NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD
10th September 2026 at 9:30am

PRESENT:		Mr Gerry Kelly, Chair
	(5)	Mr Les Allamby, Vice Chair
	(4)	Ms Cheryl Brownlee
	(4)	Ms Nuala McAllister*
		Mr Thomas O'Reilly
	(4)	Mr Colin McGrath
		Mr Frank McManus*
	(2)	Mr Patrick Nelson*
		Mr Peter Osborne
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE		Mr Mukesh Sharma
POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE	(1)	Assistant Chief Constable Davy Beck
	(1)	Det Chief Superintendent Zoe McKee
	(1)	Superintendent Lindsey Fisher
OPONI IN ATTENDANCE	(3)	OPONI CEO Hugh Hume
	(3)	OPONI Official Jennifer Lamont
	(3)	OPONI Official Ursula Mezza
	(3)	OPONI Official Paul McAlister
UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER IN ATTENDANCE		Professor Duncan Morrow
		Dr Gabrielle Nugent-Stephens
		Dr Josie Scott
		Dr Brendan Coyle
OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:		Ms Sinead Simpson*, NIPB CEO
		Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of Performance
		Mr Aonghus Kelly, Human Rights Advisor,
		7 Officials

*Attended via video conferencing

(1) Attended for Item 6.1 only
(2) Attended up to Item 6.2
(3) Attended for Item 6.2 only
(4) Attended up to Item 6.3
(5) Attended up to Item 6.7

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Deirdre Hargey and Trevor Clarke.

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 11th June 2026.

It was **NOTED**

That Minutes of the Performance Committee meeting on the 11th June 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 was provided at the Committee meeting

in May. The Human Rights Advisor provided an update following his meeting with PSNI to view the draft guidelines and dip sample cases. The Human Rights Advisor confirmed he had had the opportunity to sample two cases so far and would move on to others once concerns regarding one of the sampled cases had been resolved. Members expressed concerns with the guidelines being followed by PSNI and still wish to see these. The Human Rights Advisor confirmed the guidelines were close to finalisation and had been reclassified for Members to view. He hoped to be able to share the guidelines with Members at Octobers Performance Committee.

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 AP1 from the meeting held on 14 May 2026 – Human Rights Advisor to clarify with ACC McNally how automation software is used by the PSNI. The Human Rights Advisor confirmed he had sight of a draft document outlining uses of automation software by the PSNI and suggested this could be circulated to Members. Members were content with this response and this action is now closed.

The Director provided an update on AP2 from the meeting held on 14 May 2026 – Officials to clarify with ACC Beck the prioritisation Matrix (eCop) weighting statistical information. Officials wrote to PSNI on 15 May 2026 and PSNI response was included at Item 4.1 and Members were content with the response and this item is now closed.

The Director provided an update on AP1 from the meeting held on 11 June 2026 – Officials to ask PSNI to outline any steps taken by officers prior to the

application of spit and bite guards where mental health is a factor. PSNI provided a response on 1 September 2026 and this is included in the Action Log of today's agenda Members were content with the response and this item is now closed.

The Director provided an update on AP2 from the meeting held on 11 June 2026 – Officials to ask the PSNI for an explanation of why the stop and search rates for members of the Irish Traveller Community (ITC) are ten times higher than the White population per 1000 population. Officials wrote to PSNI on 15 June 2026. PSNI responded on 1 September 2026. The response is included within the Action Log on today's agenda. Members were content with the response and this item is now closed.

The Director provided an update on AP3 from the meeting held on 11 June 2026 – Officials to request further detail from PSNI on whether cyber work could be done internally within PPB with extra training to reduce the backlog to the cyber centre. Officials wrote to PSNI on 15 June 2026. PSNI yet to respond.

The Director provided an update on AP4 from the meeting held on 11 June 2026 – Officials to request updated race/hate crime guidance. PSNI provided SI-2117 on Hate Crime which has been included at Item 4.1 of today's agenda. Members were content with this response and this item is now closed.

The Director provided an update on AP5 from the meeting held on 11 June 2026 – Officials to request further detail on governance processes and how success will be measured under the joint strategy between PPS and PSNI. PSNI responded on 21 July 2026. This response is included at Item 4.1 of today's agenda. Members were content with this response and this item is now closed.

The Director provided an update on AP6 from the meeting held on 11 June 2026 – Human Rights Advisor to investigate statistics on destruction of property due to sectarian hate crime data. The Human Rights Advisor will consider this within his next thematic report on race and hate.

The Director provided an update on AP7 from the meeting held on 11 June 2026 – Officials to seek further information regarding the PSNI Child Internet Protection Team (CIPT) and information on the number of officers and civilian staff who currently have no line manager. PSNI provided a response regarding the CIPT on 21 July 2026 and line management on 17 June 2026. These responses were included at Item 4.0 of today's agenda, and this item is now closed.

Following discussion Members: -

AGREED

In relation to officers and staff with no line management, Officials to seek clarification from PSNI on how these officers and staff are currently being managed? i.e. what provisions for supervision are in place for those staff without line management and who is directing their work activities. **(AP1)**

It was: -

NOTED

Members were content with the responses received.

5.0 CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

The Chair made Members aware of an invitation received on behalf of the Reducing Offending in Partnership (ROP) Steering Group to attend a briefing event on 14 October 2026.

6. ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6.1 Policing Plan Indicator 1.1 – The Effectiveness In Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls

Board Officials presented a paper providing Members with an analysis of PSNI's Performance to date in relation to Indicator 1.1 – The Effectiveness In Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls with progress measured through the impacts identified within the Policing Plan 2025 to 2030.

The Chairperson welcomed the PSNI to the meeting. He invited them to brief Members on the work relating to Policing Plan Indicator 1.1.

The PSNI presented information through an OBA Report Card and provided a statistical commentary of their performance against Indicator 1.1 and discussed with Members the work carried out in key areas including:

- Baselines, quantitative data and key impacts;
- Qualitative data including; development of new strategic framework for tackling violence against women and children, launch of Domestic Abuse Protection Notices/Orders pilot and new initiatives to tackle violence against women and children;
- The reasons for the PSNI's self-assessment of "adequate progress" including sustained delivery of strategic and operation improvements to strengthen victim focused policing and reduced key offence categories and enhanced safeguarding arrangements.

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

- A Member noted that only an executive summary of the Langdale Review had been released publicly. They suggested that the Policing Board Chair should write to the Chief Constable (CC) to request the full report (redacted as required) be released for reasons of public confidence;
- A Member queried what had been done with regards to training to ensure officers had confidence in how to conduct their duties to tackle violence against women and children and pointed to a perceived lack of understanding among officers of the issues, particularly around dealing with victims and families. They also noted that third party training providers such as Nexus were no longer involved in providing training;
- A Member highlighted a number of issues regarding Stalking Prevention Orders (SPOs); despite a 7.6% increase in stalking offences why had SPOs remained stagnant at four; evidence of communication challenges with victims particularly across districts; why there seems to be blockage when a case is with Legal Services;~~.~~ whether Investigating Officers (IOs) have the necessary skills and experience; and details on the outcome of the review on SPOs.
- A Member noted the PSNI self-assessment score of "adequate progress" and suggested this diverged from public perception of police performance and asked what work was being done to communicate success stories;
- A Member asked for an update on any progress with agreeing on definitions and measures for policing VAWG across the UK;
- A Member asked for a further elaboration on the Domestic Violence and Abuse Disclosure Scheme pilot in Fermanagh & Omagh;
- A Member highlighted no improvement in the charge and summons rate and asked PSNI to provide more information on this;
- A Member referred to the 21 actions from the PSNI Year 3 VAWG Action Plan, they noted six of the actions had been completed in year 3 and

queried how the PSNI would keep up with progress on these and if any were still outstanding;

- A Member referred to the Langdale Review and Melia Report and asked how the PSNI were going to bring the recommendations together for action;
- A Member referred the use of TECSAFE Emergency Apps and noted that 214 had been issued so far. They highlighted that the coercive control figure had risen by 7.4% and that only 7% of repeat victims have access to the technology and queried why so few apps had been issued to women;
- A Member asked PSNI whether they had noticed an increase in Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Honour Based Abuse in Northern Ireland with the change in population demographics;
- A Member asked PSNI whether they had seen a spike in Non-Fatal Strangulation arrests since legislation criminalising it was passed; and
- A Member referred to research conducted by Aisling Swaine regarding paramilitary-related coercive control. The Member asked PSNI if they had identified this specific type of coercive control and do they deal with this separately or within their other VAWG strategies.

The PSNI provided the following responses: -

- In relation to the release of the Langdale Review, the PSNI informed Members that this issue had been discussed at length internally. They noted the CC had commissioned the internal review and that key stakeholders had had sight of the review in full, however they encouraged Members to write to the CC as suggested;
- In relation to VAWC training of officers, the PSNI stated that training had been developed and delivered. They stated that responsibility for training had originally sat with Public Protection Branch as they are the subject experts. However, this has been moved across to Organisation and Development to take a more holistic and joined up approach to training provision. The PSNI also noted that while some groups were not involved,

there was still significant third-party, partner and multi-agency involvement in training delivery;

- In relation to Stalking Prevention Order rates, PSNI conceded improvement could be made however explained that there has now been 5 issued not 4 as stated in report card. PSNI also highlighted that many SPOs involve live criminal proceedings, preventing the SPO being granted until the conclusion of these and noted that current legislation doesn't allow the courts to seek a SPO directly, an officer must apply. This is a potential gap which could be improved;
- In relation to Legal Services, the PSNI stated that currently thirty-three applications were with Legal Services. They cited challenges in capacity, confidence and skillset as slowing processing of applications;
- In relation to the investigating officer being the main point of contact, PSNI stated it was crucial that there was a thread running through the entire process. They noted there was a balance to be struck in terms of keeping issues local and relevant. They said that the more responsibility for these issues placed in the centre, the more officers on the periphery become deskilled. PSNI stated IOs were supported by experts in Public Protection Branch;
- In relation to public perception vs PSNI self-assessment. PSNI informed Members that their wider team are engaging with partners on a daily basis. On a local level, every District Commander (DC) and District Policing Partnership (DPP) has VAWC as a central focus. PSNI also noted that they have a dedicated communications officer in place for PPB and highlighted multiple schemes to improve outcomes and promote their work including the Power to Change campaign, male domestic violence campaign and the domestic violence disclosure scheme.
- In relation to standardising definitions and measures for policing across the UK, the PSNI informed Members that there had been some progress. The National Centre for Policing has released guidance that centralises data for forces in England and Wales;

- In relation to the "Power to Tell" scheme, the PSNI informed Members that a Domestic Violence and Abuse Disclosure Scheme (DVADS) has commenced in Fermanagh and Omagh. The goal of the pilot is to increase referrals to the Power to Tell scheme. The PSNI also informed Members of a planned joint PSNI and Executive Office Communications Plan for this scheme;
- In relation to the charge and summons rate, the PSNI stated that although higher than in England and Wales, the current charge and summons rate was not good enough. They said the new Serious Sexual Offence Strategy with the PPS is key to driving down attrition rates and that specific areas would require specific measures, controls and governance;
- In relation to the 21 actions from the VAWG Action Plan, PSNI informed Members there were significant reporting mechanisms behind the actions. They also highlighted that several actions carry over year on year and that others required a multi-agency approach. The PSNI said they would be writing to the Board on the new VAWC Strategic Framework and would include an update on the outstanding actions from the Action Plan;
- In relation to actioning Langdale and Melia reports, the PSNI informed Members that recommendations from Langdale and Melia will inform the delivery plan for their new Strategic Framework.
- In relation to TECSAFE Emergency Apps, the PSNI informed Members that there was a supply limit within funding. With respect to this, they had targeted towards those who would most benefit. While the PSNI accepted that only 7% of repeat victims had access to the technology, they viewed it as positive that there were 214 people with additional protection who would otherwise have been vulnerable;
- Regarding FGM, the PSNI said that although it is an issue of concern, the numbers were currently very low. FGM will form part of the PSNIs Race & Hate crime action plan. The PSNI also informed Members that research had been commissioned to see where NI sits nationally. Alongside this research Members were informed that PSNI attend bi-monthly meetings

with local ethnic minority women, at these meetings they have been told about FGM happening however it has not been criminally reported;

- Regarding Non-Fatal Strangulation (NFS), the PSNI reported that the legislation was positive and filled a gap. However, they did note arrest figures were steady although levels were worrying as NFS is seen as a "signal crime" which is often a precursor to more serious crime such as murder. The PSNI also highlighted a link between viewing of extreme pornography and NFS. They informed Members that more communications were needed to reinforce NFS is not an acceptable behaviour within society. PSNI also noted that The Rowan Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) had reported an increase in NFS cases. They also noted that the often non-visible nature of the injury could negatively affect attrition rates; and
- In relation to conflict-related coercive control, the PSNI confirmed that this type of abuse still exits. They stated the Paramilitary Crime Task Force (PCTF) tackles a broad range of crime under the paramilitary umbrella. They also stated difficulties due to a lack of reporting. PSNI also informed Members of a child criminal exploitation conference at Queens University which would have presentations on coercive control in paramilitarism and hoped some action plans would emerge from this.

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

Following discussion Members: -

AGREED

Officials to request the following information from PSNI on the Stalking Prevention Orders:

- SPOs remain stagnant at 4 (PSNI clarified this is now up to 5) despite stalking increasing by 7.6%. Why is this and what is being done to increase this?

- Victims having challenges with communication, particularly across districts. How can this be improved?

- Legal services blockage: –victims are being told when they ask for an update that legal services are holding things up. Is this correct?

- IO skills/experience: Also, they are told an IO is the main point of contact but do IOs have the right skills and experience? **(AP2)**

AND

Officials to request from PSNI and share with Members:

(i) A copy of the draft strategic framework relating to VAWC; and

(ii) An update on the outstanding 21 actions from the Year 3 VAWG Action Plan. **(AP3)**

6.2 Item 6.2 OPONI Annual Reports 2025/26

Board Officials presented a paper providing Members with an examination of the Police Ombudsman's Annual Reports for 2025/26.

The Chairperson welcomed OPONI to the meeting. He invited them to brief Members on their annual reports for 2025/26.

OPONI provided the following information: -

- OPONI advised Members that their next themed report will be on PSNI Use of Force;

- OPONI informed Members this report would move from examining individual incidents to look for trends and statistical commonalities as well as thematic issues around culture and attitudes and if Use of Force (UoF) was propionate;
- OPONI informed Members that the number of complaints received remained broadly steady year to year and that there was nothing to suggest people were more discontent with UoF by police than previous years. Members were also informed that oppressive behaviour does not include UoF;
- OPONI highlighted to Members that recommendations were more often made for disciplinary action when the referral had come from the Chief Constable (CC) and reasons for this;
- OPONI reported that UoF was overwhelmingly against men;
- OPONI presented Members with data on the most common types of allegations regarding UoF, with use of handcuffs being the most common;
- OPONI advised Members that only instances where spit and bite guards were used on children or young people under the age of eighteen were reported to them. They also noted the Children's Commissioner was interested in this data;
- OPONI showed Members a short video showing a real-world example of a case of disproportionate UoF which resulted in a conviction for the officer involved. They reported that the case was concluded in 2024 after delays in the Criminal Justice System (CJS). Members were advised that while there are small numbers of these cases they can have an irreconcilable damage on the public's confidence in policing;
- Members were advised that while the public need to know cases will be rigorously investigated and prosecuted when required, officers also need to have confidence that investigations are based on evidence;
- PONI advised Members that they have also actively gone out to show when there has been no officer wrongdoing such as civil unrest, use of water cannon and baton rounds;

- OPONI noted that the police only have powers of UoF that are loaned by the public and they must have confidence they will be used appropriately. They also stated that not only does scrutiny support public confidence, it also can vindicate police when an investigation finds no wrongdoing.

Members engaged in a discussion regarding the questions identified by OPONI –

- A Member referred to the video shown by OPONI. They queried when the incident was reported and the reason for such long delays in CJS;
- A Member, referring to the case in the video, queried where the officer was now and what happens to them in between the incident being reported and the case being concluded;
- A Member referred to the number of recommendations sent to PPS, they noted that out of 143 recommendations sent, only 12 were recommendations of prosecution;
- A Member noted that out of 35 policy recommendations sent to PSNI, one had not been accepted and twenty-three remained outstanding. They queried the reasons for the delay in getting policy changes actioned;
- A Member asked OPONI for figures on recommendations made to PSNI around misconduct and performance and asked if there were any underlying issues around recommendations or response from PSNI;
- A Member asked if PSNI provide reasoning to OPONI on why they have disregarded a recommendation;
- A Member noted complaints relating to police enquiries were up by 90% and queried reasons why;
- A Member noted a statistic that two thirds of police officers were frustrated at the length of time OPONI investigations were taking and asked if anything could be done to speed these up;
- A Member asked if OPONI could comment on any new areas or emerging themes they may have noticed;

- A Member highlighted the issue of reporting not being taken seriously enough and asked where the issues lie i.e. line management, Professional Standards Department or senior leadership; and
- A Member asked for an update on the 20 Abuse of Power for Sexual Purposes cases.

OPONI provided the following responses: -

- In relation to the officer shown in the video, OPONI confirmed they received the report within a couple of days after the event. They informed Members that the file was prepared and sent to the PPS within twelve months, however due to delays in CJS, the case wasn't concluded until 2024. OPONI also noted that due to a current gap in the law, cases cannot be fast-tracked to the Chief Constable. This issue will be resolved in the new Justice Bill which is currently with the Assembly. OPONI stated this would allow the CC to make a decision on similar issues via special hearings, which would speed up resolutions and increase confidence in policing;
- Regarding the whereabouts of the officer in the video, OPONI confirmed the officer in question left the PSNI in 2021 and was found guilty of assault;
- In relation to recommendations sent to PPS, OPONI informed Members that although the majority of referrals from OPONI were not recommending prosecution, where they "may have committed a criminal offence" the file must go to PPS. They informed Members that there is a "clinic" within the PPS where files that meet the standard to be referred to them but are unlikely to proceed to prosecution could be viewed and processed in one sitting which has sped up processing. OPONI advised that they will appeal some cases in instances where they believe there is a case to answer, but due to lack of criminal law meaning PPS can't prosecute;
- In relation to PSNI policy recommendations, OPON informed Members that after asking Performance Committee for assistance with this last year

there has been progress. In some instances, PSNI will have accepted a recommendation but haven't implemented it due to lack of resourcing or training. They reported they were working more closely with PSNI to improve the process and provide better rationale for their recommendations and their better relationship with the PSNI is allowing them to target more systemic recommendations;

- In relation to number of recommendations made around performance and misconduct, OPONI stated there were four categories of recommendation; Gross misconduct, Misconduct, Performance/Learning and No Further Action. They however, said they couldn't give precise figures on these;
- OPONI informed Members that debates around appropriateness of recommendations tended to be case specific and reported that there were legislative challenges involved and that they have limited capacity to challenge PSNI decisions around misconduct. A court case between OPONI and PSNI determined that OPONIs role is to investigate and the CC's role is to decide;
- In relation to rationale for disregarding recommendations, OPONI confirmed that PSNI provide the appropriate authorities rationale on their decision making;
- In relation to police enquiry complaints, OPONI suggested it could be a categorisation issue as work had been done around how complaints were categorised;
- In relation to investigation timelines, OPONI emphasised that they had no vested interest in holding up investigations and reported several issues were causing delays in processing, highlighting resourcing as a major issue and also time spent on legacy investigations including the Omagh bomb enquiry which takes funding and personnel away from working on contemporary policing. OPONI also pointed to the previously discussed legislation issues and the fact that many complaints were not about misconduct or criminal wrongdoing which limits what can be sent to the Chief Constable. OPONI also noted that complaints were becoming more

serious and complex, citing social media as one example. They reported these investigations take a lot of time and manpower and that systems modernisation such as digital forensics was required to tackle these;

- Regarding emerging themes, OPONI noted in terms of themes that the Langdale review and media landscape signals broader cultural issues; They also noted that standard of supervision, in particularly temporarily promoted line management was an emerging issue. OPONI informed Members that there is an emerging issue in both domestic violence by police officers and male violence against female officers;
- Regarding where issues in taking complaints seriously lies, OPONI suggested that one problem is that officers can't make complaints themselves to OPONI, with officer against officer complaints being investigated by PSNIs Professional Standards Department (PSD). OPONI suggested clear policy and guidance is needed on how to create a structure for dealing with officer-on-officer violence. Although OPONI said PSD is usually the right branch, they questioned if they had the skills and mandate to investigate internal violence and also, how independence could be maintained in such investigations; and
- In relation to APSP cases, OPONI informed Members there would be a further report released in the new year.

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

Following discussion Members: -

AGREED

Officials to request further information from OPONI on the categorisation of complaints leading to a 90% increase in complaints

on Police enquiries and details in relation to recommendations made to PSNI (PSD). **(AP4)**

6.3 Human Rights Advisor Annual Report – First Draft

The Human Rights Advisor informed members that this report is the Northern Ireland Policing Board's 18th Human Rights Annual Report covering 2025/25. This is the first report completed by the current Human Rights Advisor and includes a period prior to his appointment.

The report reviews topics such as Victims, Stop and Search and Use of Force. These, and other areas, have been evaluated in each previous annual report. This Report examines fourteen important areas of policing in Northern Ireland and the Human Rights Advisor assessment of the PSNI's current performance in each one. From this analysis the Policing Board has identified 10 recommendations for the PSNI to consider improving its Human Rights compliance.

The Independent Human Rights Advisor discussed with Members the methodology and form of the annual report and sought views to guide preparation for the next annual report. Members engaged in a brief discussion and proposed a number of amendments to be made to the current report and to the form of the future report.

Following discussions it was:-

NOTED

Board Members to submit comments and amendments on Draft Human Rights Annual Report. Officials will collate and issue a further draft to Members prior to tabling at the November Board meeting.

6.4 Human Rights Advisor Update

The Human Rights Advisor (HRA) provided Members with an overview of areas within his current work programme during the period July/August 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 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 September 2026 including attending the Board and Performance Committee and meeting with various PSNI officers and stakeholders, attending Appropriate Adult Scheme information day at Newforge as well as meetings in London with Jonathan Hall KC, John Wadham and Angus McCullough KC.

Members engaged in brief discussion.

Following discussion it was: -

NOTED

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

6.5 Community Policing Survey 2026 – Draft Report

Board officials provided Members with the draft Community Policing Survey 2026 along with an infographic outlining the main findings. The Community Policing Survey directly informs indicators in Outcome 2: We have Safe and

Engaged Communities of the Policing Plan. A Board Official outlined for Members the main findings from the survey and asked Members to approve this draft and to recommend it to the Board for publication.

Members engaged in brief discussion.

Following discussion it was: -

AGREED

Members were content with the draft Community Policing Survey 2026 and approved recommending it to the Board for publication.

6.6 Update on PACE Codes

The Police Human Rights and Professional Standards (PHRPS) Manager provided Members with a paper updating them on the current status in relation to the PACE Codes of practice and consultation on live links in custody. Members were advised that on 1 July 2026 PACE Codes A-I had commenced. Members were reminded of concerns raised by the Boards previous Human Rights Advisor John Wadham regarding the use of Live Links and their attention was drawn to several amendments made to the Codes in respect of these. Members were asked to consider the proposed changes to the Code and requested that any comments or views be submitted by Wednesday 16 September.

Following discussion Members: -

NOTED

The updates to PACE codes and agreed to submit any comment or feedback by Wednesday 16 September.

6.7 Research – Community Background Monitoring – UU Consultation

Members were provided with an update from Professor Duncan Morrow and colleagues on the Community Background Monitoring Research being carried out by Ulster University (UU). Members were informed that UU first looked at legislation and powers of PSNI, previous Independent Reviewers reports, academic literature and ways international police forces collect data. Members were advised that there is no one data source that will give everything that is required.

Members engaged in discussion around the options presented by the UU on the best way that the PSNI could collect Community Background data and the various ways the data could be collected. Members were also asked for their comments and feedback prior to the finalisation of a draft report.

Following discussion Members: -

NOTED

The researchers will take Members comments and feedback into consideration and return to present a final draft report later in the year.

7. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

7.1 Members wished to ask the following questions to the Chief Constable;

To ask the Chief Constable - what steps are being taken to ensure that serving officers and staff who experience domestic abuse are supported appropriately, that reports are handled consistently and sensitively, and that organisational culture encourages victims to come forward, recognising the particular barriers that police officers may face when reporting abuse involving colleagues, former colleagues or intimate partners.

7.2 RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

Members noted the Chief Constable's responses to the questions enclosed at 7.2.

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 8th October 2026** at **9:30am**.

Meeting closed at 14:47pm.

PERFORMANCE DIRECTORATE

10 September 2026

Chairperson