

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE HELD ON FRIDAY 11 MARCH 2016 AT 10.00AM IN WATERSIDE
TOWER, BELFAST**

PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Ms Deirdre Blakely (Vice-Chairperson)
Mrs Brenda Hale
Mr David McIlveen
Mr Pat Sheehan

**ACCOUNTANT
ADVISOR** Mr Charles Barnett

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN
ATTENDANCE:** Mr Ian Kerr

**NORTHERN IRELAND AUDIT
OFFICE IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr Neil Gray
Mr Richard Gardiner
Mr Michael Scoffield

DELOITTES IN ATTENDANCE Ms Gillian Russell, Internal Audit
Ms Stacy Bonar, Internal Audit

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Edgar Jardine (Interim Chief Executive)
Three Board Officials

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received from. Mr Ross Hussey (Chairperson). NOTED.

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

The Vice-Chairperson asked Members to outline details of any items of business they wished to discuss which were not on the agenda.

The Vice-Chairperson welcomed Mr Charles Barnett to his first meeting of the Committee in his role as Accountant Advisor.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2015

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting held on 18 December 2015.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting held on 18 December 2015 be approved.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2015

3.1 Appointment to Board's Audit and Risk Management Committee (Item 4.3 of Minutes refers)

The Committee noted that Mr Charles Barnett, Head of Financial Accounting/ BSO sponsor Branch of DHSSPSNI had agreed to serve on the Board's Audit and Risk Management Committee as an Accountant Advisor. NOTED.

3.2 Welfare of Police Officers (Item 8 of Minutes refers)

Officials advised the Committee that the Resources Committee had been advised at their January 2016 meeting that there may be a risk around how PSNI managed the welfare of their Officers. NOTED.

3.3 NIPB Implementation of Outstanding Internal Audit Recommendations (Item 11 of Minutes refers)

Members noted that Officials were participating in a PSNI/CPD Working Group which was taking forward the development of the tender specification for the provision of a case management system for the Board's Police Administration Branch. The system would be procured by 31 October 2016 and fully imbedded within the Branch by 31 March 2017. NOTED.

4 CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 NAMA Northern Ireland Loan Portfolio

Officials referred to a recent BBC Spotlight Programme and advised the Committee that a non-executive Member of the PSNI Audit and Risk Assurance Committee had represented the interests of NAMA. NOTED.

Members discussed the matter and it was:-

AGREED:

- That a letter should be sent to PSNI seeking information regarding the Member of the PSNI Audit and Risk Assurance Committee's involvement in NAMA.
- That the issue should be raised with the Chair of the PSNI Audit and Risk Assurance Committee at the next meeting.

5. COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT AND WORK PLAN 2015/2016

The Committee noted details of the Audit and Risk Management Committee Development and Work Programme for 2015/16. NOTED.

6. ISSUES TO RAISE WITH THE CHAIR OF THE PSNI AUDIT AND RISK ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

Apart from the issue at item 4.1 there were no other issues to raise with the Chair of the PSNI Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.

7. OBSERVATION OF THE PSNI AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING ON 14 JANUARY 2016

The Committee noted a paper which provided feedback in relation to a meeting of the PSNI Audit and Risk Assurance Committee which the T/Director of Support Services had attended as an observer on 14 January 2016. NOTED.

8. NIPB RISK MANAGEMENT

The Committee noted a paper which provided Members with an updated NIPB Corporate Risk Register and a report on the Directorate High Risks. NOTED.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

That Officials should update the NIPB Corporate Risk Register.

9. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2015/16

The Committee noted a paper which provided Members with an update on the progress of the Internal Audit Periodic Work Plan for 2015/16. NOTED.

Members noted that the following internal audit assignments had been completed:-

- Key financial controls

- Complaints handling
- Information assurance

NOTED.

10. NIPB INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN FOR 2016/17

The Board's Internal Auditors presented the NIPB Internal Audit Plan for 2016/17.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the NIPB Internal Audit Plan for 2016/17.

11. NIPB INTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGY 2016/19

The Committee noted a paper which informed Members that the Board's Internal Auditors in line with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards had completed work on the new NIPB Audit Strategy.

The Committee:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the NIPB's Internal Audit Strategy for 2016/17 – 2018/19.

12. NIAO 2015/16 AUDIT STRATEGY

The Committee noted:-

- A paper regarding the NIAO Audit Strategy for the 2015/16 Annual Report and Accounts.
- The timetable for the preparation and certification of the NIPB Annual Report and Accounts.

NOTED.

Mr Neil Gray, NIAO updated the Committee on the NIAO Audit Strategy for the 2015/16 Annual Report and Accounts and responded to questions from Members.

13. NIPB GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY REGISTER

Members considered a paper regarding the NIPB Gifts and Hospitality Register.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the NIPB Gifts and Hospitality Register.

14. NIPB DIRECT AWARD CONTRACTS

The Board noted a paper which provided an update on the Boards use of Direct Award Contracts. NOTED.

15. QUESTIONS FOR CHIEF CONSTABLE

There were no questions to raise with the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting arising from the meeting.

16. INFORMATION PAPERS

The Committee noted the following papers:-

16.1 Department of Finance and Personnel Guidance

A Member asked to be provided with a copy of a good practice guide entitled "Managing Fraud Risk in a changing environment" and Officials undertook to provide this.

16.2 PSNI Directly Awarded Contracts

NOTED.

17. NIAO REPORT REGARDING CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT ARRANGEMENTS IN POLICING

The Committee noted:-

- A NIAO Report on Continuous Improvement Arrangements in Policing 2015/16.
- A document, tabled at the meeting, which outlined a joint Board Management and PSNI response to the NIAO report on Continuous Improvement Arrangements in Policing.

NOTED.

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

- The recommendation in the report that the Board and PSNI should reduce the overall number of performance indicators and measures in future Policing Plans, focusing on key aspects of policing performance in line with the Board's and the PSNI's strategic priorities.
- The Board's proposals for future monitoring of PSNI performance against the Annual Policing Plan 2016 – 2017.
- Measuring outcomes in relation to Policing with the Community.

In conclusion Members considered that there needed to be a focus on smaller more strategic targets and evaluate outcomes in future Policing Plans.

18. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no matters arising from the meeting for inclusion in a news release.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was conducted

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on 13 May 2016 at 10.00am.

(Meeting closed at 11.00am).

BOARD SUPPORT

March 2016

Chairperson