

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 3 MARCH 2016 AT 9:30 AM, WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- (1) Mrs Anne Connolly, Chairperson
Ms Deborah Watters, Vice-Chairperson
- (2) Ms Deirdre Blakely
- (3) Mr Jonathan Craig
Prof Brice Dickson
- (4) Mrs Brenda Hale
Mr Ross Hussey
- (5) Mrs Dolores Kelly
- (6) Mr Gerry Kelly
- (7) Mr Trevor Lunn
Ms Roisin McGlone
- (2) Mr David McIlveen
Mr Robin Newton
Dr Paul Nolan
Mrs Wendy Osborne
- (2) Ms Catherine Pollock
- (6) Ms Caitriona Ruane
Mr Pat Sheehan

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE

- (8) Mr Drew Harris, Deputy Chief Constable
- (9) Mr Will Kerr, ACC Crime Operations
- (9) Mr Stephen Martin, ACC District Policing Command
- (9) Mr Alan Todd, T/ACC Operational Support Department
- (8) Mr Mark McNaughten, T/Director of Finance & Support
Services
- (8) Ms Liz Young, Head of Corporate Communications
- (8) Superintendent, Command Secretariat
- (8) One PSNI Officer

NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY IN ATTENDANCE

- (9) Ms Lynne Owens, Director General (NCA)
- (9) Mr Johnny Gwynne, Strategic Relation Lead
- (9) Ms Jenny Bell, Head of Investigations (NI & Scotland)

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Edgar Jardine, Interim Chief Executive
Mrs Siobhan Fisher, T/Director of Partnership
Mrs Amanda Stewart, Director of Policy
Mr Brian McDonald, T/Director of Support Services
3 Board Officials

- (1) Item numbers 1 – 3, part item 17 &18
- (2) Except part of item 17
- (3) Item numbers 1 – part item 3, part item 17 & 18
- (4) Item numbers 1 – 3
- (5) Part item 17 & 18
- (6) Item numbers 1 – 4, part item 11, part items 17 &18
- (7) Part item numbers 17 & 18
- (8) Item numbers 17 & 18
- (9) Part item 17 & 18

1 APOLOGIES, ETC

There were no apologies.

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 4 FEBRUARY
2016**

The Board considered the draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 4 February 2016.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 4 February 2016 be approved.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2016

3.1 Human Resources Issues (Item 3.1.1 of minutes refers)

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

3.2 Position paper on potential future legislation for Policing (Item 3.2.1 of minutes refers)

The Director of Policy advised the Board that a position paper on potential future legislation for policing would be provided to the Board for consideration at a future meeting. NOTED.

3.3 Hearings by Lord Justice Weir in relation to the review of inquests (Item 5.2 of minutes refers)

The Director of Policy advised the Board that the Human Rights Advisor was preparing a short report in relation to the work conducted by Lord Justice Weir regarding the review of inquests. NOTED.

The Board noted a letter dated 2 March 2016, tabled at the meeting, from the Minister of Justice which included a copy of the Terms of Reference for the CJINI Inspection on the PSNI's role in supporting legacy inquests.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the letter from the Minister of Justice should be considered at the next meeting of the Performance Committee.

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.

The Board also agreed questions to raise with the National Crime Agency (NCA) Director General 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 February – 1 March 2016. NOTED.

The Vice-Chairperson advised the Board that the Chairperson had been invited to represent the Board, with the Chief Constable at St Patrick's Day Events in Washington in March 2016. NOTED.

A Member complimented the Police Federation on the launch of the "We are You Campaign" which had taken place in Parliament Buildings, Stormont on 1 March 2016.

5.2 Correspondence

The Board noted a letter dated 26 January 2016 from the Director, Safer Communities, Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding proceeds from the disposal of NIPB property. NOTED.

6 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

6.1 Draft Minutes of a meeting of the Partnership Committee held on 11 February 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 Youth Volunteer Academy (Items 3.1 and 5.2 of minutes refers)

The Vice-Chair of the Board briefed Members on the Youth Volunteer Academy.

6.1.2 Resignation of Independent PCSP Member (Item 4.1 of minutes refers)

6.1.3 Briefing from Perceptive Insight – Interim findings on Confidence in Policing Research (Items 3.3 and 5.1 of minutes refers)

6.1.4 TALK Cross Border Strand (Item 5.4 of minutes refers)

6.1.5 PCSP Member Expenses Review (Item 6.1 of minutes refers)

6.2 Publication of Report on "Confidence levels of Young People in the PSNI"

The Board considered a paper which outlined a recommendation from the Partnership Committee to publish a research report entitled "Confidence levels of young people in the PSNI" on the Board's website.

Members noted: -

- That the results from the survey would be used to establish a baseline for young people's confidence in policing as outlined in the 2015/16 Policing Plan.
- That the Board had also contracted the Centre for Shared Education (Queens' University Belfast) to take forward Focus groups and interviews in February/March 2016 to build on the results of the survey. The results from the Focus groups and interviews would provide a more in-depth understanding of the issues that affect confidence levels of young people in

relation to policing.

During discussion Members asked that the research report being published should make clear that this is part of a wider piece of research to include both qualitative and quantitative evidence.

In conclusion it was:-

AGREED:-

That the research report entitled “Confidence levels of young people in the PSNI” should be published on the Board’s website.

7 PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

7.1 Minutes of a meeting of the Performance Committee held on 18 February 2016

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

7.1.1 Draft Human Rights Annual Report 2015 (Item 5.1 of minutes refers)

The Board:-

AGREED:

That the Performance Committee be given delegated authority to publish the Human Rights Annual Report 2015 by 31 March 2016.

7.1.2 Performance against the Policing Plan (Item 5.2 of minutes refers)

7.1.3 HMIC’s Proposed 2016/17 Inspection Programme and Framework (Item 5.3 of minutes refers)

The Board:-

AGREED:

That HMIC should be invited to the April 2016 Board meeting to brief

Members on the various areas of Policing and themes covered in their inspection programme for 2016/17.

A Member requested that an amendment be made to item 5.2 of the draft minutes of the Performance Committee to reflect that the Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that no records would be destroyed during the back record conversion process of legacy related records.

8 RESOURCES COMMITTEE

8.1 Minutes of a meeting of the Resources Committee held on 28 January 2016

The Vice-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 4 February 2016. NOTED.

8.2 Verbal Report on a Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 25 February 2016

The Vice-Chairperson of the Committee advised the Board that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2016 were not yet available and provided a verbal report on the following.

8.2.1 A High Court interim relief decision regarding negative equity cases

8.2.2 NIPB Budget Allocation for 2016/17

This matter was dealt with at item 8.3

8.2.3 PSNI Resources Plan and Budget Allocation for 2016/17

This matter was dealt with at item 8.4

8.2.4 Acquisition of lands adjacent to PSNI training facility at Steeple Road Antrim

This matter was dealt with at Item 8.5

8.2.5 Consideration of late appeal against Non Award of Medical Retirement and Injury on Duty Pension

8.2.6 DOJ Accommodation Project

This matter was dealt with at Item 8.6.

8.3 NIPB Budget Allocation for 2016/17

The Board considered a paper containing a recommendation from the Resources Committee to approve the Policing Board Budget Allocation for 2016/2017.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the 2016/2017 NIPB Budget Allocation.

8.4 PSNI Resources Plan and Budget Allocation for 2016/17

The Board considered a paper containing a recommendation from the Resources Committee to approve the PSNI 2016/17 Budget Bid.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the 2016/2017 PSNI Budget Bid.

8.5 Acquisition of lands adjacent to PSNI training facility at Steeple Road Antrim

The Board considered a paper containing a recommendation from the Resources Committee to approve the acquisition of lands adjacent to PSNI training facility at Steeple Road Antrim.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the acquisition of lands adjacent to PSNI training facility at Steeple Road Antrim.

8.6 DOJ Accommodation Project

The Board considered a paper containing a recommendation from the Resources Committee regarding a DOJ HQ Accommodation Project and options for the Board upon expiry of the present lease on Waterside Tower on 31 August 2020.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Board should not offer to become part of the DOJ HQ Accommodation group and that Officials should review the current usage of Office space within Waterside Tower, with the aim of offering long term office space to other DOJ Bodies, thus ensuring that the continuing use of Waterside Tower was economically viable.

9 PROPOSED FUTURE ANNUAL POLICING PLAN PERFORMANCE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

The Board considered a paper which outlined proposals for future monitoring of PSNI performance against the Annual Policing Plan.

Members discussed the monitoring of performance against the Policing Plan and five themes which had been agreed previously by the Board. In conclusion it was:-

AGREED:

That the Performance Committee should continue to monitor police performance against the Annual Policing Plan. The Board should consider a strategic theme each month and the Chief Constable should report to the Board on this theme.

10 ANNUAL POLICING PLAN – 2016 – 2017

This paper was dealt with at item 11.

11 STRATEGIC OUTCOMES FOR POLICING 2016 - 2020 AND THE ANNUAL POLICING PLAN 2016 – 2017

The Board considered a paper which sought approval to the final draft of the Strategic Outcomes for Policing 2016 – 2020 and the Annual Policing Plan 2016 – 2017.

The Board noted a summary of consultation responses, tabled at the meeting, which had been received to the Strategic Outcomes for Policing 2016-20 and Annual Policing Plan 2016-17. NOTED.

During discussion Members suggested a few amendments that should be made to the Annual Policing Plan.

It was:-

AGREED:

- That the amendments should be made to the draft Annual Policing Plan.
- That the draft Annual Policing Plan and the Strategic Outcomes for Policing should be circulated to Members for any further comments or amendments.
- That the Chair of the Board be given delegated authority to sign off the documents for publication on 31 March 2016.

The Board discussed the proposed arrangements for the launch of the Strategic Outcomes for Policing and the Annual Policing Plan and it was suggested that an event should be held to launch these documents at a later date.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

- That the launch of the Strategic Outcomes for Policing and the Annual Plan that had been arranged for 24 March 2016 should be postponed and an event should be arranged for late May/June 2016.

12 DRAFT NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD BUSINESS PLAN 2016/17

The Board considered a paper which sought Members approval of the draft Northern Ireland Policing Board Business Plan 2016/17.

During discussion amendments were suggested to sections 3.7.1 and 3.7.2 of the Plan.

Subject to these amendments being made it was:-

AGREED:

- That the Minister of Justice's agreement should be sought to the draft Business Plan prior to publication.
- That the Chair of the Board be given delegated authority to sign off the document for publication on 31 March 2016.

13 INFORMATION PAPERS

The Board noted the following paper:-

13.1 Schedule of Events – March 2016

NOTED.

14 COMMUNICATION ISSUES

The Board noted details of communication issues. NOTED.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Awareness Training

The Board considered a paper from PSNI, tabled at the meeting, regarding Awareness Training for Board Members during March 2016.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Awareness Training should be re-scheduled for later dates.

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 7 April 2016.

17 PRIVATE SESSION WITH THE DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Vice-Chairperson welcomed the Deputy Chief Constable and representatives from the Senior Executive Team to the meeting and extended condolences on behalf of the Board to the Chief Constable on the death of his father.

The Deputy Chief Constable presented the Chief Constable's Monthly Report to the Board.

In response to a question from a Member the PSNI discussed actions with the Board that the PSNI were taking in relation to rural crime.

In response to a question from a Member, the Deputy Chief Constable referred to the HMIC Efficiency and Effectiveness Inspection and Employee Engagement Surveys which were being undertaken. It was agreed that copies of these surveys would be forwarded to the Board.

In response to a question from a Member regarding the appointment of a company as a supplier for Body Worn Video, the Deputy Chief Constable undertook to provide the

Board with a copy of the Business Case Benefits Analysis for the equipment.

In response to a Members question regarding the Chief Constable's Report, the Deputy Chief Constable provided additional information regarding the Custody Review.

Members discussed the number of individuals requiring transferral to hospital from custody to receive medical attention. The Board was updated regarding continuing work with partner agencies such as the DHSSPS in respect of the provision of custody healthcare. The PSNI agreed to provide the Board with additional information regarding the circumstances leading to individuals needing hospitalisation.

In response to a Member's question the Board received an update regarding a recent weapons find at an Orange Hall. The Deputy Chief Constable advised Members that owing to the age of the weapons he could not confirm if it had undergone ballistic testing. The Board would receive an update in due course in respect of this.

Following a Member's question regarding a Belfast Telegraph article relating to legacy issues and the conduct of the Stakeknife investigation, the Board was advised of the PSNI's preference that the investigation be conducted by Officers outside of the PSNI and that the PSNI had no knowledge of any job advertisement relating to the recruitment of former Officers for the purposes of participating in this investigation.

In response to question from a Member, the PSNI discussed with the Board concerns raised on behalf of Omagh Safer Streets in relation to the potential withdrawal of PSNI funding for the town centre CCTV scheme.

In response to a Member's question the PSNI advised Members of new legislation effective from 6 April 2016 in respect of the distribution of 'Legal Highs'. The PSNI acknowledged the need for public awareness alongside enforcement activity in relation to the legislation and agreed to provide an update to the Board in due course.

A Member highlighted that, to date only 13 of 28 targets within the Policing Plan were on target to be met by 31 March 2016 and asked the PSNI to comment on progress towards ensuring more targets are met by the end of the reporting year. Members were updated on PSNI monitoring of progress towards Policing Plan targets and on specific areas of focus such as drugs, police sickness and domestic burglary.

18 DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL, NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY

The Board noted:-

- A letter dated 26 February 2016 from the Director General, NCA regarding the draft NCA Annual Plan 2016/17.
- The NCA Strategic Priorities.
- A summary report of NCA performance and activity in Northern Ireland for the period October – December 2015.
- Written responses from NCA to questions raised by Members

The Chairperson welcomed the Director General of the NCA and her colleagues to the meeting and invited Members' questions.

In response to a Member's question regarding the retirement of the Director General's predecessor, Board Members were advised that the retirement of the Director General's predecessor had not affected the performance or public confidence in the NCA. The Director General paid tribute to her predecessor's service and assured Members of her continued commitment to deliver sustained activity within NI; alongside PSNI to protect the community in NI.

A Member requested the Director General's views regarding the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee recommendation that the NCA be given primacy for counter-terrorism. Board Members noted that the Home Secretary has appeared to support this recommendation and discussed with the Director General and the PSNI the potential implications for counter-terrorism in Northern Ireland and the role of the NCA and the PSNI in a proposed review. Members were advised that a review had not yet commenced on any extension of NCA's remit to counter-terrorism and as such the current arrangements remain in place and there are no implications for NI.

In response to additional questions from Board Members the Director General provided further information regarding:

- The confiscation of criminal assets and the role of the NCA in disrupting and dismantling organised crime gangs locally;
- The ongoing NCA investigation regarding NAMA;

- The financial contribution of the PSNI to the NCA;
- The NCA's Draft Annual Plan and how their accountability to the Policing Board may be reflected in the plan. The Director General invited the Board to provide a form of wording for inclusion in the Plan for consideration.
- The Cross Border Taskforce and the NCA's relationship with An Garda Siochana, and;
- Areas of progress/development in respect of cybercrime.
- The Hosick case. The Deputy Chief Constable undertook to provide the Board with information regarding this matter.

The Chairperson thanked the Director General and her colleagues for attending the meeting and invited them and the representatives from PSNI to join the public session of the Board meeting.

The meeting moved into public session. A verbatim recording of the Board meeting in public is available on the Board's facebook page at www.facebook.com/policingboard.

(Meeting closed at 3.45 pm)

Board Support

Date: March 2016

_____ **Chairperson**