

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18 AUGUST 2016 AT 9.30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

- Mr Nelson McCausland (Chairperson)
- Ms Roisin McGlone (Vice-Chairperson)
- (1) Ms Deirdre Blakely
- Mr Keith Buchanan
- Ms Joanne Bunting
- (2) Prof Brice Dickson
- (2) Mr Raymond McCartney
- (3) Dr Paul Nolan
- (4) Ms Deborah Watters (Board Vice- Chairperson)

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

- (5) Mr Mark Hamilton, Assistant Chief Constable,
Legacy and Justice Department
- (5) Superintendent Ryan Henderson
- (5) Superintendent Sue-Ann Steen
- (6) Mr Alan Todd, Assistant Chief Constable,
Operational Support Department
- (7) One PSNI Officer
- (7) Mr Tony Mathewson
- (8) Ms Nichola Murphy

GUN TRADE GUILD NI AND THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION IN ATTENDANCE

- (9) Mr David Robinson
- (9) Mr Tommy Mayne

BOARD'S HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISOR IN ATTENDANCE

Ms Alyson Kilpatrick

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms Jenny Passmore, T/Director of Policy
Three Board Officials

- (1) Item numbers 1 – 5.1 & part item number 6.1
- (2) Except part of item 11.2
- (3) Item numbers 1 – 5.2 & item number 6.1
- (4) Except item numbers 11.1 & 11.2
- (5) Part item number 6.1
- (6) Item numbers 6.4 & 11.2
- (7) Item number 6.4
- (8) Item number 11.2
- (9) Item number 11.1

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received from Mr Gerry Kelly and Ms Nichola Mallon.

The Chairperson asked Members to declare any conflicts of interests arising from the agenda. Ms Joanne Bunting declared an interest in relation to item number 5.2.

2. DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 JULY 2016

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the Performance Committee meeting held on 27 July 2016.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Performance Committee meeting held on 27 July 2016 be approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

3.1 Legacy Investigation Branch (Item 3.1 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted:-

- A letter dated 4 August 2016 which had been sent from the Chair of the Committee to PSNI regarding the Legacy Investigation Branch (LIB) Manual of Guidance.

- A response which had been received from PSNI dated 11 August 2016 regarding the LIB Manual of Guidance.

NOTED.

Officials advised the Committee that the LIB Manual of Guidance had been considered by the PSNI Service Executive Board on 16 August 2016.

Members expressed concern that the Committee had not received a copy of the Manual and agreed to raise the issue with PSNI later in the meeting.

3.2 Chairpersons Correspondence (Item 4.1 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted a letter dated 4 August 2016 which had been sent from the Chair of the Committee to PSNI seeking further information as to when the IT updates would be completed in order to facilitate the implementation of the changes in respect of the governance procedures surrounding the destruction of PSNI service weapons. A response was awaited. NOTED.

Members discussed the timescale for obtaining responses from PSNI to Board correspondence and it was:-

AGREED:

That Officials should review the Board's protocol relating to communication with PSNI.

3.3 Briefing on Professional Standards Annual Statistics (Item 6.1 of minutes refers)

Officials reminded the Committee that the PSNI had extended an invitation to Members at the last meeting to visit PSNI Discipline Branch to observe the work of the Branch.

Members discussed the matter and it was:-

AGREED:

That the Committee should not accept the invitation to visit PSNI Discipline Branch.

A Member referred to a programme of visits to PSNI Departments which had been previously provided to the Board and it was:-

AGREED:

That the programme of visits should be re-activated.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

The Chair had no business to report to the Committee.

5 ITEMS FOR DECISION

5.1 Human Rights Thematic Review

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with a summary of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) Efficiency and Effectiveness Inspection report and the Human Rights Advisor's assessment regarding a most effective new thematic review based on the issues raised.

The Human Rights Advisor briefed Members on the recommendations contained in the report in relation to how effective the PSNI was at protecting from harm those persons who are vulnerable and how effective it is at supporting victims. The thematic reviews, which appeared to be most relevant given HMIC's findings, were child sexual exploitation (including children who go missing); missing persons; and, domestic violence.

The Human Rights Advisor advised Members about previous thematic reviews which had been undertaken on domestic abuse and hate crime.

In response to a question from a Member, the Human Rights Advisor explained the mechanism for undertaking human rights thematic reviews which enabled an in-depth examination of specific areas of policing.

Members discussed carrying out a thematic review on policing of child sexual exploitation and suggested that the Child and Young Persons Commissioner should be invited to meet the Committee to discuss this Thematic.

Members also discussed the value of carrying out general thematic reviews in other areas of policing.

In conclusion it was:-

AGREED:

That the Human Rights Advisor should carry out a Thematic Review on policing of child sexual exploitation.

Members discussed the Terms of Reference for the review and it was:-

AGREED:

That the Human Rights Advisor should review the wording of bullet point 3 of the Terms of Reference.

5.2 DOJ Consultation on Witness Charter

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with a draft response to the Department of Justice (DOJ) consultation on a witness charter.

During discussion Members suggested some amendments to the witness charter and it was:-

AGREED:

- That Members should provide comments on the draft response to the DOJ consultation on the witness charter to Officials by 25 August 2016.
- That a revised response to the consultation should be brought to the September 2016 Board meeting for approval.

5.3 DOJ Consultation on Draft NI Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Strategy 2016/17

The Committee considered a paper which provided Members with a draft response to the DOJ consultation on the Draft NI Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Strategy 2016/17.

During discussion Members suggested some amendments to the Strategy and it was:-

AGREED:

- That Members should provide comments on the draft response to the DOJ consultation on the Draft NI Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Strategy 2016/17 to Officials by 25 August 2016.
- That a revised response to the consultation should be brought to the September 2016 Board meeting for approval.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

6.1 PSNI Briefing on Evaluation of Body Worn Video Pilot Scheme

The Committee noted:-

- A paper which provided Members with background information on PSNI's Body Worn Video pilot scheme.
- The PSNI Evaluation Report on the use of Body Worn Video.

NOTED.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Mark Hamilton, Assistant Chief Constable, Legacy and Justice Department, Superintendent Ryan Henderson and Superintendent Sue-Ann Steen to the meeting.

Superintendent Henderson briefed the Committee on the evaluation of the Body Worn Video pilot scheme which had taken place in the former PSNI "G" District (Limavady, Derry/Londonderry and Strabane) between 1 July 2014 and 31 March 2015.

During the Briefing the Superintendent advised Members of the results of the tests on the Body Worn Video pilot scheme which had been carried out in conjunction with Cambridge University Criminology Department. He explained that the evaluation was based on a number of hypotheses, including a decrease in the number of incidents of use of force and increase victim participation in cases of domestic violence, however the evaluation found that whilst there was evidence of some correlation they were unable to fully demonstrate causation.

Superintendent Steen briefed the Committee on the planned roll out of Body Worn Video across the PSNI which had commenced in Derry/Strabane District in June 2016 and would commence in Belfast City District in October 2016 before being rolled out across all other Districts by March 2018.

During discussion the following main points were discussed with PSNI:-

- Members expressed disappointment and concern at the length of time that it had taken PSNI to provide the Committee with a

copy of the evaluation report on the Body Worn Video Pilot Scheme.

- The results of the tests which had been carried out by Cambridge University on the Body Worn Video Pilot Scheme.
- Discussion which had been held with key stakeholders in advance of the Body Worn Video pilot scheme taking place in the former PSNI “G” District.
- Community engagement and making the public aware that PSNI are using Body Worn Video.
- PSNI training and development for officers using Body Worn Video.
- Preserving the integrity of captured evidence.
- Training of Police Officers on the use of Body Worn Video.
- Network upgrades and digital asset management (DAM) system necessary to support the use of Body Worn Video throughout the PSNI.
- Capital expenditure for the roll out of Body Worn Video across the PSNI and equipment resilience.

In conclusion it was:-

AGREED:

That a letter should be sent to PSNI regarding the timeline relating to the evaluation of the Body Worn Video.

In response to a query from the Committee regarding the Legacy Investigation Branch Manual, the Assistant Chief Constable advised that a copy of the Manual would be sent to the Board that day.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Mark Hamilton, Assistant Chief Constable, Legacy and Justice Department, Superintendent Henderson and Superintendent Steen for attending the meeting and they left.

In response to comments from the Human Rights Advisor in relation to the use of Body Worn Video internationally and in GB it was:-

AGREED:

That the Human Rights Advisor should provide the Committee with an overview of the use of Body Worn Video by other Police Forces.

it was also:-

AGREED:

That a question should be drafted to ask the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting regarding the roll out of Body Worn Video to PSNI Officers in Belfast Policing District.

6.2 Human Rights Advisor Update

The Committee noted an update on the work carried out by the Board's Human Rights Advisor. NOTED.

It was:-

AGREED:

That a verbal report by the Human Rights Advisor in relation to the work she was carrying out should be deferred until the next meeting.

6.3 NCA Performance Narrative

The Committee noted a paper which provided Members with an update on NCA performance and activity in Northern Ireland during quarter 1 of 2016/17 (April – June 2016). NOTED.

6.4 PSNI Briefing on Stop and Search Community Background Monitoring Pilot Scheme

The Committee noted a paper which provided Members with information on the community background monitoring of persons stopped and searched under the Terrorism Act 2000 and Justice and Security (NI) Act 2007. NOTED.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Alan Todd, Assistant Chief Constable, Operational Support Department and his colleagues to the meeting.

Assistant Chief Constable, Operational Support Department briefed the Committee on the outcome of a pilot to ascertain the community background of those stopped and searched or questioned under the Terrorism Act 2000 and Justice and Security (NI) Act 2007.

The Assistant Chief Constable advised that the pilot had been undertaken in the Derry City and Strabane Policing District between 1 December 2015 and 29 February 2016.

During discussion the following main points were discussed with PSNI:-

- The reason for selecting Derry City and Strabane Policing District for the stop and search community background pilot.
- The methodology used to capture the community background monitoring of persons stopped and searched under Terrorism Act 2000 and Justice and Security (NI) Act 2007
- The percentage of population stopped/searched in Derry/Strabane pilot by community background.
- The impact of Body Worn Video on stop and search.
- Fair treatment of all members of the community regarding stop and search.

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

6.5 Correspondence

The Committee noted a letter dated 22 July 2016 from PSNI to the Police Ombudsman's Office regarding a complaint against the Police in relation to an arrest. NOTED.

7 QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

Apart from the question at item number 6.1 there were no other issues to raise with the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting.

8. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no communication issues arising from the meeting.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Scrambler Motorcycles

In response to a query from the Chairperson, Members considered that PSNI should be asked to provide information in relation to issues relating to the riding of scrambler motorcycles.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee agreed that the next meeting should take place on 8 September 2016 at 9.30am.

11. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

11.1 Meeting with the Gun Trade Guild NI

The Committee noted a letter dated 8 July 2016 from the Gun Trade NI Guild regarding changes to the administrative process in applying for a firearms licence. NOTED.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr David Robinson from the Gun Trade Guild and Mr Tommy Mayne from the British Association of Shooting and Conservation to the meeting.

The representatives from the Gun Trade Guild and the British Association of Shooting and Conservation briefed the Committee on their concerns regarding changes to the administrative process in applying for a firearms licence. They explained that their membership was mainly from the rural communities, some of who had difficulty accessing computers and obtaining the necessary broadband connections to enable them to apply online for firearm licences. They also advised Members that their Organisations were supportive of the PSNI's decision to introduce an online system for registration of firearm certificates but had requested that PSNI run an online system in tandem with the paper based system for a period of 5 years.

During discussion the following main points were discussed with the representatives from the Gun Trade Guild and British Association of Shooting and Conservation.

- Applying for firearm certificates which had to be reviewed every five years.
- The age profile of Members of the Gun Trade Guild and the British Association of Shooting and Conservation.
- Facilities for licensing firearms.
- References for applications for firearms certificates.

- Phasing in the online system in tandem with the paper based system for a period of 5 years.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives from the Gun Trade Guild and the British Association of Shooting and Conservation for attending the meeting and they left.

11.2 PSNI Briefing on the new Fire Arms Licensing Process

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Alan Todd, Assistant Chief Constable, Operational Support Department and his colleague to the meeting.

Assistant Chief Constable, Operational Support Department briefed the Committee on the new on line firearms application process.

Members outlined details of the concerns which had been raised by the representatives from the Gun Trade Guild and the British Association of Shooting and Conservation earlier in the meeting.

The representatives from PSNI advised:-

- That if PSNI were to run a paper based system for five years there would be a requirement to revise the paper based process as well which would incur additional significant costs.
- That a six month dual system would be put in place from the 'go live' date which is expected to be Autumn 2016.
- That a dedicated helpline had been put in place to support the online based system transactions for an interim period and
- That the PSNI had secured laptops to provide to gun dealers which could assist firearms licence holders to renew applications online.

During discussion the following main points were discussed with the representatives from PSNI:-

- Road Shows which would be held regarding the online firearms licensing system.
- Meetings which had taken place between PSNI and Gun Dealers regarding firearms licensing.
- Other facilities to apply for firearm certificates.
- The telephone helpline.
- Referees for licences.

Assistant Chief Constable, Operational Support Department agreed to provide the Committee with further details on PSNI engagement and stakeholder support for the new scheme along with details of facilities for those who are unable to access the online system.

The Chairperson thanked Assistant Chief Constable, Operational Support Department and his colleague for attending the meeting.

(Meeting closed at 3.15pm)

BOARD SUPPORT

August 2016

Chairperson