

## NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 7 APRIL 2016 AT 9:30 AM, WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

#### PRESENT:

#### MEMBERS:

Mrs Anne Connolly, Chairperson  
Ms Deborah Watters, Vice-Chairperson

Ms Deirdre Blakely  
Mr Jonathan Craig  
Prof Brice Dickson  
Mr Ryan Feeney  
Mr Ross Hussey

(1) Mrs Dolores Kelly

(2) Mr Gerry Kelly

Mr Trevor Lunn

Ms Roisin McGlone

(3) Mr David McIlveen

Mr Robin Newton

Dr Paul Nolan

Ms Catherine Pollock

(4) Ms Caitríona Ruane

(5) Mr Pat Sheehan

#### POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE

(6) Mr George Hamilton, Chief Constable

(6) Mr Drew Harris, Deputy Chief Constable

(6) Mr Will Kerr, ACC Crime Operations

(6) Mr Stephen Martin, ACC District Policing Command

(6) Mr Alan Todd, T/ACC Operational Support Department

(6) Mr Mark McNaughten, T/Director of Finance & Support  
Services

(6) Ms Liz Young, Head of Corporate Communications

(6) Superintendent Andrew Freeburn, Command Secretariat

(6) Two PSNI Staff Members

#### HMIC OFFICE IN ATTENDANCE

(7) Mr Paul Savill

#### OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Edgar Jardine, Interim Chief Executive

Mrs Amanda Stewart, Director of Policy

Mr Brian McDonald, T/Director of Support Services

3 Board Officials

- (1) Part item number 8.1, & item numbers 10 - 16
- (2) Item numbers 1 – 7, part item 9 & 16
- (3) Part item number 3.3 – part item number 16
- (4) Item numbers 3 – 7, part item number 15 & item number 16
- (5) Part item number 3.1 – item number 7
- (6) Item number 16
- (7) Item numbers 15 & 16

## **1 APOLOGIES, ETC**

Apologies were received from Mrs Brenda Hale and Mrs Wendy Osborne.

The Chairperson asked Members to declare any conflicts of interest arising from the agenda. No conflicts of interests were declared.

## **2 DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE POLICING BOARD HELD ON 3 MARCH 2016**

The Board considered the draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 3 March 2016.

It was:-

### **RESOLVED:**

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 3 March 2016 be approved.

## **3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 MARCH 2016**

### **3.1 Human Resources Issues (Item 3.1 of minutes refers)**

The Interim Chief Executive updated the Board on a matter relating to a PSNI human resources issue. NOTED.

During discussion, the Chairperson advised the Board that she would ask the Chief

Constable a question at the Board meeting regarding performance management of senior staff in PSNI.

### **3.2 Issues arising from the Private Session with the Chief Constable (Item 17 of minutes refers)**

The Board noted a letter dated 18 March 2016 from PSNI regarding the following issues which had been raised with the PSNI at the March 2016 Board meeting:-

- Use of PCSPs to communicate Policing with the Community (PWC) messaging.
- Use of new psychoactive substances.
- Transfer of detained persons to hospital.

NOTED.

Members asked how PSNI intended to involve other organisations in the consultation process regarding the PWC messaging and collaborative work and agreed that the matter should be referred to the Partnership Committee for consideration.

The Board also noted a letter dated 22 March 2016 from PSNI regarding the recovery of firearms from an Orange Hall in Clifton Street, Belfast on 29 December 2015. NOTED.

### **3.3 Issues arising from the discussion with the Director General NCA (Item 18 of minutes refers)**

The Board noted that the Performance Committee had agreed a response to the National Crime Agency (NCA) consultation on the NCA Annual Plan. NOTED.

## **4 QUESTIONS TO RAISE WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

The Board noted:-

- A monthly report from the Chief Constable to the Board.
- Written responses from PSNI to questions raised by Committees and individual Members.

NOTED.

The Board agreed issues to be raised orally with PSNI later in the meeting.

## **5 CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Engagements**

The Board noted a list of the Chairperson's engagements during the period 8 March – 7 April 2016. NOTED.

### **5.2 Correspondence**

The Board noted a letter dated 9 March 2016 from the Mr Johnny Gwynne, NCA regarding questions raised at the Board meeting on 3 March 2016. NOTED.

### **5.3 Body Worn Video**

The Board noted a letter dated 1 April 2016 from PSNI regarding the Body Worn Video business case relating to benefit analysis and agreed that the matter should be referred to Committees for further consideration. NOTED.

### **5.4 Business Co-Ordination Group Meeting – 23 March 2016**

The Interim Chief Executive referred to a meeting of the Business Co-Ordination Group (BCG) which had taken place on 23 March 2016 and highlighted the following matters considered by the Group:-

#### **5.4.1 Arrangements for Committee meetings in April 2016**

The BCG had agreed that each Committee should consider whether a meeting should be held in April 2016 depending on business needs.

The Board discussed the matter and it was:-

**AGREED:**

- That Officials should consider items of business for each Committee and consult with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Committees as to whether the meetings should take place in April 2016.
- That if it is decided to hold a Committee meeting in April 2016, Officials should check Members availability on the day before the meeting in order to ensure that there is a quorum for the meeting.
- That if it is not possible to hold a meeting and a decision on an item of business is required by a Committee the issue should be dealt with by email.

The Board noted that a meeting of the Audit and Risk Management Committee would be held on 29 April 2016 to consider the Board's draft Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2016. NOTED.

The Interim Chief Executive advised Members that a Board Induction Event would be arranged for 26 May 2016. NOTED.

**5.4.2 Terms of Reference**

The Business Co-Ordination Group had considered draft Terms of Reference for the BCG. The Group considered whether the BCG should be more formally constituted with expanded TORs and agreed that the current, more informal, format should be retained. It was also agreed that the Terms of Reference for the Committees should be amended and brought to a future meeting of the Board.

## **6 AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **6.1 Draft Minutes of a meeting of the Audit and Risk Management Committee held on 11 March 2016**

The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to the draft minutes of the meeting and highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee:-

#### **6.1.1 NIPB Corporate Risk Register (Item 8 of minutes refers)**

#### **6.1.2 Internal Audit Progress Report 2015/16 (Item 9 of minutes refers)**

#### **6.1.3 NIPB Internal Audit Plan 2016/17 (Item 10 of minutes refers)**

#### **6.1.4 NIPB Internal Audit Strategy 2016/19 (Item 11 of minutes refers)**

#### **6.1.5 NIPB Gifts and Hospitality Register (Item 13 of minutes refers)**

#### **6.1.6 NIPB Direct Award Contracts (Item 14 of minutes refers)**

## **7 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

### **7.1 Draft Minutes of a meeting of the Partnership Committee held on 10 March 2016**

The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to the draft minutes of the meeting and highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee:-

#### **7.1.1 TALK Cross Border Strand (Item 3.5 of minutes refers)**

#### **7.1.2 Focus Groups and Interviews on Confidence Levels of Young People in Policing (Item 5.2 of minutes refers)**

A Member expressed disappointment at the Committee's decision regarding a proposal in respect of a potential flagship project to be supported by the Police Property Fund.

The Board discussed the process for allocation of funds from the Police Property Fund and the identification of projects which could make use of funding from the Police Property Fund.

In conclusion it was agreed that the process for allocating funds from the Police Property Fund should be further considered by the Partnership Committee.

## **8 PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

### **8.1 Minutes of a meeting of the Performance Committee held on 10 March 2016**

The Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to the minutes of the meeting and highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee:-

#### **8.1.1 Draft Human Rights Annual Report 2015 (Item 3.7 of minutes refers)**

The Board discussed the Human Rights Report and considered that an Event should be held in June 2016 to promote the report.

#### **8.1.2 HMIC's proposed 2016/17 Inspection Programme and Framework (Item 3.10 of minutes refers)**

This matter was considered at item number 15.

#### **8.1.3 PSNI Response to Child Sexual Exploitation (Item 5.1 of minutes refers)**

#### **8.1.4 CJINI Inspection of PSNI's role in support of the Coronial Process (Item 5.4 of minutes refers)**

#### **8.1.5 Briefing on the Relaunch of Discretionary Disposals Scheme (Item 5.8 of minutes refers)**

A Member requested that an amendment should be made to section 5.3 of the minutes.

## **9 RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

### **9.1 Minutes of a meeting of the Resources Committee held on 25 February 2016**

The Chairperson of the Committee referred Members to the minutes of the meeting and advised the Board that a verbal briefing on the meeting had been given at the Board meeting on 3 March 2016. NOTED.

### **9.2 Verbal Report on a Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 24 March 2016**

The Chairperson of the Committee advised the Board that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2016 were not yet available and provided a verbal report on the following.

#### **9.2.1 SMP Business Case**

The Director of Policy briefed the Board on the contract arrangement for the provision of Selected Medical Practitioner (SMP) services for the Board in order to fulfil its statutory responsibility for administering applications for ill health retirement and injury on duty awards and the Committee's decision that the Board should set up an approved list of service providers to act as SMP.

The Chairperson thanked the Director of Policy and Staff for the work which had been carried out in relation to the business case to appoint an SMP.

#### **9.2.2 Board Continuous Improvement Project 2016/17**

#### **9.2.3 End-Year Report on the implementation of the PSNI Estate Strategy**

#### **9.2.4 Gender and Community Background under-representation in PSNI Departments 2015/16 End of Year Report**

### **9.3 Employment and Support Allowance**

The Board considered a paper, tabled at the meeting regarding the deduction of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) for former Police Officers in receipt of an Injury on Duty (IOD) Award.

Following discussion Mr Jonathan Craig proposed that PSNI should stop deducting ESA and reimburse all deductions until the Department of Justice (DOJ) confirm the position relating to whether the changes will be retrospective or on a point forward basis. The proposal was seconded by Mr Ross Hussey. By a show of hands four Members indicated that they were in favour of the proposal. Eight Members indicated that they were not in favour of the proposal. One Member abstained from voting.

Mr Trevor Lunn proposed that PSNI stop deducting ESA immediately but do not reimburse deductions already made from 2008 until a position on whether the change will be retrospective or on a point forward basis is known.

The proposal was seconded by Ms Catherine Pollock. By a show of hands eight Members indicated that they were in favour of the proposal. One Member indicated that they were not in favour of the proposal. Four Members abstained from voting. The proposal was carried and it was:-

#### **RESOLVED:**

That PSNI should be instructed to stop deducting ESA immediately but not to reimburse deductions already made from 2008 until a position on whether the change will be retrospective or on a point forward basis is known.

## **10 NIPB BUSINESS PLAN 2015/2016 – END OF YEAR ASSESSMENT**

The Board considered a paper which provided Members with an assessment of performance against the Board's Business Plan 2015/2016.

Following discussion it was:-

**AGREED:**

That the NIPB Business Plan 2015/2016 – End Year Assessment should be published on the Board's website.

**11 INFORMATION PAPERS**

The Board noted the following paper:-

11.1 Schedule of Events – April 2016

NOTED.

**12 COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

The Board noted:-

- A news release regarding the publication of the Strategic Outcomes for Policing in Northern Ireland 2016-2020 and the Policing Plan 2016-2017.
- A draft news release in relation to the publication of the Board's Human Rights Annual Report.

NOTED.

**13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was conducted.

**14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 2 June 2016.

**15 HMIC'S PROPOSED INSPECTION PROGRAMME AND FRAMEWORK FOR 2016/17**

The Board considered a paper which provided Members with details of HMIC's proposed

programme of inspections for 2016/17.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Paul Savill, HMIC Office to the meeting.

Mr Savill briefed the Board on the publication of HMIC's proposed programme of inspections for the 2016/17 year and advised Members that the Board should seek to make a recommendation to the Minister on the inspection activity for 2016/17 at the earliest opportunity in order to inform HMIC planning process. A copy of the slides of the presentation is attached at Appendix "A".

Members discussed a number of issues with Mr Savill including:-

- An area of concern regarding the number of deaths on roads in Northern which was not included in the inspection programme.
- The balance between policing the present and the past.
- The responses to the consultation which was being sought from the Board regarding the various areas of policing and themes covered in the HMIC programme.
- Joint inspections during 2016/17 relating to stalking and harassment and a joint targeted area inspection of child protection.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Savill for attending the discussion with the Board.

The Board approved Mr Savill's attendance at the private Board meeting with the Chief Constable.

## **16 PRIVATE SESSION WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

The Chairperson welcomed the Chief Constable and the Service Executive Team to the meeting and invited Members' questions to the Chief Constable.

In response to a Member's question the PSNI briefed Board Members on issues relating

to parades over the Easter period. The PSNI specifically addressed Members concerns regarding paramilitary style dress and breaches of Parades Commission determinations. The PSNI advised the Board that an overwhelming majority of Easter parades passed off lawfully and peacefully and updated Members on the police evidence gathering operation and continued engagement with the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) regarding potential prosecutions. Members noted that an incident involving the use of CS spray was currently under investigation by OPONI. Members were also updated on the on-going police operation in relation to the most recent vandalism of the Teebane Memorial.

In response to a Member's question regarding the destruction of police files revealed at the Arlene Arkinson inquest the PSNI briefed Members on the broader issue of previous and current protocols regarding the retention and destruction of police files. The representatives from PSNI undertook to provide the Board with information regarding the process which was used by PSNI Pensions Branch regarding obtaining information from retired Officers and the outcome from that. The Chief Constable advised the Board that he would brief Members on the case after the Arlene Arkinson inquest was completed.

Following a Member's question regarding the number of abortion offences reported to and acted on by the PPS the PSNI discussed with Members the emotive nature of this issue and the very low numbers of such cases reported to the PPS. The PSNI advised that they would revert to the Board with specific numbers in relation to the Member's question.

In response to a question from a Member, the Chief Constable undertook to provide the Board with information regarding references in the media in relation to children being held too long in custody.

In response to a Member's question regarding the new PSNI Corporate Support Branch and its link with Policing Board business and governance the PSNI updated Members on the various functions which now sit together in this branch and how this has enhanced the way the work is managed. Members were also updated on the work of the Strategic Diversity Steering Group. Members discussed with the PSNI the frequency of the Group's meetings and the various work streams which report to the Steering Group.

Following a Member's question regarding the new structure in relation to detectives now under Crime Operations Department the PSNI advised Members about the positive

feedback they have received regarding the new structure and the more flexible operational capability it provides within the organisation. Members also noted that work was ongoing to increase the number of trained detectives within the PSNI and highlighted the need for the availability of the Confidential Telephone Number to be reinforced within communities.

In response to a Member's question regarding the threat level in Northern Ireland following the Easter period the PSNI advised the Board that the threat level remains at 'Severe' and discussed the ongoing dissident republican threat in Northern Ireland.

Regarding a question about performance management, the Chairperson advised that she would arrange a meeting with the Chief Constable to discuss the matter.

The Chairperson thanked Members and the PSNI for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Meeting closed at 2.00 pm)

## **Board Support**

**Date:** April 2016

\_\_\_\_\_ **Chairperson**