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The Board is an independent body made up of 19 Members to ensure for all the people of Northern Ireland the delivery of an effective, efficient, accountable and impartial police service which will secure the confidence of the whole community by reducing crime and the fear of crime. **Click here** to see the Board membership.

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NEW Members in Board Lineup

Following the elections in May, the following Political Members have been appointed to the Policing Board. The Board Chair, Vice Chair and Independent Members remain the same.

[click here](#) for more information.



FRONT COVER CAPTION

Pictured prior to a meeting with the Policing Board are: (l-r): Chief Constable George Hamilton, Board Chair Anne Connolly, Justice Minister Claire Sugden MLA and Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters.

Another new face...



New Policing Board Chief Executive Amanda Stewart with Board Chair Anne Connolly.

The Board has another new face having appointed its Chief Executive Amanda Stewart in May. Amanda has been working at the Policing Board since its inception and has a wide range of experience across the Board's responsibilities, including policing with the community, partnership and engagement, policy, human rights and police pensions. Before she joined the Board, Amanda worked for the former Police Authority taking forward many of the reforms to policing.

Mrs Connolly said:

“ In her new role, Amanda will be responsible for supporting the work of the Board and for leading a team of staff who support Members' work. The Board looks forward to working with her in the time ahead. ”

Annual Crime figures scrutinised

At the June Board meeting, the PSNI's end of year crime figures were scrutinised by Members. Showing an increase of 1.8% in the number of crimes recorded last year, 105,023 crimes were recorded in Northern Ireland, 1,847 more than the previous year.

Fifteen of the targets were achieved and thirteen were not achieved. Of the thirteen targets that were not achieved, seven showed an improvement on last year's figures but did not meet the target; and six did not meet the target and were also going in the wrong direction.

Setting, measuring and monitoring police performance against the targets set in the Policing Plan is important. Board Chair Anne Connolly said:

“ Some of the statistics set out in the end of year performance report are very welcome and the Board is particularly glad to see that the incidents of anti-social behaviour have decreased in line with targets set and that the number of drug seizures has increased by 9.7%. ”

She continued:

“ Whilst there is a small increase in the number of crimes recorded overall, the PSNI has failed to meet some of the targets set out in the Policing Plan. Behind all these statistics are victims and we will continue to work with the police to ensure that their needs are met and that the PSNI are delivering positive outcomes in their investigations of crimes committed. ”

Continued...

Continued...

Findings

28.7% overall crime outcome rate – a rise of **1.2% pts***

2.4% decrease in anti social behaviour

23.4% decrease in the number of paramilitary style attacks

5.1% pts increase in crime outcome rate for homophobic hate crimes

4.7% pts increase in crime outcome rate for racist hate crimes

*% increase on 2014-15 figures

15 of the 28 targets set out in the 2015-16 Policing Plan were met

9.7% increase in drug seizures

“This is positive news and reflects the efforts the PSNI and the PCSPs have made to alert people to the use of drugs across our community.”

Board Chair
Anne Connolly

14,073 crimes with a domestic abuse motivation – a **5.4%** increase in reporting

“The Board and the PSNI have focused on encouraging more people to report domestic abuse and the number of incidents in 2015-16 are the highest since the PSNI began to record these figures. We want people to have the confidence to report this crime but it is also important that they know the crime will be resolved and measures such as body worn video for specific officers will go some way to assist in that.”

Board Chair Anne Connolly

At the June Board meeting, Members questioned the PSNI on areas of under performance, particularly domestic burglaries among older people and hate crime.

DCC Drew Harris acknowledged that some of the figures were disappointing and explained that a lot of work has been done to tackle domestic burglaries against older people including a campaign earlier in the year. He said that hate crime continues to be a priority and that the PSNI are the highest performing service compared with similar-sized ones across the UK.

Some Areas of concern

0.1% increase in the outcome rate for crimes with a domestic motivation

Increase in **7 of the 9** main crime classifications

Outcome rate for disability hate crimes was **5.4%**, a **6.8%pt** decrease

For a full breakdown of the statistics for Northern Ireland and for each District

[click here](#)

Road traffic statistics

The PSNI have also published statistics on road traffic collisions during the last financial year. 75 people died on the roads during 2015-16 and the figures show the highest number of injury road traffic collisions and casualties since 2009-10. The main cause of fatal and serious collisions were ‘excessive speed having regard to conditions’ and ‘inattention or attention diverted’. The Board will continue to work with the PCSPs and PSNI to promote road safety.

During 2015-16 there were...

75 people killed on our roads including 6 children

9,654 casualties including 919 children

6,150 injury road traffic collisions

For more details

[click here](#)

Board Meeting News

Opening the first Meeting in Public of the newly constituted Board, Chair Anne Connolly welcomed the seven new political members to the Board, acknowledging that since the last meeting a range of activities had taken place that needed to be discussed.

Commenting on the recently published report on paramilitaries from the 'Fresh Start' panel Mrs Connolly said:

As a Board we are all agreed on the need to work with the Executive and others to implement the recommendations as they relate to the Board and the PSNI.

She also accepted that there was much in the report for the Board to read, digest and act upon.

Approaching the parading season, the Board Chair asked the Chief Constable about the preparations in place to police parades and protests. Aware of the pressure placed on the PSNI, she also highlighted the concerns raised at the recent Police Federation conference on the number of officers who have been affected by work-related stress, and the issues around resourcing and duty of care that need to be addressed.

Highlighting the importance of the Board's role in scrutinising police performance, Mrs Connolly spoke about the emphasis on outcomes over the next 4 years which will be supported by targets in the Annual Policing Plan.

Chief Constable's Report

In his report to Board Members, Chief Constable George Hamilton provided an overview of PSNI resources. He reported that there is currently a Full-time equivalent of 6881 police officers and that work is being done to increase this to 6963, a level identified in the Resilience and Capability Review as the minimum number of PSNI officers required to police a post conflict society. He also told Members that work is ongoing to deliver 2% cuts to the overall policing budget as outlined in the 2016/17 Executive budget.

Speaking about legacy issues, the Chief Constable confirmed that a Senior Investigating Officer has been appointed to take forward a line of enquiry in relation to the murders at Kingsmill in 1976. He also told Members that the team will continue to liaise with the Coroner's office in relation to this and that the families of those killed and the sole survivor will



June Board Meeting in Public

be kept updated as the investigation progresses.

Responding to the Board Chair's question in relation to policing parades the Chief Constable told Members that in addition to the annual parades and possible protests that take place during the summer period, further Centenary events are scheduled. He also gave assurances that the police

will continue to work with all organisers to maintain dialogue and ensure a 'no surprises' approach to policing operations.

[click here](#)

to view the Chief Constable's report to the Board

Board Meeting News continued

Questions

At the meeting, the Chief Constable was questioned on the PSNI response to recommendations made in the Human Rights Annual Report 2015. ACC Hamilton emphasised the benefits of the report referring to it as an annual health check for the organisation. He also assured Members that the recommendations would be fully considered and progress presented to the Board in due course.

The Chief Constable was also asked to explain the increase in stop and search statistics in the last year and what mechanisms are in place to ensure proportionality. In response, ACC Todd acknowledged the sensitivities around this and explained that it was used across a wide variety of police activities. He told Members that in the last few months the introduction of additional training with a focus on thoughtful execution of these powers may have contributed to the rise by giving officers more confidence in using the legislation. Work is also progressing on how to provide more context to the figures. However, having looked at the GB model, application would be more difficult in Northern Ireland due to the issue of non-visible community background.

The PSNI announced that they have appointed Bedfordshire Chief Constable Jon Boutcher to lead on the 'Stakeknife' investigation. Policing Board Members met with Mr Boutcher at the June Board meeting and received details of the Terms of Reference for the investigation.



Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly and Vice Chair Debbie Watters pictured with Bedfordshire Chief Constable Jon Boutcher.

Other questions raised at the meeting included an update on the anti-social behaviour pilot study and reports of Metropolitan police officers working undercover in Northern Ireland over a number of years.

[click here](#)

to view Written Answers to Chief Constable's Questions

[click here](#)

to view footage of the June meeting

PONI Report on Loughinisland

During the meeting there was an in-depth discussion on the Police Ombudsman's report into the murders in Loughinisland in 1994, published that morning.

Speaking about the findings Board Chair Anne Connolly said:

“ This Report is deeply troubling and for all the families touched by the findings - and who have waited very patiently for this day – our thoughts are with them as they come to terms with the findings. Matters addressed in the report in respect of intelligence handling, the use of informants and the collusive actions of those managing such matters, make for very unpleasant reading.

We know the legislative structures for present day policing would not allow the activities recorded in the Ombudsman's Report to happen now. Whilst that will be of little comfort to the families of Loughinisland, as a Board we need to provide that assurance and reassurance to the wider community.

Dealing with the past has a major impact in so many ways; and we trust that there can be some

political movement on these issues in the time ahead and particularly with the establishment of the Historical Investigations Unit. ”

Accepting the findings of the report Chief Constable George Hamilton said:

“ This report makes uncomfortable reading, particularly in relation to the alleged actions of police officers at the time. The Ombudsman has stated that collusion was a feature of these murders in that there were both wilful and passive acts carried out by police officers. This is totally unacceptable and those responsible should be held accountable. These were appalling murders carried out by those with evil intent and I am very aware of the hurt and anger felt by the families of those killed and those injured. I want to reassure the families and the public that I have co-operated fully with the Ombudsman and I will continue to do so if he determines to take this further. ”

Board Members questioned the Chief Constable further about the serious issues arising from the report including what engagement would now take place with the Ombudsman's Office.

[click here](#) **to view the report**

PCSP Public Meeting

Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly attended the most recent Causeway Coast and Glens PCSP public meeting. Speaking at the Policing Committee's Annual Public Performance meeting, she said:

BB The PCSP Policing Committees offer a powerful mechanism to identify and monitor key policing issues in our communities.

People are very keen that their locality is adequately policed, that there is a visible police presence and that important community concerns such as anti-social behaviour are being properly dealt with. One of the key roles of the PCSP is to reflect the views of the community on local policing and work with the police and partner agencies to ensure that issues are being addressed. **99**



Board Chair Anne Connolly pictured at the Causeway Coast and Glens PCSP Annual Public Police Performance meeting with (l-r): PCSP Chair Ald William King, Supt John Magill and PCSP Vice Chair Leanne Abernethy.



Newly appointed ACC Alan Todd

New Assistant Chief Constable Appointed

The Board recently appointed Alan Todd to the PSNI's Service Executive Team. ACC Todd has been involved in policing for 24 years and his recent work has included leading the policing of major events like the Giro d'Italia and leading on operations.

Top dogs

Congratulations to the PSNI on two of their top dogs winning 1st and 2nd place in the National Police Dog Trials held in Belfast in May. Stunning looking dogs and great at their jobs – well done to them and their two legged handlers!



Police Dogs Mike and Finn fight off the competition at the National Police Dog Trials

Custody Visiting

The Board's Custody Visiting team got a recent boost with 21 new visitors joining the three teams across Northern Ireland.

The Board currently has 50 visitors, 22 women and 28 men who range from 20 to 66 years old.

The teams work in pairs to visit people in custody to make sure they are receiving their rights and entitlements. Last year, just under 25,000 people were detained in police custody in Northern Ireland and over 700 visits across Northern Ireland were carried out at random times of the day or night by Custody Visitors with information reported back to the Policing Board.

The BBC recently made a short film about our Custody Visiting Scheme which gives an overview from visitors, the PSNI and Custody staff and heard from Policing Board Independent Member Roisin McGlone on why the scheme is important.



To find out more about the Custody Visiting Scheme

[click here](#)



Policing Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters pictured with Police Federation Chair Mark Lindsay at the recent Police Federation Conference.

Each month, representatives from a range of groups and organisations visit the Board to find out more about the work we do and the Board's role in policing.



Members of Germany's largest Trade Union ver.di Forum Nord GgMBh were at the Board to learn about its work.



Board Member Roisin McGlone spoke to students from New York's Fordham University who were in Belfast to get an overview of the policing architecture here.



The Chair and Vice Chair of the Policing Board Anne Connolly (2nd left) and Debbie Watters (2nd right) met with the 'Fresh Start' assessment panel (l-r): Lord Alderdice, Monica McWilliams and John McBurney.



Representatives from Istanbul-based research centre Public Policy and Democracy Studies and the Democratic Progress Institute in London came to the Board to explore best practice on police complaints, monitoring and oversight mechanisms as part of their work to establish criteria for robust police monitoring mechanisms in Turkey.



Students from Leiden University in the Netherlands visited the Board to get an overview of the work as part of a study visit.