

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF AUDIT AND RISK ASSURANCE COMMITTEE HELD
ON MONDAY 13 MAY 2019 AT 2.00PM**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS

Mr Colm McKenna (Chair)
Mr Doug Garrett (Vice-Chair)
Mr Gerry Kelly
Mrs Wendy Osborne

**ACCOUNTANT
ADVISER**

Mr Charles Barnett

**DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Ian Kerr

NIAO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Neil Gray
Mr Garry Currie

**DELOITTE IN
ATTENDANCE**

(1) Ms Stacy Bonar, Internal Audit

**ASM ACCOUNTANTS
IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr Brian Clerkin

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE**

Mrs Amanda Stewart, Chief Executive
Mr Tim Logan, Director of Resources
(1) Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of Partnership
(1) Ms Aislinn McGuckin, T/Director of Police
Administration
Three Board Officials

(1) Item numbers 1 – 3 & 6

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Tom Frawley.

The Committee agreed the agenda for the meeting.

2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

3 DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28 MARCH 2019

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the Committee meeting held on 28 March 2019.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Committee meeting held on 28 March 2019 be approved.

4 UPDATE ON ACTION LOG

Members noted the following updates from the action log from the Committee meeting held on 28 March 2019. NOTED.

Action Point 1

The positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee would be reviewed at the Committee meeting on 17 June 2019. NOTED.

Action Point 2

Members noted that arrangements were being progressed for a meeting between

the Chair of the PSNI Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, the Chair of the Board, the Chair and Vice- Chair of the Board's Audit and Risk Assurance Committee and the Chief Executive. NOTED.

The Chair of the PSNI Audit and Risk Assurance Committee would also be invited to attend the September 2019 Committee meeting to discuss issues relating to the PSNI Audit and Risk Assurance Committee. NOTED.

Action Point 3

The Committee noted that details of outstanding internal audit recommendations would be provided to Members for consideration at the June 2019 Committee meeting. NOTED.

Action Points 4 and 5

Members noted that advisory reports on the Human Rights Advisor contract arrangements and on the Police Property Fund would be provided to Members for consideration at the June 2019 Committee meeting. NOTED.

Action Point 6

The Committee noted that a session would be arranged later in the year for Members to consider the Board's risk appetite and to establish the Board's tolerance for risk. NOTED.

Action Point 7

The Committee noted that the Board's whistleblowing policy would be brought to the June 2019 Committee meeting for consideration. NOTED.

Action Point 8

This matter was dealt with at agenda item number 11. NOTED.

Action Point 9

Members noted that the Committee Chair had written to the Chief Constable regarding additional details on the total lifetime cost of a contract in future Direct Award Contracts would be brought to the June 2019 Committee meeting for consideration. NOTED.

Action Point 10

This matter was dealt with at agenda item number 11. NOTED.

5 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

There were no items of business.

6 INTERNAL AUDIT

The Committee noted a paper which provided Members with a NIPB Internal Audit Update including a 2018-19 Progress Report, a 2018 -19 Follow Up Letter and a 2018-19 Annual Assurance Statement. NOTED.

The Internal Auditor briefed the Committee on PCSP verification visits which had been carried out recently.

The Internal Auditor advised Members that as a result of one of the verification visits weaknesses within the governance arrangements had been identified and as a result Internal Audit had given the PCSP a limited assurance.

Members discussed the limited assurance which had been given to the PCSP and it was:-

AGREED:

That a letter should be sent to the Accounting Officers for all Councils outlining the main findings of the PCSP verification visits and

seeking assurance from Councils that effective controls are in place. **(AP1)**

Members noted that Internal Audit had completed their field work on the Human Rights Advisor Contract Arrangements and Senior Management were currently reviewing this report. The report would be provided to the Committee for consideration at its June meeting. NOTED.

Members also noted that Deloitte had completed audits on Complaints Handling and Key Financial Controls and these audit reports had been provided to the Committee at its meeting on 28 March 2019. NOTED.

The Internal Auditor briefed the Committee on the 2018-19 follow up letter which detailed progress regarding 11 audit recommendations that had previously been made and were due to be implemented by March 2019. Officials updated the Committee on the progress which had been made regarding recommendations in an audit report relating to policies and procedures documents.

The Committee noted the draft 2018-19 Annual Assurance Statement which stated that Deloitte could provide a satisfactory level of assurance in relation to the Board's arrangements for risk management, control, governance and value for money. NOTED.

7 DRAFT AUDIT AND RISK ASSURANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Members noted a draft Audit and Risk Assurance Committee Annual Report to the Board for the year ended 31 March 2019. NOTED.

Officials explained that a summary of the Comptroller and Auditor General's audit opinion following the conclusion of the Board's external audit would be inserted

into the Annual Report and the report would be brought to the June 2019 Committee meeting for further consideration.

8 DRAFT NIPB GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Members considered the draft Governance Statement for inclusion in the 2018/19 Annual Report and Accounts.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the draft Governance Statement for inclusion in the 2018/19 Annual Report and Accounts.

Members noted that the Northern Ireland Audit Office reports on continuous improvement arrangements for 2017 – 18 would be completed by September 2019 and for 2018 – 19 in December 2019. NOTED

9 DRAFT NIPB ACCOUNTING OFFICER STEWARDSHIP STATEMENT

The Committee noted an update on the Chief Executive's Stewardship Statement to the Department of Justice (DoJ) for the period 1 October 2018 – 31 March 2019. NOTED.

10 DRAFT NIPB YEAR END FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Committee noted a paper which outlined details of the Board's draft Performance Report, Accountability Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2019. NOTED.

In response to a query from a Member it was:-

AGREED:-

That Officials should provide the Committee with a breakdown of NIPB

accommodation and operating costs and information regarding increases in the costs. **(AP2)**

Members noted that there were no losses and special payments over £300,000 (2017-18 £nil) and agreed that this wording should be clarified in the Financial Statement. **(AP3)**

The Committee noted that the Board was the legal owner of the Police Estate but that the day to day management of the Estate was delegated to the PSNI. Members considered that a footnote should be inserted in the Board's Financial Statement regarding this issue. NOTED. **(AP4)**

Members also:-

AGREED:

That confirmation should be sought from PSNI that all liabilities relating to the Police Estate fell to the Chief Constable. **(AP5)**

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the Board's draft Performance Report, Accountability Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2019.

11 QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

Members discussed a response which had been received from the PSNI to a question raised by the Committee at its last meeting regarding governance arrangements relating to recommendations which were rejected by the PSNI from external organisations such as the Office of the Police Ombudsman.

During discussion it was

AGREED:

That a further question should be submitted to the Chief Constable seeking additional information from the PSNI regarding the categories, nature and type of the rejected recommendations.

The Committee also noted a response which had been received from the PSNI to a question raised by the Committee at its last meeting regarding the operational requirements for Direct Award Contracts. NOTED.

During discussion it was:-

AGREED:

That a further question should be submitted to the Chief Constable seeking additional information from the PSNI regarding the categories, nature and type of the rejected recommendations.”

The Committee had no questions to ask the Chief Constable at the Board meeting on 5 June 2019.

12 COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no communication issues arising from the meeting.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Audit and Risk Assurance Committee meeting will be held on 17 June 2019 at 2.00pm.

(Meeting closed at 3.25pm).

CORPORATE SERVICES

Date: May 2019

Chair