

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2017 AT 9:30 AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mrs Anne Connolly, Chairperson
Ms Deborah Watters, Vice-Chairperson
Mr Keith Buchanan
Prof Brice Dickson
Mr Ryan Feeney
Mr Gerry Kelly
(1) Mr Nelson McCausland
Mr Raymond McCartney
Ms Roisin McGlone
Dr Paul Nolan
Mrs Wendy Osborne
Ms Catherine Pollock
Mr Philip Smith
Ms Deirdre Toner

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

(2) Mr George Hamilton, Chief Constable
(2) Mr Drew Harris, Deputy Chief Constable
(2) Mr Mark McNaughten, T/Director of Finance & Support
Services & Human Resources
(2) Superintendent Andrew Freeburn, Command
Secretariat
(2) One PSNI Staff Member

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs Amanda Stewart, Chief Executive
Mrs Paula Gow, T/Director of Partnership
Ms Jenny Passmore, Director of Policy
Mr David Wilson, Director of Support Services
4 Board Officials

- (1) Part item number 4 to part item number 7
- (2) Part item number 7

1 APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received from Mr Stephen Farry and Mrs Brenda Hale.

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

2 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICING BOARD HELD ON 2 FEBRUARY 2017

The Board considered the draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 2 February 2017.

The Chairperson referred to a few amendments which had been suggested to item 20 of the minutes by PSNI.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 2 February 2017 be approved subject to the PSNI amendments being made.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

3.1 NCA Levels of Security Vetting (Item 3.2 of minutes refers)

The Chief Executive referred to a Briefing which had been given by the Board's Human Rights Advisor on 9 February 2017 and advised Members that the highest level of vetting in PSNI was Developed Vetting. NOTED.

3.2 Programme of Work for Independent Board Members (Item 12 of minutes refers)

The Board noted a programme of work for Independent Board Members during the Northern Ireland Assembly Election period. NOTED.

3.3 PSNI Performance Report (Item 14.2 of minutes refers)

Officials advised the Board that the PSNI Performance Report was being considered as part of the development of the Policing Plan 2017/18. A final end year Performance Report would be received in May 2017. NOTED.

4 CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

The Chairperson presented a report to the Board which included a list of engagements that she had undertaken during the period 6 – 27 February 2017.

Members noted the following correspondence which had been received by the Board:-

- Copy of letter dated 1 February 2017 from Chief Constable to Mr Nick Perry, Permanent Secretary regarding the PSNI budget.
- Copy of letter dated 1 February from Chief Constable to the Secretary of State regarding Non Homicide Legacy Matters.
- Letter dated 2 February 2017 from Deputy Chief Constable to Chair of Board regarding Strategic Twining of the PSNI and Lebanese Internal Security Forces.
- Letter dated 2 February 2017 from Ms Lynne Owens Director, National Crime Agency (NCA) providing quarterly performance report.
- Letter dated 9 February 2017 from Chief Constable regarding breach of bail conditions – Damien McLaughlin.
- Letter dated 13 February 2017 from the Deputy Chief Constable regarding Superintendent promotions.
- Letter dated 22 February 2017 from the Deputy Chief Constable regarding extended leave being availed of by an Assistant Chief Constable and acting promotion arrangements.

NOTED.

Members noted that the following correspondence had been issued by the Board:-

- Letter dated 9 February 2017 regarding Revised Framework to Recorded Crime outcomes.
- Letter dated 15 February 2017 to Mr Nick Perry, Permanent Secretary regarding meeting request on PSNI budget.
- Letter dated 15 February 2017 from Chief Executive to Deputy Chief Constable regarding police medal.
- Congratulatory letters to newly promoted Superintendents.

NOTED.

The Board also noted a letter, tabled at the meeting, from PSNI dated 17 February 2017 regarding proposals in relation to Enquiry Offices across PSNI. NOTED.

The Board noted details of a report on a visit which had taken place to the PSNI Cyber Crime Centre on 16 February 2017. NOTED.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

That a letter should be sent to PSNI seeking information around a number of issues relating to the PSNI Cyber Crime Centre.

5 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Chief Executive presented a report which highlighted key areas critical to the operation of the Board that required delegated approval or decision until the new Board was established. This was for contingency planning and would be a temporary measure should there be a delay in the establishment of a new administration and the appointment of political members to the Board.

Following discussion the Board:-

RESOLVED:

- To approve the financial scenario planning information for NIPB and for the period following the Assembly Election and until a new administration/Board is in place associated cash and resources can be released as required in order to maintain services.
- To approve that in the period following the Assembly Election and until a new administration/Board is in place, drawdown of funding by the PSNI may proceed according to normal arrangements, against the current financial planning scenario, without prejudice to the position of an incoming administration/Board.
- To give delegated authority to the Chair, Vice Chair and Chief Executive to consider and if deemed suitable, to approve high value compensation requests in the event that a request is received in the period between the Assembly Election and the Board being reconstituted.
- To approve that in the event that a request is received in the period between the Election and the Board being reconstituted, to give delegated authority to the Chair, Vice Chair and Chief Executive to consider and if deemed suitable approve PSNI secondments.
- To approve that in the event that a request is received in the period between the Election and the Board being reconstituted to give delegated authority to the Chair, Vice Chair and Chief Executive to consider and if deemed suitable approve Land Acquisition/Disposal requests.
- Should a settlement be agreed by Department of Finance regarding the assisted removal cases in order to ensure there is no further delay to give delegated authority to the Chair, Vice Chair and Chief Executive to approve.
In addition the Board resolved to give delegated authority to the Chair, Vice Chair and Chief Executive should approval be needed for an extension of rent on leased accommodation over and above the 6 months delegated to PSNI.
- To approve for a representative Panel drawn from the Board's Independent Members to appoint PCSP Independent Members to fill vacancies on Antrim and Newtownabbey PCSP.
- To approve an extension to the tenure of the current Chair and Vice Chair

for the period from the 3 July 2017 until the first meeting of a new Board.

The Board considered a NIPB Draft Corporate Plan for 2017-2020, together with a report from the public consultation on the Plan.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Chair and Vice Chair should be given delegated authority to sign-off and publish the Corporate Plan by 31 March 2017.

5.1 National Crime Agency (NCA) – Northern Ireland Quarter Three Performance Narrative

The Board noted a paper which provided Members with an update on National Crime Agency (NCA) performance and activity in Northern Ireland during quarter 3 of 2016/17 (October to December 2016). NOTED

6 POLICING PLAN

Officials presented a paper regarding a way forward in relation to the approval and publication of the draft Annual Policing Plan 2017/2018.

Members noted that the final draft of the 2017/18 Policing Plan was considered at the PSNI's Service Executive Board (SEB) on the 22 February 2017 and following discussion it was agreed not to approve the Plan due to budgetary constraints facing PSNI going forward until such times as PSNI could review how to achieve the reduction requested. The PSNI's Continuous Improvement projects for 2017/18 had also not been approved as the Chief Constable was unable to commit to measures set out in the Plan due to the proposed 3% budget cuts PSNI have recently been told to prepare for. NOTED.

The Board discussed the publication of the Policing Plan and PSNI's Continuous

Improvement projects for 2017/18 and agreed issues to be raised with the Chief Constable later in the meeting.

7 PRIVATE SESSION WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE REGARDING PSNI BUDGET, RESPONSES TO MEMBERS QUESTIONS AND EMERGING ISSUES

The Board noted:-

- Written responses from PSNI to questions raised by Members.
- A paper which provided a summary of some of the key policing issues which have featured in the media since the last Board meeting in public.

NOTED.

The Chairperson welcomed the Chief Constable, the Deputy Chief Constable and their colleagues to the meeting and advised that the meeting would focus primarily on issues relating to the PSNI Budget 2017/18 and the draft Annual Policing Plan 2017/18 however she requested the Chief Constable to firstly update the Board on the current security situation.

In response the Chief Constable provided a brief synopsis on current security related matters including updates on recent attacks since January 2017. Members discussed with the Chief Constable the current political instability and any possible consequences for current and future security and public order related issues.

Following this the Chief Constable advised the Board of a recent request from the Department of Justice (DOJ) for a submission outlining proposals in the event of a potential cut to the PSNI's 2017/18 budget. The Chief Constable outlined the proposals contained in a draft paper which was being prepared by PSNI and advised of his intention, following input from Members, to share the paper with the Board ahead of its submission to the DOJ. In addition, Members discussed with the Chief Constable the impact such proposals may have on PSNI operations.

The Board went on to discuss with the PSNI the draft Annual Policing Plan 2017/18 and proposals for its approval and publication before 31 March 2017. Members considered the challenges to this timetable presented by the need to agree the plan prior to the Election taking place on 2 March 2017. Specific discussions took place in relation to the PSNI Continuous Improvement aspect of the Annual Policing Plan 2017/18 and also uncertainties as a consequence of no agreed budget.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

- The Annual Policing Plan 2017/18, including a framework for PSNI Continuous Improvement Projects, is published by 31 March 2017 with the caveat that it will require some recalibration of the outcomes and measures with a new Board in due course subject to the future agreed budget and spending limits which may be imposed on PSNI.
- That the Chair, Vice-Chair and Chief Executive be given delegated authority for final sign off of the Policing Plan and Continuous Improvement projects.

In response to a Member's question regarding 'new and significant information' referred to in recent court proceedings regarding the murder of Pat Finucane, the PSNI agreed to follow up with correspondence in relation to the matter.

In response to a question from a Member, the Deputy Chief Constable advised the Board that the PSNI facilitated a delegation of Bahrain Police Officers on a study visit to Belfast in 2015 but have not provided training to Police Officers in Bahrain. There have been no further engagements or request for support.

8 INFORMATION PAPERS

The Board noted the following papers:-

8.1 Police Stop and Search Powers: A Conversation on Delivery,
Experiences & Accountability in Northern Ireland

8.2 End Year Report on the Implementation of the PSNI Equality,
Diversity and Good Relations Strategy

NOTED

During discussion a Member raised concerns about the lack of detail contained in the update to the Board on implementation of the PSNI Equality, Diversity and Good Relations Strategy. Members were advised that a review of the information received from PSNI on the implementation of PSNI Strategies had been undertaken as part of the arrangements for developing a monitoring framework for the 2017/18 Policing Plan.

9 COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no communication issues.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Police College Oversight Panel Meeting

The Chair of the Resources Committee updated the Board on a meeting of the Police College Oversight Panel which had been held on 23 February 2017 and advised Members that Mrs Wendy Osborne and Ms Roisin McGlone would be taking forward work in relation to overseeing the implementation of recommendations contained in the Police College Review.

10.2 Thanks

The Chairperson thanked Political Members for their work to date on the Board.

10.3 Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the date of the next meeting would be held following the reconstitution of the Board after the Northern Ireland Assembly Election.

NOTED.

10.4 PCSP Conference

The Chair reminded Members that the PCSP Conference would be held in Titanic, Belfast on 8 March 2017.

(Meeting closed at 1.20pm)

**Board Support
March 2017**

_____Chairperson