

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER 2020 AT 5.20PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, CLARENDON DOCK AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE FACILITY

PRESENT:

Mr Doug Garrett Chair
Dr Tom Frawley Vice-Chair
Mr John Blair MLA*
Mrs Joanne Bunting MLA
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA*
Dr Janet Gray*
Mr Edgar Jardine*
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA*
Mr Gerry Kelly MLA
Mr Seán Lynch MLA*
Mr Colm McKenna
Mr Frank McManus*
Ms Carmel McKinney*
Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA*
Mr Mervyn Storey MLA*
Ms Deirdre Toner

ABSENT:

Mr Tom Buchanan MLA
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA

EXTERNAL ADVISORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Constable Simon Byrne, Police Service of Northern Ireland (Policing Advisor)
Mr Ciaran McGuigan, Pertemps Professional Development
Dr John Mallon, Independent Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Advisor

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms Aislinn McGuckin, T/Director of Police Administration
Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of Performance
Ms Jenny Passmore, Director of Resources
Two Board Officials

*Attended meeting by video conference facility

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1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Michael Atkinson.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. PSNI CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER RECOMMENDATION TO THE MINISTER

The Chair outlined the assessment and selection process for the PSNI Chief Operating Officer (COO) and noted that the Assessment and Selection Panel had interviewed five candidates following a shortlisting process; two candidates were interviewed on 16 December 2020 and three candidates were interviewed on 18 December 2020.

The Assessment and Selection Panel recommended that the preferred appointable candidate be put forward to the Minister of Justice for approval to appoint to the role of PSNI COO. The Chair noted that the appointable candidate was a strong applicant with significant experience in both the public and private sectors. A second candidate also successfully passed the selection process and would remain as a reserve candidate.

Mr Ciaran McGuigan provided an overview of the assessment and selection process noting that the process was based on the three principles of Merit, Fairness and Openness. All Panel Members had undertaken the required training for the process and in his view both the shortlisting and interview stages were conducted in line with the three principles.

Dr John Mallon outlined his observations from an equality and diversity perspective and advised that all candidates were treated fairly and consistently, and each were provided equality of opportunity. The two candidates were deemed successful based on their scores alone.

The Chief Constable noted that he had attended the interviews and was delighted with the outcome.

The Chair asked if any Member had any questions; no Member questions were raised. Members indicated by a unanimous show of hands their support of the Assessment and Selection Panel's recommendation of the appointable candidate.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- That the appointable candidate would be recommended to the Minister of Justice for appointment to the position of PSNI Chief Operating Officer.

The Chair advised that he would seek approval from the Minister of Justice for the appointment in accordance with legislation. The Chair further noted that he would personally contact the successful and unsuccessful candidates after the meeting to advise them of the outcome.

4. POLICE POWERS AND PROTECTION BILL CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair asked the Board to consider a draft letter to the Department of Justice in response to correspondence received regarding a draft clause in the Police Powers and Protections (Draft) Bill which suggested that the Board had a role in charging a fee for enrolment on an approved course offered as an alternative to prosecution for a specified fixed penalty offence. The letter

was considered at Partnership Committee on 17 December 2020 and the Committee had recommended that this should not be a statutory function of the Board. All Board Members had received the draft letter of response by way of correspondence and had previously indicated by correspondence that they approved the recommendation from the Committee. The Chair asked for Members to ratify this decision.

It was **RESOLVED:**

- That the Board should not have a role in charging a fee for enrolment on an approved course offered as an alternative to prosecution for a specified fixed penalty offence, and draft correspondence to the Department of Justice regarding the issue be approved.

5. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

No actions were required until the preferred candidate was approved by the Minister of Justice and had formally accepted the offer.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was conducted.

The meeting closed at 5.40pm.

Corporate Services

Date: January 2021

Chair:

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