

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER AT 1.30PM AND THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER
10.00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER**

PRESENT:

- (1) Mrs Anne Connolly (Chair)
Ms Deborah Watters (Vice-Chair)
- (2) Mr John Blair
Mr Keith Buchanan
- (3) Mr Alan Chambers
Prof Brice Dickson
- (4) Mrs Linda Dillon
Mr Tom Frawley
Mr Doug Garrett
- (5) Mrs Dolores Kelly
Mr Gerry Kelly
- (6) Mr Philip McGuigan
Mr Colm McKenna
Mr Gary Middleton
Mrs Joanne Bunting
Mrs Wendy Osborne
Mr Mervyn Storey

**POLICE SERVICE OF
NORTHERN IRELAND
IN ATTENDANCE**

- (7) Mr Simon Byrne, Chief Constable
- (8) Mr Stephen Martin T\Deputy Chief Constable
- (7) Superintendent John McCaughan Command
Secretariat
- (8) Mr Ryan Feeney, Head of PSNI Communications
- (8) One Staff Member from PSNI

**LEAD INVESTIGATOR
OPERATION KENOVA:**

- (9) Mr Jon Boutcher

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs Amanda Stewart, Chief Executive
Mr Tim Logan, Director of Resources
Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of Partnership
Ms Jenny Passmore, Director of Performance
Mr John Wadham, Human Rights Advisor
Three Board Officials

- (1) Except item 6.1
- (2) Except part item 10 (left the meeting at 11.15am and returned at 12.04pm)
- (3) Except item 7.4, 9.2 and 9.3
- (4) Except part item 10 (arrived at 10.11am on 3 October 2019)
- (5) Except part item 7.4, 9.2 and 9.3 and part item 10 (arrived at 10.15am on 3 October 2019)

- (6) Except part item 7.4, 9.2 and 9.3
- (7) Items 8 and 10
- (8) Item 10 only
- (9) Item 8.3 only

The Board opened in closed session 1.30pm

The meeting commenced 1.45pm

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dr Paul Nolan, Mr Gerry Kelly, Mr Mervyn Storey for 2 October 2019 and from Mrs Joanne Bunting for 3 October 2019.

The Board agreed the agenda for the meeting.

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Chair asked Members to declare any conflicts of interest arising from the agendas.

- Mr Tom Frawley declared a conflict of interest at Agenda Item 6 and 9.1
- Mr Brice Dickson declared a conflict of interest at Agenda Item 7.2.1

3. DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETINGS

The Board considered the draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 4 / 5 September 2019.

It was:

RESOLVED

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 4/5 September 2019 be approved.

4. UPDATE ON ACTION LOG

Members noted an update on the action log from previous Board meetings.

NOTED

Members also noted the update received from PSNI which responds to a number of queries raised by the Board meeting on 4 and 5 September 2019.

NOTED

Members noted the recent media coverage of the collapse of the Northern Ireland Events Company. Members requested that lessons learned from the collapse of the events company in relation to Board Governance and the role of a Board would be shared with Board Members. **(AP1)**

5. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Chair presented a report to the Board which advised of:

- A list of the engagements carried out during the period 29 August 2019 – 2 October 2019
- A list of correspondence received by the Chair during the period 29 August-2 October 2019
- A list of correspondence issued by the Chair during the period 29 August – 2 October 2019

NOTED

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Chief Executive updated Members on issues within the Board, including recruitment of senior PSNI posts, development of the Policing Plan 2020-25 and NIPB Corporate Plan as well as PCSP and independent custody visitor recruitment.

Members asked that officials explore the possibility of the Department of Finance providing a briefing on the proposed re-location and accommodation

plans for NIPB at a future meeting.

The Board agreed to move to Agenda Item 8

8. CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

The Chief Constable discussed the lack of capacity for addressing legacy investigations which is concerning given the potential inquiries following the Barnard and Hooded Men judgements. He highlighted that there is difficulty in obtaining independent investigators and advised that he has approached the National Police Chiefs' Council to assist with obtaining assistance however to date this has been unsuccessful.

8.1. Quality Assurance in Contact Management

Members noted the Chief Constable's supplementary report on Quality Assurance in Contact Management. **NOTED.**

8.2. Report on Operation Klina

The Board asked officials to request a briefing from Police Scotland at a future meeting.

The Chair welcomed Mr Boutcher to the meeting.

8.3. Operation Kenova Progress - Briefing from Mr Jon Boutcher

Mr Boutcher updated Members on the progress and approach to the investigation including the establishment of an Independent Victim Focus Group, the creation of a website for families to access for updates and the development of Memorandums of Understanding with other policing organisations. Members received assurance that the Policing Board is a key element of Mr Boutcher's accountability.

The Chair thanked the Chief Constable, Mr Boutcher and Superintendent McCaughan.

The Vice-Chair took the Chair

6.1. Board Skills Audit

Members considered the report on the Board's Skills Audit.

Following discussion Members requested further consideration be given to the way forward from the skills audit and the effectiveness review at a future Board meeting. **(AP2)**

The Chair re-joined the meeting and took the chair.

7 COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Performance Committee – 12 September 2019

The Board noted a report from the Vice Chair of the Performance Committee and draft minutes of the Committee meeting held on 12 September 2019. **NOTED**

It was:

RESOLVED

- That the response to the NIO consultation on an amendment to the TACT Codes of Practice be approved.
- The the publication of the 16/17 Human Rights Annual Report and the Human Rights Assurance report (September 2017 – August 2019) on the Board's website be approved.

7.2 Partnership Committee – 19 September 2019

The Board noted a report from the Chair of the Partnership Committee highlighting the Committee's examination of the Tackling Paramilitary Programme and its recent decisions in developing the Police Property Fund. Draft minutes of the Committee meeting held on 19 September 2019 were also noted. **NOTED**

7.2.1 Independent Member Complaint

Members considered the original complaint received in August 2017 and the evidence the Partnership Committee considered in September 2019 in relation to the Board's policy on the removal of a Member of the PCSP from office.

It was:

RESOLVED

The Board agreed with Partnership Committee's recommendation that the PCSP member's circumstances are such as not to require their removal from office.

During discussions Members requested that:

- The Board agreed a letter to be sent to the Independent Member. **(AP3)**
- The Board agreed a letter to be sent to the complainant. **(AP4)**
- The Board agreed to issue a letter to all PCSP Members to remind them of their social media responsibilities. **(AP5)**
- The Board agreed to a future review of the Board's procedures on the removal of PCSP members. The review would include consideration of the range of sanctions available under the Procedure **(AP6)**

7.3 Resources Committee – 19 September 2019

The Board received a summary from the Vice Chair of the Resources Committee on the meeting held on 19 September 2019. Members noted concerns regarding the delay in the completion of the Northern Ireland Committee on Protection (NICOP) review of PSNI Close Protection Unit, noted the update on the PSNI Overtime Strategy and Action Plan, the

request for evaluation reports on PSNI secondments and the cultural changes and improvements that were apparent at Garnerville during the Committee's recent visit. **NOTED**

7.3.1 Service Executive Team Review Terms of Reference

Members considered the paper on the Service Executive Team Review of Reference.

It was:

RESOLVED

The Service Executive Team review Terms of Reference would be agreed.

7.4 Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) 26 September 2019

The Board received a summary from the Chair of ARAC on the meeting held on 26 September 2019. Members noted the useful discussion with the Chair of the PSNI ARAC who had attended the Board's ARAC meeting and the presentation by the Board's new internal auditors of the 3 year Audit Strategy, Annual Work Programme and Internal Audit Charter. **NOTED**

7.4.1 Internal Audit Charter –ARAC Recommending Approval to the Board

Members noted recommendations. **NOTED**

It was:

RESOLVED

The Internal Audit Charter be approved.

7.4.2 Internal Audit Three Year Strategy – ARAC recommending approval to the Board

Members noted recommendations. **NOTED**

It was:

RESOLVED

The Internal Audit Three Year Strategy be approved.

9. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

9.2. Written questions and Responses

Members noted the questions and responses paper. **NOTED**

9.3. Key Issues of Public Interest

Members noted the Key Issues of Public Interest paper. **NOTED**

10. PRIVATE SESSION WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Chair welcomed the Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable to the meeting.

The Chair outlined that the meeting would be in two sections; firstly about PSNI performance and secondly about building capacity within the PSNI. The Chair invited the Chief Constable to give an overview of PSNI performance to date after 6

months of the financial year and to hold the discussion on police numbers until later in the meeting.

The Deputy Chief Constable briefed Members on performance updates which included outlining to Members the top three operational priorities for the PSNI which are; vulnerability encompassing domestic abuse, safeguarding and child sexual exploitation; serious and organised crime encompassing organised crime, drug supply and misuse and cyber-crime; and violent extremism encompassing violent dissident republican activity and new groups.

Members had the opportunity to raise questions with the Chief Constable which included the following:

- Questions on the completion of the victim satisfaction survey
- Consideration being given to new victim satisfaction response programmes including engagement with PCSPs and Neighbourhood Teams to follow up with victims of crime
- PSNI's approach to policing roads including the use of seatbelts, mobile phones and speeding. It was acknowledged that these all require investment and resources.
- Increases and decreases in particular crime areas
- The timeline for a project delivering a new system of data collection and distribution
- The number of officers on restricted duty
- The need to increase policing beyond the Patten recommendation of 7,500. The Chief Constable agreed to forward the additional strategic outline case to Resources Committee and the Board. **(AP7)**
- Progress on the hyponatraemia inquiry. It was reported that a new inquiry team had been appointed.
- Progress on reducing reports of rape. The PSNI reported it had commissioned analysis of this particular crime and agreed to share with the Board the outcome from a study into the reduction of rape and other sex crimes.

- The management of custody suites particularly in relation to closures and travelling time of staff between these facilities.
- The state of preparedness for EU Exit. The PSNI agreed to provide the headlines from a recent table top exercise in relation to EU Exit.

Following a short discussion the Board agreed that the PSNI needed to pursue an increase in the number of officers.

A number of areas of follow-up were identified in response to discussion around the Chief Constable's report and the PSNI agreed to respond to these in advance of the November Board meeting. **(AP8)**

The Chair thanked the Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable.

11. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no communications issues arising.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There no further business raised.

13. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Members noted a schedule of events for October 2019. **NOTED**

Members noted proposed meeting dates from October 2019 to March 2020.

NOTED

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6 and 7 November 2019

The meeting ended at 12.20pm

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.

CORPORATE SERVICES

DATE:

CHAIR