

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 16 JUNE 2016 AT 9:30 AM, WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Mrs Anne Connolly, Chairperson
- (1) Ms Deborah Watters, Vice-Chairperson
- (1) Ms Deirdre Blakely
- Prof Brice Dickson
- Mr Ryan Feeney
- (1) Mrs Brenda Hale
- Mr Gerry Kelly
- Mr Nelson McCausland
- Ms Roisin McGlone
- Ms Nichola Mallon
- Dr Paul Nolan
- Mrs Wendy Osborne

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE

- (2) Mr George Hamilton, Chief Constable
- (2) Mr Alan Todd, ACC Operational Support Department
- (2) T/Chief Inspector Jill Duffie, Head of Foundation Training
- (2) Superintendent Andrew Freeburn, Command Secretariat

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mrs Amanda Stewart, Chief Executive
- 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 1 & part item 2
- (2) Part item 2

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dr Stephen Farry, Mr Ross Hussey and Ms Catherine Pollock

2. PSNI INVESTIGATION INTO MATTERS RELATING TO THE IMPROPRIETY OF STUDENT OFFICERS

The Board noted a paper which outlined information regarding matters relating to the impropriety of Student Police Officers inappropriately sharing examination information. NOTED.

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

The Chairperson welcomed the Chief Constable and his colleagues to the meeting.

The Chief Constable briefed the Board on:-

- The reported incidents relating to the impropriety of Student Police Officers inappropriately sharing examination information at the PSNI College.
- The decision to continue with the PSNI Graduation Ceremony on 10 June 2016.
- The disciplinary action taken in respect of the Student Offices concerned.
- The remit of the investigation initiated by PSNI.

The Chairperson expressed concern that she had not been made aware that a number of Student Officers would not be graduating on 10 June 2016 until she arrived at the Graduation Ceremony. The Chief Constable apologised for this.

During discussion Members expressed the views that-

- The impropriety of Student Police Officers inappropriately sharing examination information was a very serious matter which had caused reputational damage to the PSNI.
- The integrity of Police Officers was not negotiable and public confidence in the PSNI relies on Officers acting with the highest levels of integrity.

- The sanctions imposed by the PSNI on the Student Officers were in inappropriate and inadequate.
- The Graduation on 10 June 2016 should have been cancelled until a full investigation had been carried out.
- Inappropriate behaviours in PSNI could not be tolerated.

In response the Chief Constable advised the Board that he had taken the decision in good faith with integrity and honesty in relation to the matter.

In the ensuing discussion Members questioned the Chief Constable on the following:-

- The suitability and future credibility of the Student Officers to carry out the duties of a Police Officer.
- Future implications for Officers concerned in relation to giving evidence in Court and at other Hearings.
- Public confidence in PSNI as a result of the impropriety of Student Police Officers inappropriately sharing examination information.
- Implications for the operation of the PSNI Training College.
- A review of the examination and accreditation process which would be undertaken in the Police Training College.
- The costs to the PSNI as a result of the Student Officers having to repeat the training course.
- The Student Officer admissions regarding inappropriately sharing examination information.
- The support which was being given to the whistle blower.

Members asked for the PSNI investigation to be completed expeditiously and a further report provided to the Board as soon as possible.

The Chairperson thanked the Chief Constable, and his colleagues for attending the meeting and they left.

3 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Board agreed the content of a news release regarding the meeting.

4 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 7 July 2016.

**Board Support
June 2016**

_____ **Chairperson**