

## NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER 2016 AT 9:30 AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

#### PRESENT:

#### MEMBERS:

- Mrs Anne Connolly, Chairperson
- Ms Deborah Watters, Vice-Chairperson
- (1) Ms Deirdre Blakely
- Ms Joanne Bunting
- Mr Keith Buchanan
- Prof Brice Dickson
- Dr Stephen Farry
- (2) Mr Ryan Feeney
- (1) Mrs Brenda Hale
- (3) Mr Gerry Kelly
- (3) Ms Jennifer McCann
- Mr Raymond McCartney
- Mr Nelson McCausland
- Dr Paul Nolan
- Mrs Wendy Osborne
- (3) Ms Catherine Pollock.

#### POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE

- (4) Mr George Hamilton, Chief Constable
- (4) Mr Alan Todd, ACC Operational Support Department
- (4) Mr Mark McNaughten, T/Director of Finance & Support Services & Human Resources
- (4) Ms Liz Young, Head of Corporate Communications
- (4) Ms Jude Helliker, Head of Human Resources
- (4) Superintendent Phil Knox
- (4) Superintendent Andrew Freeburn, Command Secretariat
- (4) One PSNI Staff Member

#### POLICE SCOTLAND

- (4) Chief Superintendent Alan Gibson

#### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- (5) Mr Anthony Harbinson
- (5) Mrs Rosemary Crawford
- (5) Mr Michael Meehan
- (5) Mr Gary Dodds

## **OFFICIALS**

Mrs Amanda Stewart, Chief Executive  
Mrs Paula Gow, T/Director of Partnership  
Ms Jenny Passmore, T/Director of Policy  
Mr David Wilson, Director of Support Services  
Two Board Officials

- (1) Part item 2 to close
- (2) Item 1, part item 2 & part item 3
- (3) Item 1, part item 2 & item 3
- (4) Part item 2
- (5) Item 3

## **1 APOLOGIES ETC**

No apologies were received.

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

The Chairperson referred to a request which had been received from the Superintendents' Association and the Police Federation for Northern Ireland to join the meeting for the discussion with the Chief Constable and C/Superintendent Alan Gibson regarding the review of the Police College.

Members considered the issue and it was:-

### **AGREED:**

That as this was a private meeting the Police Staff Associations should not be invited to attend the meeting.

The Chairperson referred to letters which she and individual Members had received from a member of the public regarding the review of the Police College.

During discussion it was:-

### **AGREED:**

That copies of the Chair's correspondence with the Member of the public should be issued to Members.

The Chief Executive referred to correspondence which had been sent to C/Superintendent Alan Gibson regarding the review of the Police College and it was:-

**AGREED:**

That copies of this correspondence should also be issued to Members.

## **2 POLICE COLLEGE REVIEW**

The Board considered a paper which provided Members with a report on the review of the Police College, Garnerville, Belfast.

The Board discussed issues to be raised orally with the Chief Constable and C/Superintendent Alan Gibson later in the meeting.

The Chairperson welcomed the Chief Constable, his colleagues and C/Superintendent Alan Gibson to the meeting.

C/Superintendent Gibson outlined his role as Head of Training in Police Scotland and referred to a review which he had carried out to examine issues arising at the Police College, Garnerville during which Student Officers breached the confidentiality agreement linked to the examination process.

During discussion Members outlined their views on the findings in the report.

The following main points were discussed with the Chief Constable and C/Superintendent Gibson:-

- Leadership issues within the Police College and the appointment of a Civilian Head of the College.
- The culture within the Police College.
- The pseudo militaristic training environment in the Police College.

- The variations in the means by which standards and discipline are maintained in the College.
- The publication of the report on the review of the Police College.
- The breach of confidentiality agreement linked to the examination process.
- The provision of a larger bank of examination questions with the aim to get to a suitable level to deliver exams that do not use the same questions during the 22 week rolling period.
- The provision of a safe learning environment at the Police College.
- The appointment of a PSNI Implementation Team to take forward the recommendations in the report.
- The content of the 22 week foundation course followed by a 2 year probationary period for Student Officers.
- Governance issues.
- Student Officers undertaking visits to PSNI Stations during their training.
- The contract with the University of Ulster relating to academic accreditation.
- Oversight of the Police College at a senior level within the PSNI.
- The selection of Trainers to provide training to Police Officers in the College.
- Training for the Trainers in the College.
- The compulsory residential requirement of the foundation course which it was suggested should no longer be compulsory.
- Behaviours and culture of Training Staff.
- The impact on PSNI of the recent cessation of Police recruitment.
- The recommencement of recruitment to PSNI.
- Budget pressures which have had an impact on the Police College

In the ensuing discussion Members proposed amendments that should be made to the executive summary of the report on the review of the Police College in order to ensure consistency and that a glossary should be provided to explain

some of the terminology in the report. Chief Superintendent Gibson undertook to update the executive summary.

In conclusion it was:-

**AGREED:**

- That the recommendations assessed in the report as suitable for immediate and short term implementation should be taken forward.
- That another special meeting of the Board should be held with the Chief Constable to discuss issues in the report and the implementation plan.

The Chairperson thanked the Chief Constable, his colleagues and C/Superintendent Gibson for attending the meeting and they left.

### **3 THE ACCOUNTABILITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARITIME ENFORCEMENT POWERS**

The Board noted a paper which provided Members with correspondence from the Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding proposals to empower GB law enforcement officers to enter Northern Ireland's territorial waters in hot pursuit situations and exercise maritime enforcement powers. NOTED.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Anthony Harbinson and his colleagues to the meeting.

Mr Harbinson briefed the Board on proposals contained in the Policing and Crime Bill. He explained that NI and GB law enforcement officers would be empowered to exercise maritime enforcement powers in Northern Ireland waters when vessels are pursued there from other United Kingdom or international waters and vice versa. He advised that the proposed Maritime Enforcement provision, including hot pursuit was included in a Legislative Consent Motion (LCM) to be considered by the Northern Ireland Assembly. During a DOJ briefing to the Justice Committee a query was raised by a

Member of the Assembly regarding the Board's accountability role should the hot pursuit provision be enacted and Mr Harbinson noted the protracted discussions with the Home Office regarding maintaining the primacy of the Police Ombudsman in NI and apologised that the Board's views had not been sought earlier.

During discussion Members outlined their views in relation to the Board's accountability arrangements should the powers be enacted.

The following main points were discussed with the representatives from DOJ:-

- The timescale for the introduction of the LCM.
- The Policing and Crime Bill which the Home Office proposes to legislate to provide police and other law enforcement officers in NI, England, Wales and Scotland with a range of maritime enforcement powers.
- The purpose of GB law enforcement officers entering NI territorial waters in hot pursuit situations and vice versa and the reason it is required.
- The role of the Police Ombudsman in criminal and complaint matters about Police Officers when in Northern Ireland territorial waters regardless of which Police Service they are from.
- The Board holding the Chief Constable to account in relation to GB law enforcement officers entering NI territorial waters in hot pursuit situations .

In conclusion Members were of the view that the matter should be considered further at a future meeting.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives from DOJ for attending the meeting and they left.

#### **4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

#### **5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting would be arranged.

(Meeting ended at 2.05pm)

#### **BOARD SUPPORT**

**October 2016**