

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

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

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

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

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE

(4) Mr George Hamilton, Chief Constable
(4) Mr Drew Harris, Deputy Chief Constable
(4) Mr Mark Hamilton, ACC Legacy and Justice Department
(4) Mr Will Kerr, ACC Crime Operations
(4) Mr Stephen Martin, ACC District Policing Command
(4) Mr Alan Todd, ACC Operational Support Department
(4) Mr Mark McNaughten, T/Director of Finance & Support
Services & Human Resources
(4) Ms Jude Helliker, Head of Human Resources
(4) Ms Leanne Barnett, Corporate Communications
Department
(4) Superintendent Andrew Freeburn, Command Secretariat
(4) Two PSNI Staff Members

BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

(5) Mr Jon Boutcher, Chief Constable, Bedfordshire Police
(5) T/Commander Keith Surtees

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs Amanda Stewart, Chief Executive
Mrs Siobhan Fisher, T/Director of Partnership
Ms Jenny Passmore T/Director of Policy
Mr David Wilson, Director of Support Services
Three Board Officials

**BOARD'S HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVISOR IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms Alyson Kilpatrick

- (1) Item number 15
- (2) Item number 3 to close
- (3) Item numbers 1 – 9 and part 15 to close
- (4) Item number 15
- (5) Item number 15.1

1 APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received from Ms Deirdre Blakely, Mr Ross Hussey and Dr Paul Nolan.

The Chairperson welcomed new Political Board Members to their first meeting of the Board.

The Chairperson also welcomed Ms Amanda Stewart to her first meeting of the Board as Chief Executive and Ms Jenny Passmore as T/Director of Policy.

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 7 APRIL 2016

The Board considered the draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 7 April 2016.

Members who had attended the meeting on 7 April 2016:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 7 April 2016 be approved.

The Chairperson advised Members that in line with best practice for future minutes, when Members leave or visitors join meetings this information will be recorded in all minutes.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 APRIL 2016

The Board noted that all the matters arising from the meeting held on 7 April 2016 had been dealt with. NOTED.

The Board noted a letter which had been received from PSNI dated 7 June 2016 regarding arrests and charges for abortion offences. This information had been requested by Members at the April 2016 Board meeting. NOTED.

4 CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

4.1 Questions arising from the Chief Constable's Report

The Board noted a monthly report from the Chief Constable to the Board. NOTED.

The Board agreed issues to be raised orally with PSNI later in the meeting.

The Board agreed that the Fresh Start Panel report and recommendations should be taken forward by the Partnership Committee.

4.2 Responses to Committee questions

The Board noted written responses from PSNI to questions raised by Committees and Individual Members. NOTED.

4.3 Current and Emerging Issues

The Board noted a paper which provided a summary of some of the key policing issues which have featured in the media since the last Board meeting in public. NOTED.

4.4 End of Year Performance Report

The Board note a paper which provided Members with:-

- The Policing Plan 2015-2016 performance summary for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.
- Performance in selected other crime areas and District variations.

The Board agreed issues to be raised orally with PSNI later in the meeting.

5 CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

5.1 Chairperson's Report

The Chairperson presented a report to the Board which advised Members of:-

- The Chairperson's engagements during the period 7 April – 8 June 2016.
- Correspondence which had been issued to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Justice Committee and Political Party Leaders offering a meeting to update them on the work of the Board.
- The appointment of Ms Amanda Stewart as the Board Chief Executive and Mr Alan Todd as Assistant Chief Constable in the PSNI.
- A meeting with The Fresh Start Panel.

NOTED.

5.2 Correspondence

The Board noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated 12 May 2016 from the Director of Public Prosecutions together with the PPS Annual Business Plan 2016-17.
- Letter dated 3 June 2016 from the Chief Constable regarding the launch of the Sir Christopher Pitchford Inquiry into the activities of Undercover Police Officers from the Metropolitan Police Special Demonstration Squad operating in Northern Ireland. The Board agreed that the matter should be raised orally with PSNI later in the meeting.

NOTED.

5.3 Meeting with Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable regarding Performance Management Arrangements for PSNI Senior Staff

The Chairperson advised the Board that a meeting had been held with the Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable on 2 June 2016 regarding performance management for senior PSNI Officers and Staff and to clarify the information exchange between the Chief Constable and the Board.

The Chief Executive would work with PSNI to develop a draft protocol to clarify what information is shared and when around senior staff in order to reassure the Board that processes are being followed.

During discussion Members considered that the agreed protocol should be brought back to a future meeting of the Board.

6 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Chief Executive presented a report to the Board which provided Members with an overview of performance against the Board's Corporate and Business plans and an update on Finance and Human Resources issues within the Board,

In response to a question from a Member, the Chief Executive undertook to provide Members with copies of the Board's IIP Assessment Report and the results of the Staff Survey which were referred to in the report.

7 AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

7.1 Draft Minutes of a meeting of the Audit and Risk Management Committee held on 29 April 2016

Mr Ryan Feeney referred Members to the draft minutes of the meeting and highlighted the following matters considered by the Committee:-

7.1.1 NIPB Internal Audit Progress Report (Item 5 of minutes refers)

7.1.2 NIPB Internal Audit Annual Report (Item 6 of minutes refers)

7.1.3 Draft NIPB Year End Financial Accounts (Item 7 of minutes refers)

Mr Feeney noted that the Committee had agreed that future meetings of the Audit and Risk Management Committee should take place on Thursdays.

8 TERMS OF REFERENCE – COMMITTEES

The Board considered a paper which requested Members agreement to amended Terms of Reference for the Board Committees, the Chair's Advisory Group and approval to the Board's Standing Orders.

It was:-

AGREED:

- To adopt in principle the Terms of Reference for the Board Committees, the Chair's Advisory Group and Board's Standing Orders.
- That details of amendments to Terms of Reference and Standing Orders should be circulated to Members.
- That Members' should consider the Terms of References.
- That a paper should be brought to the next Board meeting with the Standing Orders /Terms of Reference.

9 BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Chief Executive advised the Board that following receipt of pro forma from Members on Committee preferences a draft Committee membership list had been produced. The list was circulated at the meeting and subject to a few changes, the membership of each Committee was agreed as follows:-.

Audit and Risk Management Committee

Keith Buchanan

Ryan Feeney

Brenda Hale

Ross Hussey

Gerry Kelly

Wendy Osborne

Catherine Pollock

Partnership Committee

Joanne Bunting

Brice Dickson

Stephen Farry

Ryan Feeney

Jennifer McCann

Raymond McCartney

Nelson McCausland

Nichola Mallon

Wendy Osborne

Catherine Pollock

Performance Committee

Deirdre Blakely

Keith Buchanan

Joanne Bunting

Brice Dickson

Gerry Kelly

Raymond McCartney

Nelson McCausland

Roisin McGlone

Nichola Mallon

Paul Nolan

Resources Committee

Deirdre Blakely

Keith Buchanan

Stephen Farry

Ryan Feeney

Brenda Hale

Gerry Kelly

Jennifer McCann

Roisin McGlone

Paul Nolan

Wendy Osborne

Special Purposes Committee

Anne Connolly

Debbie Watters

1 representative from the DUP

1 representative from Sinn Fein

1 representative from the SDLP

1 representative from the UUP

1 representative from the Alliance Party

Chair's Advisory Group

Anne Connolly (Chairperson)

Debbie Watters (Vice-Chairperson)
Chairperson of Audit and Risk Management Committee
Chairperson of Partnership Committee
Chairperson of Performance Committee
Chairperson of Resources Committee
Chairperson of Special Purposes Committee

10 PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL REPORT 1 APRIL 2015 – 31 MARCH 2016

The Board considered a paper which advised Members of the arrangements for the publication of the Board's Annual Report for the period 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016.

It was:

AGREED:

- That Officials should review the legacy section in the Board's Annual Report.
- That a final version of the Annual Report should be issued to all Board Members.
- That the Chief Executive should be given delegated authority for the final sign off of the report.

11 INFORMATION PAPERS

The Board noted the following papers:-

11.1 Schedule of Events – June 2016

11.2 Draft Schedule of Meetings – June 2016 – March 2017

It was:-

AGREED:

That Board Committees should consider dates of future meetings of the Committees, including arrangements for July and August 2016 and make reference to the July Board.

11.3 Members attendances at meetings and events during the period 1 July 2015 – 31 March 2016 and Members' expenses

It was:-

AGREED:

That the paper should be reviewed and brought back to the July 2016 Board meeting.

11.4 PSNI Corporate Plan

NOTED.

12 COMMUNICATION ISSUES

The Board noted details of communication issues. NOTED.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Human Rights Annual Report

In response to a question from a Member, the Board was advised that an event would be arranged to promote the Human Rights Annual Report. The arrangements for the event would be considered by the Performance Committee.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was arranged for 7 July 2016.

15 PRIVATE SESSION WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Chairperson welcomed the Chief Constable and the Service Executive Team to the meeting.

Following introductions between the new Board Members and the PSNI Service Executive Team the Chairperson invited the Chief Constable to discuss with the Board the PSNI's response to the OPONI report regarding the murders at the Heights Bar in Loughinisland. The Chief Constable advised Members that the PSNI fully accepted the findings of the OPONI Report and would be offering a full public apology to the families,

In response to questions from Members the PSNI discussed:

- the accountability structures and legislative provisions now in place to ensure that such a circumstance does not occur in future, and;
- potential next steps following the publication of the OPONI Report.

In response to a question from a Member, the PSNI discussed with the Board funding provision for the 'Stakeknife' investigation being led by the Chief Constable of Bedfordshire Police. Members discussed the timeframe of the investigation and expressed concern that this expenditure may potentially need to be met from the PSNI budget.

In response to a Member's question the PSNI discussed with Members correspondence forwarded to the Board Chairperson from the Chief Constable regarding the Pitchford Inquiry and the operation of undercover Metropolitan Police officers in Northern Ireland.

Following a Member's question regarding statistics in relation to stop and search and in particular the low percentage of arrests following stop and search, the PSNI commented on ongoing sensitive work in this area including the introduction of community background monitoring.

In response to a Member's question regarding an anti-social behaviour pilot scheme, the PSNI advised that the study findings had recently been provided to the relevant Assistant Chief Constable and that the PSNI would shortly be in a position to brief the Board. The PSNI discussed with Members complexities in respect of defining anti-social behaviour and dealing with victims of anti-social behaviour. The PSNI also advised, in response to a Member's question, that a presentation regarding the evaluation of the Body Worn Video pilot scheme completed in G District last year would be given to the July 2016 meeting of the Performance Committee.

Following a question from a Member regarding Police performance figures and specifically statistics relating to sexual crime, the PSNI discussed the historical under reporting of sexual crime, the work of the Rowan Centre and that statistics show an increase in reporting. However, in other areas such as on line child sexual exploitation statistics support the view that these types of crime are increasing.

In response to a Member's question regarding the PSNI's response to the Independent Panel Report on paramilitary activity the PSNI advised that, while they did not have prior sight of the report, they broadly welcome the report and would be giving it and the relevant recommendations further more in depth consideration in the near future.

Following a Member's question the PSNI discussed with the Board the current threat level assessment, fluctuations in the types of incidents and the possible impact of policing activity.

In response to a question from a Member the PSNI updated the Board regarding ongoing training and the update of relevant policies and procedures in relation to the new Misconduct, Performance and Attendance Regulations which came into effect on 1 June 2016. The PSNI undertook to brief a future meeting of the Performance Committee on the new regulations.

15.1 Update on Investigation resulting from a referral by the DPP under section 35(5) of the Justice (NI) Act 2002

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Jon Boutcher Chief Constable, Bedfordshire Police and T/commander Keith Surtees to the meeting.

The Chief Constable, Bedfordshire Police advised the Board about the investigation which he would lead on into a range of activities surrounding an alleged army agent known as Stakeknife and outlined details of the information which would be placed on the investigation team's website. He confirmed that T/Commander Keith Surtees would be commanding the Team on a day to day basis.

The PSNI circulated a copy of the Terms of Reference for the investigation to Members. The Chief Constable, PSNI advised the Board that he and the Chief Constable, Bedfordshire Police would attend a Press Conference on 10 June 2016 to announce that Mr Jon Boutcher, Chief Constable of Bedfordshire Police would lead Operation Kenova, the investigation into a range of activities surrounding an alleged Army Agent known as Stakeknife.

During discussion the following main points were discussed with the Chief Constable, PSNI and the Chief Constable, Bedfordshire Police.

- The appointment of the Investigation Team.
- The accountability process for the investigation by the Chief Constable, Bedfordshire Police.
- Obtaining information from victims, victims' families and all interested parties.
- The establishment of an Oversight Group to oversee the investigation.
- Support and information which would be provided to the families of victims.
- Arrangements for Family Liaison.

- The Terms of Reference for the investigation which would be provided on the investigation website.
- The provision of information on the investigation to the public.

The Chairperson thanked the Chief Constable, the Service Executive Team, Chief Constable, Bedfordshire Police and T/Commander Surtees for attending the 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 3.45pm)

Board Support
June 2016

_____ **Chairperson**