NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 7 MAY 2026 AT 9.30AM IN JAMES HOUSE, BELFAST

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:		Mr Brendan Mullan (Chair)
	(1)	Ms Cheryl Brownlee MLA
		Mrs Marian Cree
	(1)	Miss Nuala McAllister MLA
		Mr Tommy O'Reilly
		Mr Les Allamby
	(2)	Mr Alan Chambers MLA
	(3)	Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
		Mrs Linda Dillon MLA
	(4)	Mr Gerry Kelly MLA
		Mr Keith Buchanan MLA
		Mr Patrick Nelson
	(5)	Mr Peter Osborne
	(6)	Mr Frank McManus *
	(7)	Mr Colin McGrath MLA
		Ms Deirdre Hargey MLA
	(7)	Mr Peter McReynolds MLA
	(8)	Dr Kate Laverty
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)	Ms Melanie Jones, Assistant Chief Constable
	(9)	Mr Davy Beck, Assistant Chief Constable
	(9)	Mr Anthony McNally, Assistant Chief Constable
	(9)	Ms Clare Duffield, Assistant Chief Officer People and Organisational Development
	(9)	Mr Ryan Henderson, Assistant Chief Constable
	(9)	Mr Mark McNaughten, Assistant Chief Officer Corporate Services

	(9)	Ms Aldrina Magwood, Assistant Chief Officer Strategic Planning & Transformation
	(9)	Chief Superintendent
	(9)	Two Officers/ Two Staff
NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:		Mrs Sinead Simpson, Chief Executive Mr Sam Hagen, Senior Director of Resources 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
OTHER OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:		Mr Aonghus Kelly, Human Rights Advisor

* Attended via video conference

(1) From 9.40am

(2) From 9.40am, left after meeting in public

(3) From 9.55am

(4) Left at 3.30pm

(5) From 9.45am, left at 2.45pm

(6) Left at 10.45am

(7) Left after meeting in public

(8) Left at 3pm

(9) Item 10 only

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Mukesh Sharma (Vice-Chair).

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 April 2026

The Chair asked Members to consider the draft minutes of the Board meeting held on Thursday 2 April 2026.

A Member suggested an amendment to the discussion on the review of the Members' code of conduct at agenda item 7.4, and it was agreed to action accordingly. **(AP1)**

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- Subject to the amendment above the draft minutes of the Board meeting held on Thursday 2 April 2026 be **APPROVED** as a correct record for publication on the Board's website.

3.2 Friday 24 April 2026

The Chair asked Members to consider the draft minutes of the Board meeting held on Friday 24 April 2026.

The Chair highlighted a minor error in the attendee's section and subject to this amendment It was **RESOLVED** that:

- The draft minutes of the Board meeting held on Friday 24 April 2026 be **APPROVED** as a correct record for publication on the Board's website.

The Chair referred Members to correspondence shared in advance of the meeting and copies of correspondence provided in the meeting on Operation Constraint (Independent Review) and the Chair's draft response; the Justice Minister's response to the Independent review of the NI Policing Board (Sweeney Review), previously shared with Members; and the final draft of correspondence from the Chair to the Justice Minister on Ill Health Retirement (IHR) and Injury on Duty (IOD) roles and responsibilities. The Chair noted these items would be considered at Chair's report.

4. QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Chief Executive advised Members of the advance notice questions received to date for both the public and private sessions with PSNI later in the meeting. Members also proposed additional questions for submission to PSNI.

The Chair highlighted other matters of interest the Board may wish to raise with PSNI and it was agreed with individual Members to raise these with PSNI later in the meeting.

4.1 Chief Constable's Accountability Report

Members **NOTED** the Chief Constable's accountability report to inform discussion with the PSNI leadership team at both the meeting in public and in private at today's meeting.

4.2 Individual Members Written Questions and Responses

Members **NOTED** the PSNI response to Members' written questions since the last meeting, and the PSNI follow up responses from the April Board meeting.

4.3 Committee Written Questions and Responses

No responses to Committee questions were received since the last meeting.

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 Performance Committee – Thursday 16 April 2026

The Board **NOTED** the Performance Committee Chair's report and draft minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 April 2026.

The Committee Chair provided an update on a Business Interest Appeal from a PSNI officer, and it was agreed to **APPROVE** the Committee's recommendation to:

- Uphold the decisions of the Business Interest Panel and the Chief Constable and reject the Business Interest Application.

5.2 Resources Committee – Thursday 23 April 2026

The Board **NOTED** the Resources Committee Chair's report of the meeting held on Thursday 23 April 2026.

The Committee Chair provided an update on the PSNI Resource Plan 2025-26, proposed PSNI site disposals, one PSNI Above Delegated Authority request, and the Committee Annual Report for 2025-26.

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

- **NOTE** but **NOT APPROVE** the PSNI Resource Plan 2025-26.
- **APPROVE** the disposal of the 7 PSNI station sites outlined.
- **APPROVE** the Above Delegated Authority request in respect of compensation for estimated plaintiff's legal costs due to alleged personal injuries, loss and damage arising out of injuries sustained in the course of the officer's duties; and
- **NOTE** the Resources Committee Annual Report 2025-26 for inclusion in the Board's Annual Report and Accounts 2025-26.

5.3 Senior Officer Employee Matters Group – Friday 24 April 2026

The Board **NOTED** a verbal update on the Senior Officer Employee Matters (SOEM) Group meeting held on Friday 24 April 2026.

The Board Chair updated Members on the matter discussed in relation to the SOEM Group's recommendation to a limited review focussing on the spot pay point of senior civilian staff and the Board **AGREED**:

- To **APPROVE** the limited review of aspects of PSNI Senior Civilian Staff terms and conditions.

5.4 Partnership Committee – Thursday 30 April 2026

The Board **NOTED** the Partnership Committee Chair's report of the meeting held on Thursday 30 April 2026.

The Committee Chair provided an update on key items of business discussed by the Committee and the Board **NOTED** the Partnership Committee Annual Report 2025-26 for inclusion in the Board's Annual Report and Accounts 2025-26.

On a separate matter, the Chief Executive advised Members that the scheduled May meeting of the Board's Resources Committee had been cancelled, as a substantive item of business relating to the PSNI Data Breach recommendations had been deferred to the Committee's next scheduled meeting in June 2026.

6. BOARD BUSINESS

6.1 Chief Constable's Individual Performance Review & Objectives for 2026-27

The Chair asked Members to **NOTE** a paper on the Chief Constable's Individual Performance Review (IPR) discussion for 2025-26 (completed by the previous Board Chair) and the proposed objectives for 2026-27, and following discussion the proposed objectives will be shared with the Chief Constable for final agreement at a future Board meeting.

Members raised the following matters in relation to the objectives for 2026-27:

- Suggested the inclusion of a specific objective on the effective implementation of recommendations from the Langdale and Katie Simpson Reviews.

- Clarity sought on a previously circulated version of the objectives and it was confirmed that the original version on Decision Time was incorrect but the current version had since been shared with Members.

- Raised concerns regarding the increasing number of report recommendations and the potential impact on the Board's ability to effectively oversee their implementation due to increasing workload. This included the potential implications for continuing to hold the PSNI to account, and consideration of options to more effectively track progress.

  In response Members were advised that Board officials could previously access the PSNI 'Overview' system to monitor progress against recommendations and that access was withdrawn as part of the PSNI response to the Data Breach in 2023.

  Additionally, the Board's Performance Committee receives an update on the implementation of high priority (P1) recommendations on an annual basis.

  Following discussion it was agreed that consideration would be given to providing regular updates on recommendations, potentially as part of future Policing Plan updates, and to update the Board on progress towards reinstating access to the PSNI Overview system. **(AP2)**

- The objective on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion within the PSNI is too broad and more focus is required on flexible working, representation, and retention as part of cultural change.

  In response Members were advised that the Board receives regular updates on these metrics to review trends and monitor progress.

- Need for the objectives to place greater focus on addressing abstractions from PSNI Neighbourhood Policing teams, given the negative impact on community policing.

- Objectives should follow the SMART acronym as a structured approach to goal setting with specific targets to ensure clarity, focus, and accountability.

  Members discussed a specific target for a reduction in percentage sickness absence; the number of temporary promotions and delivery of training for all first line managers; reducing abstractions from neighbourhood teams; and that targets should be proposed by the Chief Constable and then agreed with the Board.

Following discussion and subject to consideration of the comments outlined above Members: **(AP3)**

- **AGREED** the Individual Performance Review objectives for the Chief Constable for 2026-27, and that these will be shared with the Chief Constable for his views.

6.2 Chief Executive's Individual Performance Review (IPR) & Objectives for 2026-27

Members confirmed they were content to proceed with this item rather than defer it for consideration later in the meeting in a private discussion without Board officials.

Members **NOTED** the update on the IPR discussion with the Chief Executive and:

- **AGREED** the revised IPR objectives for the Chief Executive for 2026-27.

6.3 His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) PEEL Inspection 2026-27

The Director of Performance presented a paper outlining a request from HMICFRS to consult with the Board on the proposed areas for inclusion in the Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy (PEEL) inspection programme for 2026-27.
This will be the first inspection under the new process under the bi-annual inspection arrangements.

Members were updated on the current period PEEL inspection cycle for 2025-27, noting that HMICFRS assesses performance against 9 core questions.

An update was provided on the current HMICFRS Inspection 2025-26, which will report on Core Question 2 - *How good is the service at treating the public fairly, appropriately and respectfully* - and Core Question 8 - *How good is the service at building, developing and looking after its workforce and encouraging an ethical, lawful and inclusive workplace?*

Members further noted that HMICFRS and Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJI) are working jointly to undertake an inspection of PSNIs *contact handling and management*.

In respect of changes to the HMICFRS inspection programme, correspondence to the Board Chair outlined the steps to implement revised bi-annual inspection arrangements, resulting in a comprehensive inspection report every two years, with an interim update provided in the intervening years.

As part of the commissioning process for the 2026-27 inspection under the new PEEL Assessment Framework (PAF), 4 questions have been proposed for the next PSNI inspection from the 9 questions within the 2025-27 PEEL assessment framework, as follows:

- Question 1: *How good is the service at leadership and force management?*

- Question 2: *How good is the service at attracting, developing and retaining its workforce and creating a diverse and inclusive workplace?*
- Question 4: *How good is the service at preventing and deterring crime and antisocial behaviour, and reducing vulnerability?*
- Question 6: *How good is the service at investigating crime?*

Members raised the following matters:

- Whether there was an option to amend questions to incorporate issues highlighted by the Langdale and Katie Simpson Reports as part of an external police led assessment on how PSNI is performing in response to these issues.
  In response Members were advised that the 9 questions were part of a fixed framework to align with England and Wales, and this allows for benchmarking to take place

- Suggested an amendment to Question 1 and that it refers to 'workforce management' and not 'force management'.

Following discussion of the four areas for inspection by HMICFRS for the 2026-27 PEEL inspection and the proposed change outlined above Members **AGREED** that:

- The Chair writes to the Minister of Justice to formally commission the inspection.

6.4 Current Scrutiny Arrangements for the National Crime Agency

The Director of Performance presented a paper setting out the current statutory requirements that the Board has in relation to scrutiny of the National Crime Agency (NCA) and how the Board currently delivers against these statutory duties.

Members were advised that the current statutory requirements in relation to the NCA are set out in the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000, paragraph 57, and the relevant sections were highlighted in respect of how the Board currently fulfils its statutory duties in in relation to the NCA (subsections K, L, M), summarised as follows:

- (K) - *The Board's compliance with part (k) the exercise of the functions of the National Crime Agency in Northern Ireland* – includes NCA attendance at Board twice a year and provision of Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) reports on a bi-annual basis.

- (L) - *The Board's compliance with part (l) the level of public satisfaction with the performance of the National Crime Agency in exercising functions in Northern Ireland* – includes public satisfaction with NCA as part of survey looking at satisfaction and awareness; and

- (M) - *The Board's compliance with part (m) the effectiveness of arrangements made under section 3(3A) (c) for obtaining the co-operation of the public with the National Crime Agency in the prevention of organised crime and serious crime* – includes co-operation with the wider public and Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs).

Members raised the following matters:

- A renewed focus on questions to the NCA Director General at future Board meetings, scheduled twice a year.

- Members raised concerns in relation to figures provided on satisfaction with the NCA for the period 2016–2025, as included in the Board's Northern Ireland Policing Plan survey. Concerns were expressed as to whether sufficient action is being taken to address issues such as drug trafficking across Ireland and organised crime within communities; how the NCA is being held to account for its performance; and whether two NCA visits per year to the Board are sufficient.

Members also noted concerns that a recent Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) report considered by the Board's Performance Committee did not include reference to Northern Ireland within the NCA report.

- Current legislation does not allow for the Board to hold NCA to account for its activities within NI, and that it would be beneficial for the NCA DG to provide a briefing on a specific area, to be agreed with the Board, when attending future Board meetings.

  The Board's Human Rights Advisor (HRA) updated Members on an upcoming meeting with the NCA DG, noting the opportunity to raise Members' views as well as Human Rights related matters, and that work is ongoing to provide access to relevant information.

Members **NOTED** the update provided and following discussion it was agreed to consider how, at future meetings, discussions with the NCA DG can be enhanced, for example, by requesting deep dives on specific areas of interest and relevance to the Board. **(AP4)**

6.5 Northern Ireland Policing Board - Members' Code of conduct

The Chief Executive presented an updated paper on the Members Code of Conduct which addresses issues raised by Members at the previous Board meeting in April 2026.

Members were advised that legal advice has been received on the need to provide for an appeal of a sanction and the recommendation that there should be only one appeal stage, that is an appeal of both the determination of a breach and the proposed sanction, and this has been reflected in the Code of Conduct.

Members raised the following matters:

- That discussions at the April Board meeting on sharing the Code of Conduct with the Justice Minister were not accurately reflected in the draft minutes, and in the paper provided at today's meeting.

  In response the Chief Executive advised that the Board paper will be amended to reflect this feedback and for clarity, that the Code of Conduct will come back to the Board after sharing with the Justice Minister for final agreement. Additionally, should there be any comments from the Minister then these will be brought back to the Board for consideration. **(AP5)**

- Proposed changes to some of the wording in relation to appeals and recommendations on sanctions.

- Guidance requested on whether Political Members can share Board related information with Party colleagues and it was confirmed that sharing of confidential information outside the Board will constitute a breach of the Code of Conduct.

- To amend and broaden the terminology used in relation to a breach of the Code to reference a Member being 'under criminal investigation'.

  Members discussed the nature of criminal investigations; the need to hold all Members to account; and the extent of allegations made against Political Members, sometimes malicious in nature, due to the high profile of the role.

- The need for Members to advise the Board Chair of a breach of the Code as part of full transparency, and whether it is appropriate to make an immediate referral to the Minister of Justice following a potential breach.

- Independent Member Mr Peter Osborne expressed concerns on the appeals process and asked to be recorded against the proposals for handling appeals outlined in the Code.

Members discussed the role of the Justice Minister should a Member be arrested, or becomes subject to proceedings which may result in the Member being disqualified from holding office, and likely implications of a Member being 'under investigation'; that a Member is removed from the Board if convicted of wrongdoing; the requirement for all Members to adhere to the Nolan Principles of public office; whether a Member should inform the Chair if under investigation of any kind; and when it would be appropriate to inform the Justice Minister of a breach.

Following discussion and a vote on the proposed changes it was **AGREED** by a majority of Members: **(AP5)**

- To amend the Code of Conduct to include reference to being "under criminal investigation", and
- Remove reference to an automatic referral to the Minister of Justice, and
- That the final draft of the Code of Conduct will now be shared with the Justice Minister for comment, and the Code will come back to the Board to consider any views provided and to finally agree the Code.

7. ACTION LOG

Members **NOTED** the action log for the Board meetings held on 24 April 2026, 2 April 2026, 5 March 2026, 20 February 2026, and 5 February 2026.

The Chief Executive highlighted the following:

- AP1 from the Board meeting on 24 April 2026 – this relates to the review of the Board Senior staff structure and work is progressing on this matter. This action can now be closed.

- AP3 from the Board meeting on 2 April 2026 – this relates to the collation of recommendations from all Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) related reports, and Members were advised that all recommendations have been collated in the appendix of the Langdale Report.

  This action can now be closed following discussion at today's meeting in public with PSNI and a new action will reflect the Chair's request for an action plan for the implementation of recommendations from the Langdale Review and Katie Simpson Report. **(AP6)**

  A Member requested that the Board be provided with a copy of the new PSNI governance procedure following the recent publication of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (PONI) report on Abuse of Position for Sexual Purpose by police officers. Members were advised that this matter would be discussed further following the meeting.

The Chief Executive updated Members on the remaining open action points - AP4 (2 April 2026) and the ongoing review of the revised Members' Code of Conduct; AP5 (5 March 2026) on Board concerns in response to the PSNI handling of a Freedom of Information (FOI) request; and AP7 (5 March 2026) on work taking place to progress agreement of a Tripartite plan.

8. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

8.1 Chair's Report

The Chair asked the Board to **NOTE** the Chair's report and related addendum which advised Members of:

- The Chair's engagements carried out during the period 4 April 2026 to 5 May 2026.

- A full list of correspondence issued and received by the Chair during the period 24 March 2026 to 5 May 2026.

In respect of engagements and meetings 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 highlighted the following items of correspondence:

- Correspondence from a journalist in relation to an FOI request submitted to PSNI.
  The Communications Manager provided an update including the timeline of events from the initial FOI request; concerns raised by the journalist on the PSNI response; correspondence issued and received during this period; and sought Members views.

  Members discussed the tone of PSNI response to correspondence from the previous Chair and whether lessons have been learned; the allegations made and response provided by PSNI; whether this matter is a strategic issue and requires the Board's involvement; the role of the Information Commissioners Office (ICO), and confirmation that the ICO found in favour of PSNI; the ongoing challenges for PSNI to respond to FOIs given the volume of requests and processing costs; and confirmation that a summary of the PSNI response will be provided to the requestor. The Board agreed that due diligence in relation to the matters raised had now been completed.

- The Chair's response to correspondence from a Political Board Member, not in the meeting at the time, on the PSNI deployment of Taser T10 and that further concerns could be raised at the Board's Performance Committee.

- Response from the Home Office to correspondence on the McCullough Review recommendations and that consideration be given to the appointment of a Commissioner for covert law enforcement in NI, as part of strengthening oversight arrangements. The Chair advised that a meeting has been scheduled with the Rt Hon Sir Brian Leveson in the Autumn.

- The Chair asked Members to note the Justice Ministers response to the Independent Review of the Policing Board (Sweeney Review).

- Correspondence received on the national reform agenda and new policing arrangements in England/ Wales and that related discussions were planned for the Board meeting in July 2026, when the NCA DG will be in attendance.
  Additionally, Members were advised that reference to future funding for the Paramilitary Crime Task Force (PCTF), as set out in the correspondence, can be addressed later at the meeting in private with PSNI.

- Correspondence to the Justice Minister on the progression of regulatory amendments regarding the Injury on Duty scheme and the T/Director of Police Pensions and Injury Benefits provided an update on work taking place.

- Correspondence from a journalist to request that PONI be investigated for errors in their handling of the Katie Simpson investigation.
  Following discussion, it was agreed that the Board cannot address the issues raised as it is not the accountability body for PONI.

Members raised the following matters:

- On correspondence from the College of Policing and its consultation on Stop and Search Authorised Professional Practice (APP), a copy of the consultation was requested to establish if there was any relevance for Northern Ireland, and it was agreed to share after the meeting.

8.2 Updated Membership of the Board's Standing Committees

The Chief Executive presented the updated membership of the Board's Standing Committees following recent changes, as follows:

- Ms Deirdre Hargey MLA to replace Mr Gerry Kelly MLA on the Board's Audit & Risk Assurance Committee.

- Membership of the Senior Officer Employee Matters Group should include an additional Independent Member and Mr Tommy O'Reilly has agreed to serve on the SOEM group.

- The Board Vice-Chair, Mr Mukesh Sharma, will undertake the role of Chair of Discipline Committee.

Pursuant to Section 20 paragraph (f) of the Board's Standing Orders which state 'The Members of committees shall be appointed by the Board', Members considered and:

- **APPROVED** the above changes to the membership of the Board's Standing Committees.

8.3 Draft correspondence to PSNI on Operation Constraint – Independent Review

The Chair presented draft correspondence to PSNI following the commissioning of an independent review in December 2025 into the PSNI's arrangements for the procurement, handling, storage, movement and control of police issued firearms and ammunition.

The Chair summarised the correspondence, indicating that PSNI confirm that all recommendations have been accepted, requested comment on why national guidance is not routinely promulgated within PSNI, and the PSNI views on why non-compliance with national guidance had not previously been identified as an issue through Internal Audit processes.

Following consideration Members **AGREED** to issue the correspondence without amendment.

8.4 Draft response to PSNI – Terms of Reference for Strategic Resourcing Review

The Chair raised this agenda item earlier in the meeting to allow for a full discussion on the proposed draft correspondence to the Chief Constable on the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the PSNI Strategic Resourcing Review.

Members suggested the inclusion of trends on serious/ non serious crime figures in the past 5 years and projections over the next 10 years as well as impact on future demand for policing; to take account of the public sector funding envelope; to consider reviewing efficiency metrics used by similar Forces in England and Wales; the role of Artificial Intelligence and Data Management as part of a predictive type Police operating model; implications for PSNI of planned policing reform in the rest of the UK; the role and rationale of a demand forecasting model; the need for a strategic vision informed by a wide range of stakeholders; the rationale of not sharing an investment roadmap with the Board or DOJ; and that proposed implementation timelines were challenging given that necessary governance processes have yet to be developed or approved.

Following discussion it was **AGREED** to:

- **NOTE** the terms of reference from PSNI on the Strategic Resourcing Review, and

- Incorporate Members comments into the draft response to the Chief Constable and share the final draft with Members for agreement by written procedure. **(AP7)**

Members discussed the Justice Minister's response to the Independent Review of the NI Policing Board (Sweeney Review) and the Departments view that it does not consider that initiating a further independent review of the efficiency and effectiveness of the PSNI is necessary or proportionate at this time; and on the status of the Board's response to the Review it was confirmed that it has been published.

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 highlighted the following matters:

- That the financial position to the end of March 2026 reflected an overall easement, primarily due to lower than anticipated expenditure on Police Appeals Tribunals, Senior Officer Appointments, and Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs).

- On Senior officer matters the pay remits from the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) have been approved and will be processed in due course.

- On the time commitment for Independent Members to fulfil the role DOJ has indicated willingness to consider further ahead of the next planned recruitment process, and a business case for anticipated costs will be required. However, this will be unaffordable for the Board, as any additional pay costs would need to be met within the Board's existing budget.

Members noted that officials would progress the necessary business case but expressed some concern that the Board was not the most appropriate body to develop the case.

- Upcoming dates for PSNI Attestations, TEAM PSNI Events, and Engagement events.

Members **NOTED** the update provided.

9.1 Board Programme of Work 2026-27

Members **NOTED** the updated Board Programme of Work for 2026–27 and that it will continue to be shared at Board meetings to reflect any changes.

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

The Chair welcomed Members back to the private session of the Board meeting and invited any remaining questions not addressed earlier in the day.

A Member referred to the high number of road fatalities in Northern Ireland and asked what actions are being taken to reduce them. The PSNI acknowledged ongoing challenges but noted that recorded fatalities have decreased from 71 in 2023 to 56 in 2025. They highlighted the continued rollout of the Fatal Five road safety promotion campaign as a key intervention.

PSNI advised that they are actively engaging with DFI and recognise the need for legislative change. The forthcoming Graduated Drivers Licencing scheme due to commence on the 1 October 2026 will place greater emphasis on speeding offences, mobile phone use and restrictions on nighttime driving and passenger numbers, with the aim of reducing collisions and fatalities among young drivers.

PSNI advised that 13 additional officers have been allocated to support road safety activity and noted the need to increase the speed at which cases move through the justice system in order to take danger off the roads.

A Member sought clarification regarding Project Sperrin and costs previously incurred by PSNI in respect of the transporting of explosives for the Dalradian Gold Mining Company The Member asked whether PSNI can take steps to prevent this in the future or whether there is an opportunity for any costs associated with the provision of this service to be recovered. PSNI advised that they are unable to recoup any associated costs as this service is not classified as a special police service.

A Member referred to the Langdale Report and asked whether it had been circulated to the Women's Police Association (WPA), whether the WPA is represented at SMB and whether the Police Federation Northern Ireland provides equal support to the complainant and the victim.
The Chief Constable confirmed that all support groups had full access to the report, and while the WPA are not represented at the SMB (as this includes statutory bodies only), PSNI advised that they have regular engagement with the organisation. In respect of the PFNI, PSNI noted their role in respect of the provision of welfare support and that both complainants and victims should be treated equally.

A Member asked for an update on two recent incidents, the first in Carryduff where two vehicles were set on fire, and a second in Coleraine where a PSNI statement confirmed that a 20 year old male had been arrested following an incident. The Chief Constable noted the question and confirmed that he would respond promptly in writing with an update to the Board.

Further questions asked by Members in the private session related to:

- Two recent vehicular attacks on PSNI stations and whether there is concern over the lack of timely or high-quality intelligence given these incidents progressed as they did. The Chief Constable provided an update on the investigation and noted the support that have been put in place and made available to those officers and staff affected.

- Changes to town centres and specifically the number of Barber shop businesses being set up which appear not to be operating as conventional barber shops.

- A previous written question submitted by a Member where the response had not adequately addressed the question. The Chief Constable apologised that the question had not been answered satisfactorily and that a further reply would be provided promptly in writing following today's meeting.

- Concerns regarding the NICHE record management system and issues identified in the recent Katie Simpson Review Report regarding the failure to find previous convictions when the database was searched. PSNI noted that this issued had been addressed some time ago and that primary flags now appear on the first page of NICHE report when the database is searched.

The Board Chair thanked the Chief Constable and his leadership team for their responses and they left the meeting.

11. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

The Communications Manager updated Members on statements issued on the attacks on Lurgan and Dunmurry station as well as condemnation of the threat made against PSNI officers and staff. It was agreed a series of statements to be attributed to the Board Chair should be issued to include the focus at today's meeting in public on the findings and recommendations from the Katie Simpson and Langdale Reviews; the funding gap in the PSNI Resource plan for 2026-27 and ongoing costs on policing legacy casework; the Board's approval to dispose of 7 PSNI station sites following the annual capital strategy update and estate disposal report; road safety issues, including the policing response to the use of e-scooters and bikes; and the BBC programme *'Peelers: The PSNI for Real'*, which highlights the challenges of everyday policing.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A Member raised concerns regarding previous correspondence received confirming a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct and requested that it be rescinded given new information in the public domain relating to the Katie Simpson investigation.

Following discussion, the Chair agreed to review the request and revert to the Member as soon as possible.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 4 June 2026 at 9.30am in James House.

The meeting closed at 3.45pm.

Strategic Planning & Governance
May 2026

Chair