

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE 2019 AT 9.30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER

PRESENT:

- Mrs Anne Connolly (Chair)
- Ms Deborah Watters (Vice-Chair)
- (1) Mr John Blair
- Mr Keith Buchanan
- Mr Alan Chambers
- (2) Mrs Linda Dillon
- Mr Tom Frawley
- Mr Doug Garrett
- Mrs Dolores Kelly
- (3) Mr Philip McGuigan
- Mr Colm McKenna
- Mr Gary Middleton
- Dr Paul Nolan
- (4) Mr Mervyn Storey

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE

- (5) Sir George Hamilton, Chief Constable
- (5) Mr Stephen Martin, T/Deputy Chief Constable
- (5) Mr George Clarke, T/Assistant Chief Constable,
Legacy and Legal Department
- (5) Ms Barbara Gray, T/Assistant Chief Constable,
Crime Operations Department
- (5) Mr Mark Hamilton, Assistant Chief Constable, District
Policing
- (5) Mr Tim Mairs, T/Assistant Chief Constable,
Innovation and Standards Department
- (5) Mr Alan Todd, Assistant Chief, Operational Support
Department
- (5) Mr Ryan Feeney, Head of PSNI Communications
- (5) Mr Mark McNaughten, T/Director of Finance &
Support Services & Human Resources
- (5) Ms Yvonne Cooke, Head of Human Resources
- (5) Superintendent John McCaughan, Command
Secretariat
- (5) One PSNI Staff Member

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Mrs Amanda Stewart, Chief Executive
- Mr Tim Logan, Director of Resources
- 3 Board Officials

- (1) Item number 6 to close (arrived at 9.50am)
- (2) Item number 14 to close (arrived at 12.15pm)
- (3) Item number 7 to close (arrived at 9.55am)
- (4) From part item number 12 to close (arrived at 11.40am)
- (5) Item number 12

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Joanne Bunting, Professor Brice Dickson, Mr Gerry Kelly and Mrs Wendy Osborne. Mr Mervyn Storey would be late.

The Board agreed the agenda for the meeting.

The Chair asked Members to advise of any issues they wished to raise at item number 14 under “Any Other Business”. No issues were declared.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF BOARD

Mr Colm McKenna proposed that Mrs Anne Connolly be appointed Chair of the Policing Board and Ms Deborah Watters be appointed Vice-Chair until their Term of Office finished on 31 March 2020. The proposal was seconded by Mrs Dolores Kelly and agreed by the Board.

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chair asked Members to declare any conflicts of interests arising from the agenda. No conflicts of interest were declared. NOTED.

4. DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5/6 JUNE 2019

The Board considered the draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 5/6 June 2019.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 5/6 June 2019 be approved.

5. UPDATE ON ACTION LOG

Members noted the following update on the action log from the Board meeting held on 5/6 June 2019. NOTED.

Action Point 2

The Chief Executive drew Members attention to a letter which the Chair had received from the Chief Constable regarding the Terms of Reference for Operation Mizenmast which is the operation into the investigation which will be carried out by Mr Jon Boutcher into the death of Jean Smyth on 8 June 1972.

The Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee advised Members that he would raise the awarding of the contract to Mr Boutcher to carry out this work with the Chair of the PSNI Audit and Risk Assurance Committee at a meeting on 27 June 2019.

The Chief Executive informed the Board that a letter would be sent to the PSNI seeking a briefing at the September 2019 Board meeting on Operation Kenova, Operation Klina and governance arrangements for Mr Boutcher.

(AP1)

Action Point 3

The Chief Executive advised the Board that it was expected that Mr John Wadham would take up post as the Board's Human Rights Advisor at the end of July/beginning of August 2019.

In response to a comment from a Member, the Chief Executive explained that the recommendations in the Board's Internal Audit Advisory Report on the Human Rights Advisor Contract Arrangements would inform the new Human Rights Advisor's contract.

Action Point 8

In response to a question from a Member, the Chief Executive advised the Board that a letter had been sent to the PSNI Chief Constable seeking a report on the investigation by the Chief Constable, Durham Constabulary into the alleged theft of sensitive material from the Office of the Police Ombudsman.

6. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

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

- The Chair's engagements during the period 23 May – 21 June 2019.
- A list of correspondence received by the Chair during the period 22 May – 25 June 2019.
- A list of correspondence issued by the Chair during the period 22 May - 25 June 2019.

NOTED.

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Members noted a report from the Chief Executive to the Board. NOTED.

The Chief Executive updated Members on issues within the Board, including:-

- The development of a new Board Corporate Plan for 2020 – 2023.
- Contractual issues relating to the outgoing Chief Constable.
- NIPB Annual Report and Accounts.

- Assisted Removals Judicial Review.
- Industrial Tribunal Case on Holiday Pay.
- A Tribunal Class Case on 2015 Police Pension Scheme.

A Member congratulated the Chief Executive and her staff on the outcome of the Internal and External Audit Opinion for 2018/2019.

In response to a question from a Member, the Chief Executive explained that it was planned to hold an Away Day in September 2019 to consider the Board's Corporate Plan. An outstanding action from the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee for the Board to consider its risk appetite could be included as part of this session. **(AP2)**

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Performance Committee – 13 June 2019

The Board noted a report from the Chair of the Performance Committee and draft minutes of the Committee meetings held on 9 May 2019 and 13 June 2019. NOTED.

8.2 Partnership Committee – 20 June 2019

The Board noted a report from the Chair of the Partnership Committee on the Committee meeting held on 20 June 2019. NOTED.

Members noted that the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee had considered an Internal Audit Advisory Report on the governance arrangements for the Police Property Fund. Officials advised the Board that the report would be placed on Sharepoint. NOTED. **(AP3)**

Members discussed the issue and considered that development of a policy and effective governance arrangements were a priority for this work area before submitting ideas to Officials for potential delivery.

The Chair of the Partnership Committee briefed Members on a meeting of the PCSP Joint Committee which had been held on 21 June 2019.

8.3 Resources Committee – 20 June 2019

The Board noted a report from the Chair of the Resources Committee on the Committee meeting held on 20 June 2019. NOTED.

A Member referred to a report on the findings of research which had been carried out by Deloitte in relation to understanding barriers to Police Officer recruitment and highlighted concerns previously expressed including the length of time the process takes for initial application until individuals are appointed as Police Recruits.

Members discussed training at the Police College and suggested that PSNI should be invited to give a presentation to all Board Members on barriers to recruitment. **(AP4)**

In response to comments from a Member, the Board discussed under representativeness in the PSNI despite the work which the PSNI has been carrying out to encourage people to join the Service.

8.4 Audit and Risk Assurance Committee – 13 May 2019

The Board noted a report from the Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee on a meeting of the Committee held on 17 June 2019. NOTED.

9. BOARD BUSINESS

9.1 NIPB Annual Report and Accounts

The Board considered a paper which provided Members with an overview of the NIPB Annual Report and Financial Statements and Letter of Representation to the Comptroller and Audit General for the year ended 31 March 2019.

During discussion, Members agreed an amendment to the report and subject to this amendment being made, the Board:-

RESOLVED:-

To approve:-

- The NIPB Performance Report for the year ended 31 March 2019.
- The NIPB Accountability Report for the year ended 31 March 2019.
- The NIPB Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2019.
- The Letter of Representation to the Comptroller and Auditor General.

9.2 NIPB Whistleblowing Policy

Officials presented a paper regarding the Board's Whistleblowing Policy which had been recommended to the Board by the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee at its meeting on 17 June 2019.

During discussion a Member commented on some of the wording in the policy and it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the NIPB Whistleblowing Policy should be approved subject to the policy being drawn to Staff's attention for any comments and for further enhancements to be discussed with the Board Member. The policy would then be brought to the September 2019 Audit and Risk Assurance Committee meeting for further review. **(AP5)**

9.3 Chief Constable Draft Terms of Appointment

The Board considered a paper which provided Members with the new Chief Constable's draft Terms of Appointment. NOTED.

The Board:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the pay and allowances for the Chief Constable outlined in the Terms of Appointment.

9.4 HMICFRS 2019 PEEL INSPECTION OF THE PSNI

The Board considered a paper which sought Members approval for HMICFRS to carry out an inspection of PSNI for 2019 using the Legitimacy pillar of the PEEL methodology.

The Board:-

RESOLVED:

To approve the HMICFRS inspection of PSNI 2019 focusing on the Legitimacy Pillar. That the efficiency and effectiveness pillars should remain as central threads throughout the inspection. **(AP6)**

10. CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Members noted a monthly report from the Chief Constable to the Board.

NOTED.

11. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

11.1 Committee Questions Written Responses

The Board noted written responses from the PSNI to questions which had been submitted to the Chief Constable from Members. NOTED.

11.2 Media Issues

The Board noted a paper which outlined issues in the media which were relevant to the work of the Board and may form the basis of questions to the Chief Constable. NOTED.

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

12. PRIVATE SESSION WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

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

The Chief Constable briefed the Board on:-

- A recent HMICFRS PEEL Inspection of the PSNI, which assessed the PSNI's efficiency and effectiveness as good.
- A summary of the end of year performance report on crime statistics.
- PSNI's preparations for Policing over the Summer.
- Legacy issues.

A Member paid tribute to PSNI Officers for their bravery during recent rescues in Lough Erne and the North Coast.

In response to a question from a Member, the Chief Constable referred to the Court of Appeal's recent decision regarding the holiday pay legal case and explained that the PSNI had 10 days to decide whether to lodge a further appeal. He advised the Board that while the PSNI understood that holiday pay was a legal entitlement it had concerns around the retrospective nature of the payments which could amount to £40m.

In response to another question regarding the holiday pay case, the representatives from PSNI explained that the matter was currently the subject of discussion across the Northern Ireland Civil Service and public bodies.

Responding to a question from a Member, the representatives from PSNI briefed the Board on their assessment of policing over the summer and the PSNI approach to the flying of flags and banners.

In response to a question from a Member, the PSNI updated the Board on Operation Turnel regarding the PSNI Disclosure Improvement Plan.

In response to a question from a Member regarding an increase in hate crime being reported to the PSNI, the Chief Constable explained that hate crime generally was under reported and he welcomed the increase. PSNI would continue to work to increase reporting in relation to this area of crime.

Responding to a question from a Member on ATM thefts, the representatives from PSNI updated the Board on the work which had been carried out by PSNI regarding the attacks on ATM machines.

Responding to a question from a Member, the Chief Constable expressed his views to the Board on how he sees transformational change taking place in PSNI through digitalisation, community engagement, workforce composition and direct entry into PSNI specialist units.

Members discussed with PSNI cybercrime in Northern Ireland and the work which was being carried out in this area. The Chair advised the Board that a visit would be arranged to the Cybercrime Unit in the Autumn.

A Member advised the Board and PSNI of a visit he had undertaken recently to the old Ballymoney PSNI Station which had been sold to a Housing Association.

During the question and answer session, Members congratulated the Chief Constable on his tenure and extended their best wishes to him for the future.

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

13 COMMUNICATION ISSUES

The Board noted that a news release would be issued recognising the Chief Constable's services to Policing. **(AP7)**

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Schedule of Meetings – July 2019

Members noted a schedule of events for July 2019. NOTED

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 4/5 September 2019. A decision on the format of future Board meetings would be considered at this meeting after Members had taken the opportunity to consider the recommendations in the forthcoming report on the Board Effectiveness review.

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 1.30 pm).

CORPORATE SERVICES

Date: June 2019

Chair