4.

The PSNI presented information through an OBA Report Card and provided a statistical commentary of their performance against Indicator 2.4 and discussed with Members the work carried out in key areas including:

- Baselines and quantitative data;
- The impact of major disruptions to OCG's and Paramilitaries;
- Initiatives carried out to tackle threats caused by OCG's;
- Number of OCG's disrupted and their categories;

- Assessment of the capacity and capability of OCG's and Paramilitaries; and
- Overview of activity against the drugs threat.

The PSNI provided the following information: -

- The PSNI informed Members the current threat level remains at “substantial”, meaning an attack is likely. They stated that various criminal groups maintain the resources, material and lethal intent to carry out attacks as evidenced by the attacks on PSNI stations in Lurgan and Dunmurry in recent months. A 48 year old male has been charged with the Lurgan attack and a 66 year old male has been charged with the Dunmurry attack;
- The PSNI reported an increase in (OCGs) under investigation to 48 (an increase of 6);
- The PSNI reported an increase in disruptions of OCGs to 391 (an increase of 2.1%). PSNI highlighted the percentage of OCGs with paramilitary links was 17%;
- In reference to the performance of the PCTF, PSNI reported an increase in the number of arrests (increased by 104%) and charge rate (increased by 14.3%) in relation to OCG activities;
- In relation to drugs seizures the PSNI reported the value of drugs seized in 2025/26 decreased by 23.6% on the previous financial year. Despite this PSNI stated that high level, intel driven operations were remaining successful;
- PSNI noted the importance of looking at the long-term policing picture. They stated while the trajectory of terrorism in Northern Ireland is downwards, other emerging threats are becoming more prevalent. PSNI highlighted the threat level in the UK overall is “severe” and pointed to an increase in Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism (ERWT) and proscribed groups (such as Palestine Action) being factors. PSNI reiterated the need to remain vigilant to developing threats and to maintain capacity and capability to deal effectively with these;

- PSNI provided a breakdown of their report card for Indicator 2.4 which they rated as “adequate” in their self-assessment;
- PSNI reported an enhanced focus on protect and prevent activity and highlighted again the increase in disruptions to 391 (2.1% increase);
- PSNI provided a breakdown of OCGs by primary threat as follows:
 - o Drugs – 30
 - o Modern slavery and human trafficking – 6
 - o Firearms – 6
 - o Fraud – 2
 - o Organisational acquisition – 2
 - o Illicit finance – 1
 - o Cross-cutting – 1
- PSNI highlighted to Members that the drug threat continues to grow. They reported an increase in drugs coming from abroad, with quantity of imported drugs increasing year on year. PSNI report that increasingly Northern Ireland is becoming a key route for OCGs abusing the Common Travel Area to facilitate the transit of drugs into mainland Britain. This increase is evidenced by a recent joint PSNI and National Crime Agency (NCA) operation which resulted in the seizure of class A drugs with an estimated street value of 18.5 million, the largest seizure ever recorded in Northern Ireland;
- The number of individuals charged and reported in connection with OCGs has fallen due to a decrease in resources. Disruptions are up overall but down in drugs and despite increased performance from the PCTF, this has been sustained by other organised crime group officers. The EPOC funding is only guaranteed to March 2027 which will have a significant impact if discontinued;
- The PSNI referred to Operation Pangea, an operation aimed at tackling the illicit and counterfeit pharmaceutical drugs trade, a subsection of drug use which is particularly prevalent in Northern Ireland. The operation resulted in the seizure of over £350k worth of counterfeit medications, reducing threat and risk of harm to the public;

- PSNI informed Members that good progress is being made to tackle financial and criminal benefit. PSNI have confiscated more than £3.8m from OCGs in 2025/26. £1.67m of this used by PSNI to hire economic crime agents;
- PSNI informed members of Operation Machinize an operation targeting cash rich high street businesses to understand their operating model and identify where there may be OCG activity. PSNI reported that £41,000 worth of drugs, £20,000 of cigarettes and £110,000 of criminal assets were seized in relation to this operation;

Members engaged in discussion with PSNI and sought clarity on a number of issues including: -

- A Member queried whether enough is being done by PSNI Comms to communicate the good work on drug seizures and if the public connect these drug seizures with seeing less drugs in their communities;
- Further clarity was sought by a Member in relation to the NCA role on the following issues:
 - How much work is done by the NCA in Northern Ireland?
 - How many NCA agents are employed in Northern Ireland? and
 - Are NCA accountable to PSNI.
- A Member asked for further clarification on how PSNI assessed the level of threat posed by any given OCG;
- A Member referred to data showing that among the four major impacts, improvement has only been seen in “major disruptions”. They also noted that drug seizure levels have fallen and arrests are down. In reference to this the Member queried how PSNI assessed and justified their self-assessment of “adequate progress”;
- A Member queried the scale and value of the drug market in NI. They asked for clarification on the impact PSNI work on tackling drugs is having on drug users in NI. They also asked what percentage of drugs flow through paramilitary organisations;

- A Member referred to a wastewater analysis programme done in England and queried if a similar programme could be carried out in NI;
- A Member referred to the decrease in people being charged and reported in connection with OCG activity queried the reason for this decrease and whether PSNI had any information regarding use of taxis in drug operations;
- A Member requested further information on the use CHIS to tackle drug dealers and for more information on the arrests of Palestine Action members and the nature of their criminality;
- A Member referred to the lack of mention of cross border issues in a recent NCA report and asked PSNI on the extent to which the border is being used as a “back door” by the drugs trade and how much the NCA is involved in tackling this;
- A Member asked if there had been any change in the street price of drugs;
- A Member referred to the reduction of casualties of paramilitary style assaults and asked the reason for this and if the reduction has been seen on both sides of the community;
- A Member suggested that PSNI should consider keeping elected representatives regularly updated on their action against drugs to help with amplifying the work being achieved to the public;
- A Member referred to the recent attacks on Lurgan and Dunmurry police stations and asked if there were any pre-emptive actions which could have been taken to prevent these;
- A Member referred to EPPOC (Executive Programme on Paramilitarism and Organised Crime) funding and asked if it's ringfenced;
- A Member requested more data on the number of drug deaths per year and the number of cases where the drugs source was identified;

- A Member asked for clarification on how PSNI decide on adding a new OCG to their list. They also asked if the new OCGs identified were new groups or old groups which have splintered;
- A Member referred to the individuals arrested in connection with the Lurgan and Dunmurry attack and asked if those individuals were included in the list of nominals known to PSNI;
- A Member referred to the wastewater analysis exercise and asked if the analysis indicated the amount of drugs which are not seized and asked how NI compares to similar analysis conducted in England and Wales;
- A Member referred to the flow of drugs from Europe, through Republic of Ireland (ROI) and NI for onward distribution to Great Britain and asked if this flow indicates a weakness on the island of Ireland, and if so where is this weakness.

The PSNI provided the following responses:-

- In relation to the success of communications regarding drug seizures, PSNI advised that they were finding it difficult to get traction in the media. They cited Operation Pangea which despite significant press effort, failed to make it through into media which is frustrating. PSNI also highlighted the success of their recent “You said, we did” campaign. However, the PSNI accepted at local level this could be improved and their communications team would take this forward;
- In relation to the NCA, the PSNI confirmed the NCA is ultimately accountable to the Policing Board via the Director General but are autonomous. They could not comment on the number of NCA agents in Northern Ireland. PSNI advised that while in other jurisdictions the NCA operates autonomously, in NI the NCA works “hand in hand” with PSNI and the PCTF. PSNI also highlighted that without the PCTF the NCA wouldn’t be involved in many PSNI operations. They further highlighted

the additional value the NCA relationship provides from an investigation and technical expertise perspective;

- In relation to threat posed by OCGs, PSNI highlighted that all OCGs identified as such within the statistics are there because the threat by them has been assessed, monitored and deemed to require investigative requirement;
- In relation to the “adequate progress” rating, PSNI defended the rating, highlighting that assessment is made based on a holistic approach taking into account a broad range of measures and it is difficult to assess level of threat and risk using APMIS;
- In relation to scale of drugs in NI, PSNI stated while the drug seizure figures are indicative of scale, it is hard to know how much is not being caught and seized. In reference to what percentage of drugs trade are connected to paramilitarism, PSNI stated due to the interconnectivity of the drugs trade, it is very hard to determine who is supplying which drugs. They also noted that different OCGs can have responsibility for various stages of the process (import, transport, sale etc). PSNI highlighted the drugs trade is increasingly a transnational issue, as not all drugs in NI are destined for the NI market. In relation to impact on drug users, PSNI stated that while drug markets can fluctuate, there is a very specific market for counterfeit medications in NI which creates issues for the local population. PSNI highlighted the work of Operation Pangea (focused on tackling counterfeit medications) in this regard. PSNI stated this operation had high community impact due to the high level of drug related deaths linked to using counterfeit medications, particularly in NI. PSNI also highlighted that all suspected drugs deaths are investigated by CID to help identify which drugs are causing most harm;
- In relation to wastewater analysis, PSNI agreed a similar programme to that in Great Britain would be beneficial. They referred to a pilot scheme carried out last year, which identified a larger amount of ketamine use. Identifying this pattern allowed an education programme to be conducted.

PSNI advised Members that discussions were ongoing with the Department of Justice (DoJ) to conduct this analysis more regularly;

- In relation to decrease in charge and reporting figures, PSNI referred to an increase in the length and complexity of investigations. They also highlighted a slow court system and dozens of officers per week being taken out of operational duty to attend court to give evidence;
- In relation to the use of taxis in the drugs trade, PSNI confirmed they were aware of some issues with supply of drugs via taxis. There is a similar process with use of the fast parcel system they are also monitoring;
- In relation to the use of CHIS the ACC confirmed that this was an option open to officers;
- In relation to Palestine Action, PSNI advised that while no evidence of terrorism activity or planning had been found, some arrests were for criminal damage to property and their approach is different than GB;
- In relation to cross border operations, PSNI advised that they enjoy a close working relationship with the An Garda Síochána (AGS) and work with them on a daily and weekly basis. PSNI referred to a joint exercise conducted recently which received good support from both DoJ and PPS. PSNI further advised that the NCA is crucial operationally and in terms of knowledge sharing. PSNI referred to a number of events they facilitated regarding off-sea drop offs;
- In relation to the street price of drugs, PSNI advised that price has remained stable over last number of years due to high availability and increased global supply. PSNI also advised they had seen production of certain drugs (i.e. Nitizines) in NI. PSNI also referred to improvements in technology making drugs much more available for consumers as posing a big challenge to tackling the sale of drugs;
- In relation to casualties of paramilitary assaults, PSNI advised the reduction is due in part to PSNI hard work on suppression of paramilitary groups. PSNI also suggested community rejection of paramilitaries was a key factor. They advised widespread support for paramilitaries is not

present, especially among young people. However, PSNI note that it can be difficult for communities to challenge paramilitary groups and go to court. PSNI are working on engaging with communities and with partners to divert young people from pursuing paramilitarism;

- In relation to keeping elected representatives informed of action against drugs, PSNI said they would take the suggestion on board and pursue it further;
- In relation to pre-emptive action, PSNI stated that every day without an attack is a success. They highlighted that as groups become smaller and more starved of resource; they can become more reckless;
- In relation to EPPOC funding, PSNI confirmed that they receive approximately £5.6m which is ringfenced for the PCTF;
- In relation to drugs death statistics, PSNI advised Members that statistics on drug deaths are published. PSNI also noted that all suspected drugs deaths are investigated and there can be a range of reasons for drugs death (i.e. overdose, suicide) so more focused statistics may be required;
- In relation to deciding on whether to add an OCG to their list, PSNI advised that those decisions are driven by intelligence and evidence gathered through various lines of enquiry, alongside utilisation of the MORiLE tool to assess risk. In relation to the make-up of new OCGs identified, PSNI advised they were a mixture of new and old groups;
- In relation to the 2 individuals charged with the recent attacks at Lurgan and Dunmurry, PSNI confirmed they were not part of the 56 nominals;
- In relation to wastewater analysis, PSNI advised that the data for the NI pilot scheme is owned by NI Water (NIW) and not PSNI. The data has not been shared with PSNI, with NIW citing concerns over methodology and collection sites. PSNI also advised that in terms of snapshot gained from the pilot study, figures were consistent with the rest of UK;
- In relation to drugs transit through the island of Ireland, PSNI advised that a number of factors were contributing to the increase in drugs being moved through the island including the increase of routes into ROI. PSNI

also highlighted the substantial increase in freight travelling through NI to mainland UK as a result of Brexit. Additionally, PSNI pointed to a hardening of the Southern English border as encouraging drug traffickers to use alternative routes.

The Chairperson thanked the PSNI for their attendance and briefing and they left the meeting.

Following discussion Members: -

AGREED

Officials to follow up with PSNI on the number of drug related deaths per year. **(AP 4)**

Officials to share with Members the Imperial College London Wastewater Analysis Research. **(AP 5)**

6.2 PSNI's Draft Policing Plan Annual Assessment 2025/26

The Director of Performance presented a paper to Members on the PSNI's Draft Annual Performance Assessment Report for the 2025/26 year. The Director informed Members that as part of the new Policing Plan reporting arrangements to the Board, it was agreed with the PSNI that the Chief Constable would report directly to the Board on four occasions throughout the year. This report constitutes the last of these reports to the Board and it is in relation to the Annual Assessment of the three Outcomes.

The Director informed Members that PSNI have produced a draft Policing Plan Annual Assessment 2025/26. Members have had detailed discussions

on each of the 16 Indicators across the three Committees of the Board. Members have also had the opportunity to analyse and assess the PSNI's performance as presented at the Outcome level by the Chief Constable to the Board.

Members now have an opportunity to discuss this draft with PSNI prior to it being tabled at June 2026 Board Meeting for discussion with the Chief Constable and the Senior Executive Team. The Director stated that this is an opportunity for Members to provide their views on PSNI's performance prior to the Board meeting.

The Chairperson welcomed the PSNI to the meeting and invited them to brief Members on the PSNI's Draft Policing Plan Annual Assessment 2025/26.

The PSNI provided the following information: -

- That the assessment is a stock take of year one against the five-year plan. They noted that the only difference expected between this draft and the final report will be the inclusion of official statistics which are due to be released over the next few days; and
- There will be a full Board presentation of the Annual Assessment at the next Board meeting on 4 June 2026.

Members engaged in discussion with PSNI on the following:

- A Member referred to the PSNI's provisional draft assessment of progress on VAWG and Public Confidence as "good" and asked for clarification on how PSNI assessed their RAGG statuses for each indicator;
- A Member asked how PSNI measured impact on indicators;
- Members queried the use of the term "adequate" with regards to the initial draft assessment of several of the indicators. They highlighted

the word “adequate” may be misinterpreted by the public. It was suggested that “limited progress” may be more appropriate for certain indicators;

- A Member noted a drop in figures for representativeness among Catholic, female and LGBT+ groups. They requested further clarification on the size of the reduction;
- A Member referred to mention of improved representation across rank and grade. They highlighted a lack of statistics provided in relation to officer progression with regards to community background and a Member queried whether the progression data also included Sergeants;
- A Member referred to the officer absence figures provided in indicator 3.3 “making best use of resources”. They asked for clarification on why the Average Working Days Lost (AWDL) remained static despite a decrease in absence;
- A Member requested further clarification on whether the increase in misconduct investigations represented an improvement or decline in performance;
- A Member referred to the inclusion survey and expressed disappointment with the response rate. They also expressed concern that some bigger issues are not reflected in the report in its current form; and
- A Member referred to the use of RAGG status, highlighting that several of the indicators were too complex for such a black and white method of assessment. They suggested that an analysis of inherent vs residual risk be completed alongside RAGG score to provide a wider snapshot of work being undertaken and whether such assessment could be further delayed until a later date.

The PSNI provided the following responses:-

- In relation to assessment of RAGG status, PSNI advised that the scores were a result of an initial self-assessment applied against each indicator and that this is the first year of the 5 year plan. PSNI also noted, that while there were no objective thresholds for criteria, they endeavoured to include as much objectivity as possible when assigning RAGG scores to indicators;
- In relation to the measurement of impacts, PSNI informed Members that the measurement criteria and impacts are different for each indicator and were specified within the assessment document and were also provided in the Indicator reports to Committees and the Outcome reports to the Board during the year;
- In relation to the use of the term “adequate”, PSNI explained this is one of the difficulties of using RAGG status assessments as complex topics cannot be comprehensively assessed within four categories. They agreed that the term “limited progress” alongside a contextual explanation of the score could be a more effective approach. A Board official highlighted that RAGG status assessment was a recommendation coming from a report by the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) and “adequate” was the term decided at the time. NIAO have produced a new report recommending more work be undertaken to clarify the definition;
- In relation to the decrease of representativeness in student officer applicants from certain demographics, lack of detail around progression in terms of community background and the inclusion of sergeants in the progression data, PSNI referred Members to the outcome reports which contain further detail;
- PSNI also highlighted that while they will continue working on improving representativeness across the organisation, there exist broader societal challenges to improving representativeness which aren't within their control;

- In relation to the lack of officer progression statistics, PSNI referred Members to the Outcome Reports which contain more pertinent detail;
- The PSNI conceded that the measure of misconduct investigations pursued could be confusing and interpreted both ways. They confirmed that the number of breaches of the PSNI Code of Ethics was a measure for this indicator;
- PSNI stated they would take the suggestions relating to inherent/residual risk on board for consideration but the final assessment needs to be included in the PSNI's annual report and accounts for July

The PSNI thanked Members for their feedback and stated that it would be taken into consideration when producing the final report for the Board meeting in June. The Chairperson thanked the PSNI for their attendance and briefing and they left the meeting.

6.3 Human Rights Advisor Update

The Human Rights Advisor (HRA) provided Members with an overview of areas within his current work programme during the period April/May 2026 including; McCullough Review, Research and consideration of oversight and accountability gaps and how the Board can obtain assurance on PSNI's use of Covert Human Intelligence Sources and Preparatory work on the Human Rights Annual Report 2025/26. The HRA informed Members of meetings held with various stakeholders.

The Human Rights Advisor also outlined his work plan for May/June 2026 including attending the Board and Performance Committee meetings and arranging to meet with various PSNI officers and stakeholders. The HRA outlined his planned visit to London in May to meet with Angus McCullough KC, John Wadham, the National Crime Agency, attend at the IPT, view

utilisation of LFR technology by the Met Police Force and to meet with academics working on AI and LFR matters.

The HRA also highlighted The Children's Commissioner's Office in England 'Police Powers and Children – Strip Searching and Use of Force' Report that was published in April 2026¹ (**Annex A**). Using data powers under the Children Act 2004, the Commissioner investigated the number, disproportionality and manner of conducting strip searches firstly in London, and then across England and Wales. This is the fourth report in the series of reports.

Members engaged in brief discussion:

- A Member referred to the Children's Commissioner Report and recommendations; and
- A Member sought further update on Human Rights Advisor's oversight and accountability

Following discussions it was: -

NOTED

Members were content with the Human Rights Advisors Update Report and the remaining schedule of work for May/June 2026.

6.4 Update on CJINI Inspections

The Human Rights and Professional Standards (HR&PS) Manager provided Members with an overview of the Criminal Justice Inspectorate Northern Ireland (CJINI) Review of The Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (NI)

¹ <https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2026/04/Police-powers-on-children-strip-search-and-use-of-force-2026.pdf>

2021¹ and also CJINI's Terms of Reference into PSNI Contact Handling and Management.

The HR&PS Manager informed Members that the Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (NI) 2021 came into effect on 21 February 2022 creating an offence to criminalise abusive behaviour including controlling and coercive behaviour. CJINI must review Part 1 of the Act annually for at least seven years. This is the third review, the first was published in April 2024 and the second in April 2025. The HR&PS Manager informed Members that inspectors made four recommendations within the review (**Annex A&B**). It is intended, with all recommendations implemented, to protect all victims, including children and to bring abusers to justice and deter future abuse.

The Director informed Members that at the April 2025 Board meeting, Members considered and agreed to HMICFRS proposals for the PEEL Inspection for 2025/26. In providing feedback to the Minister on this inspection, Board Members agreed to request that the PSNI's response to 999 and 101 calls should be included in any forthcoming inspection. CJINI and HMICFRS Inspectors have worked in partnership to produce a joint proposal for undertaking this Inspection. The proposal was shared with Members for comment at the February 2026 Board meeting. CJINI and HMICFRS have now concluded on their final Terms of Reference for the Contact Handling and Management inspection and have shared this with the Board for information. The Director informed Members that the inspectors wish to engage with the Performance Committee as part of their field work for this inspection and that this engagement has been arranged for the June Performance Committee meeting.

Following discussion it was: -

NOTED

Members were content with the CJINI Review of The Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (NI) 2021 and CJINI's Terms of Reference into PSNI Contact Handling and Management.

6.5 Draft MOU with PSNI - Engagement and Communication Relating to New and Emerging Digital Technology, Policy or Practice in Areas of Significant Public Interest

The Director of Performance referred Members to the Draft Memorandum of Understanding received from PSNI. This has been developed in response to the Board's Privacy report, particularly in relation to the use and governance of Facial Recognition technology and broader Artificial Intelligence capabilities.

Members engaged in brief discussion:

- A Member asked if a paragraph can be added to Section 6 to cover police effectiveness and efficiency;
- A Member sought clarification of whether the HRA role outlined in paragraph 8.2 would be an observer role;
- A Member suggested a discussion around the role of AI in policing is required as AI is likely to be crucial to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of policing in the future. The Member suggested that the Board should be involved in shaping the approach instead of examining after the fact;
- A Member suggested that paragraph 9.3 should be expanded to include a greater commitment for the PSNI to engage with stakeholders and to consider level of response every time new technology becomes available;

- A Member suggested that in addition to the biannual briefing on the use of technology, the Board should be made aware of changes and not be surprised by events outside of the briefing cycle;
- A Member highlighted wider issues around the use of technology and AI. They stated that this is a beginning, not an end and suggested the Board work closely with PSNI on development of any future policy regarding technology;
- A Member asked what safeguards are in place to manage risks associated with rapidly changing technology;
- The HRA suggested that Section 9 required rewording to solidify reporting on use of technology to the Board;
- A Member stated the Board and PSNI had a lack of expertise regarding rapidly changing technology. They asked how new technology can be harnessed and expressed concerns that the Board and PSNI will be left behind;
- A Member suggested a regulatory framework was required to cope with rapid change in technology;
- A Member queried whether the broader conversation around AI fell under the scope of the MoU. Recommended the discussion is picked up in a different forum; and
- A member highlighted the need for further clarity on the process, what next steps are in regard to the suggestions brought forward.

Following discussion it was: -

NOTED

Members to forward comments to officials on the Draft MoU Engagement and Communication Relating to New and Emerging Digital Technology, Policy or Practice in Areas of Significant Public Interest.

6.6 Community Background Monitoring Research Update

The Director of Performance informed Members that the Committee agreed the Terms of Reference in relation to Community background Monitoring Research in December 2025 and the Ulster University were appointed to produce this research. Ulster University are also undertaking the Advocacy research in parallel. To date, the Advocacy Research has generated more work than anticipated with over 70 interviews carried out and this has delayed the work on the Community Background Monitoring Research. The University has requested more time to produce the draft research report for the Community Background Monitoring and if available this will be brought to June 2026 Committee.

Following discussion it was: -

NOTED

Members were content with the update provided on Community Background Monitoring research.

7. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

- 7.1** No questions were identified by Members arising out of this meeting to ask the Chief Constable

7.2 RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

Members noted the Chief Constable's responses to three questions in relation to officers abusing their position, the Katie Simpson investigation and

retirement of officers involved and the number of officers dismissed in the past 6 years due to offences related to children.

8. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no communication issues arising from the meeting.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No Items of any other business were raised.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Performance Committee meeting would take place on the **Thursday 11th June 2026** at **9:30am**.

Meeting closed at 1:45pm.

PERFORMANCE DIRECTORATE

14 May 2026

Chairperson