

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL 2019 AT 1.30PM AND THURSDAY 4 APRIL 2019 AT 10.00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER**

#### **PRESENT:**

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

#### **POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE**

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

<b>NATIONAL</b>	<b>(4)</b>	Mr Steve Rodhouse, Director General (Operations)
<b>CRIME AGENCY</b>	<b>(4)</b>	Mr Rob Burgess
	<b>(4)</b>	Mr Billy Beattie
	<b>(4)</b>	One Official

<b>BUSINESS</b>	<b>(5)</b>	One Official
<b>CONSULTANCY</b>		
<b>SERVICE</b>		

<b>OFFICIALS IN</b>	Mrs Amanda Stewart, Chief Executive
<b>ATTENDANCE:</b>	Mr Tim Logan, Director of Resources
	Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of Partnership
	Ms Jenny Passmore, Director of Performance
	Ms Aislinn McGuckin, Head of Police Administration
	3 Board Officials

- (1) Except part of item number 11 (arrived at 10.15am on 4 April 2019)**
- (2) Part item number 11 and part item number 12**
- (3) Part item number 11**
- (4) Part item number 12**
- (5) Item numbers 1 – 10**

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mrs Joanne Bunting, Mr Tom Frawley and Mr Gerry Kelly for the meeting on 3 April 2019 and from Mrs Joanne Bunting for the meeting on 4 April 2019.

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”. Officials advised the Board that they wished to raise a letter which had been received from the Home Secretary regarding the 2019 Strategic Priorities for the National Crime Agency (NCA). No other issues were declared.

The Chair welcomed an Official from the Business Consultancy Service to the meeting and advised Members that the Official would be observing the meeting as part of the Board's Effectiveness Review.

## **2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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

## **3. DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

### **3.1 MEETING HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2019**

The Board considered the draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 26 February 2019.

It was:-

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 26 February 2019 be approved.

During a discussion on the accuracy of the draft minutes the Ulster Unionist Party representative on the Board expressed the Party's opposition to the establishment of a Historical Investigations Unit (HIU).

A Member expressed the view that it might be helpful for the Board to have a discussion at a future meeting on the role of the Board in relation to the oversight of HIU.

### **3.2 MEETING HELD ON 6/7 MARCH 2019**

The Board considered the draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 6/7 March 2019.

It was:-

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the draft minutes of the Policing Board meeting held on 6/7 March be approved.

In response to a question from a Member, Officials undertook to provide Members with a copy of a letter which had been received from CJINI regarding the Terms of Reference for the review into the methods the PSNI use to disclose information in respect of historic cases to the Office of the Police Ombudsman. **(AP1)**

### **4. UPDATE ON ACTION LOG**

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

**NOTED.**

With regard to number AP1 on the action log, the Chief Executive advised the Board that a note was being drafted on the Board's decision regarding the Chief Constable Appointment Process.

Regarding number AP3 on the action log Members noted that the Chief Constable, Durham Police would be invited to a future Board meeting to brief the Board on Operation Yurta and specifically the arrest of two journalists.

**NOTED.**

With regard to number AP4 on the action log Members noted that visits to the PSNI Estate would be postponed until September 2019. **NOTED.**

With regard to number AP4 on the action log of the meeting held on 6/7 February 2019, the Chief Executive advised the Board that the appointment of a Chief Constable and Human Rights Advisor would be given priority and other Chief Officer positions would be taken forward following these appointments.

## **5. CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

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

- The Chair's engagements during the period 1 – 27 March 2019.
- A letter dated 1 March 2019 from the Northern Ireland Audit Office regarding Continuous Improvement Arrangements in Policing and a response dated 13 March 2019.
- A letter dated 1 March 2019 from the RUC GC Foundation regarding a concert by the Police Male Voice Choir.
- A letter dated 4 March 2019 from the Chief Constable to the Permanent Secretary, Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding the inquest element of a legacy related business case.
- A letter dated 11 March 2019 from the Permanent Secretary, DOJ regarding the NCA Annual Plan 2019/20.
- A letter dated 27 March 2019 from the Equality Commissioner regarding the Chief Constable appointment process.
- A letter dated 28 March 2019 from NCA enclosing a report on key issues of NCA work.
- A letter dated 7 March 2019 to the Secretary of State regarding the appointment of Independent Board Members.
- A letter dated 7 March to the Director General, NCA regarding the draft NCA Annual Plan 2019/20.
- A letter of thanks dated 7 March 2019 to Mr Duncan Morrow regarding the Chuck Wexter lecture.

- A letter dated 12 March 2019 to the Permanent Secretary, DOJ regarding the NIPB Business Plan 2019/20.
- A letter dated 12 March 2019 to the Superintendents' Association regarding the Chief Constable appointment process.
- A letter dated 12 March 2019 to the Equality Commissioner regarding the Chief Constable appointment process.
- A letter of thanks dated 28 March 2019 to the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland regarding a recent meeting.
- A letter dated 2 April 2019 to the Police Ombudsman regarding the disclosure of sensitive information.
- A letter dated 2 April 2019 to the Permanent Secretary, DOJ regarding the Apprenticeship Levy.

NOTED.

The Board noted that a group of Senior US Police Chiefs would be visiting Northern Ireland during the following week. The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees would be invited to a Briefing Session with the visitors in Waterside Tower on 10 April 2019 at 4.15pm. NOTED.

Members discussed the process for the appointment of new Independent Members to the Board and asked to be kept informed of developments.

**(AP2)**

## **6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

The Chief Executive updated Members on issues within the Board, including the NIPB Budget Allocation 2019/20, corporate risks, Chief Officer Recruitment, Board Effectiveness Review and PSNI former and current Officers Assisted Removals Judicial Review.

In response to a question from a Member, Officials updated the Board on the outstanding legal cases against the Board.

## **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **7.1 Performance Committee – 14 March 2019**

The Board noted a report from the Chair of the Performance Committee and draft minutes of the Committee meeting held on 14 March 2019. NOTED.

### **7.2 Partnership Committee – 21 March 2019**

The Board noted a report from the Chair of the Partnership Committee and draft minutes of the Committee meeting held on 21 March 2019. NOTED.

The Board:-

#### **AGREED:**

That the following reports should be published:-

- Local Policing Review 2018 – Independent Analysis Report.
- Research Report – Experiences of the new PSNI Local Policing Model.
- Research Report – The Effectiveness of Policing Committees.

**(AP3)**

### **7.3 Resources Committee – 21 March 2019 & 28 March 2019**

The Board noted reports from the Chair of the Resources Committee on the meetings held on 21 March 2019 and 28 March 2019. NOTED.

The Board also noted the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 28 February 2019 and the draft minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 21 March 2019. NOTED.

In response to a question from a Member, Officials undertook to provide the Member with a copy of the Government Actuarial Department's Presentation on Public Sector Pension Valuations.

**(AP4)**

#### **7.4 Audit and Risk Assurance Committee – 28 March 2019**

The Board noted a report from the Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee of the meeting held on 28 March 2019. NOTED.

In response to comments from a Member regarding the election of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees it was agreed that a meeting of the Chair's Advisory Group should be held to consider the procedures in relation to the appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair of Committees. **(AP5)**

A Member explained that other Organisations recruited a person to chair their Audit Committee and suggested that a skills audit should be carried out within the Board. Officials advised that a skills audit for Members was underway.

### **8. BOARD BUSINESS**

#### **8.1 NIPB Budget 2019/20**

The Board considered a paper containing a recommendation from the Resources Committee to approve the NIPB Budget 2019/20.

The Chief Executive advised the Board that the DOJ would meet funding pressures for PCSP recruitment.

Members noted that the Board has been allocated £635k to implement a long outstanding priority 1 Internal Audit recommendation which



stated that an electronic case management system should be introduced for Police Administration Branch.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To approve the Policing Board Budget for 2019/20.

**8.2 PSNI Budget 2019/20**

The Board considered a paper containing a recommendation from the Resources Committee to approve the PSNI Budget for 2019/20.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:**

To approve the PSNI Budget 2019/20.

**(AP6)**

**9. CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT**

Members noted the following:-

- A monthly report from the Chief Constable to the Board.
- A report on Operation Turnel on PSNI Disclosure Improvement Plan Short Term Actions Update.
- A legacy update.

NOTED.

**10. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

The Board agreed questions to be raised with PSNI at the meeting on 4 April 2019.

## 11. PRIVATE SESSION WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

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

In response to a question from a Member regarding the tragedy at the Greenvale Hotel, Cookstown on 17 March 2019, the PSNI updated the Board on the investigation which was being carried out by PSNI and the referral of the initial response of Police to the Hotel to the Police Ombudsman for investigation.

Members discussed with the PSNI the arrest and de-arrest of the owner of the Greenvale Hotel for suspected possession of drugs and the subsequent press coverage around this arrest.

In response to a question from a Member, the representatives from PSNI explained how PSNI were tackling cybercrime and suggested that a Briefing should be given to Members on the PSNI's approach to dealing with cybercrime. **(AP7)**

A Member asked for an update on ATM thefts. In response the PSNI advised the Board of the types of attacks on ATM machines, the investigation that was being carried out by PSNI regarding the recent upsurge of attacks on ATM machines and the work that PSNI was carrying out in partnership with An Garda Síochána in relation to the thefts.

A Member complimented the PSNI on the large scale search operation in Ballyhalbert for the body of Lisa Dorrian. The PSNI advised the Board that the Police were using new technology to try to find Ms Dorrian's body.

In response to a question from a Member, the PSNI updated the Board on the recent arrests in East Belfast.

A Member congratulated the PSNI on the recent drugs finds in Mid Ulster.

In response to a question from a Member regarding a gang operating in the Lurgan area, the PSNI undertook to discuss the matter with the Member after the meeting.

The Chair thanked representatives from PSNI for attending the meeting and some Members of the Service Executive Team left.

## **12. DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY**

The Board noted:-

- A paper which outlined details of the background to NCA and a general overview of their work in Northern Ireland.
- A NCA report to the Board.

NOTED.

The Chair welcomed the Mr Steve Rodhouse, Director General (Operations) NCA and his colleagues to the meeting.

The Director General (Operations) advised the Board that Ms Lynne Owens, Director General, NCA sent her apologies for the meeting.

The Director General (Operations) referred to the work of NCA in Northern Ireland and the close working relationship which NCA had developed with PSNI. He briefed the Board on:-

- The role of NCA in Northern Ireland.
- Threat areas including cybercrime, child sexual abuse and misuse of drugs.

- Drugs operations in Northern Ireland.

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

- The levels of heroin available in Northern Ireland.
- The availability of prescription drugs in Northern Ireland.
- The investigation into the National Assets Management Agency (NAMA).
- Cybercrime.
- Level of resourcing attached to NCA in Northern Ireland compared to other parts of the UK.
- The priorities that the PSNI have set for the NCA for 2019/2020.
- An increase in drug seizures in Northern Ireland.
- NCA Annual Plan 2019/2020 which would be published on 5 April 2019.
- Strategic priorities for NCA.
- The number of crime gangs operating in Northern Ireland.
- The role of NCA in the EU exit preparations.

The Chair thanked the Director General, the Chief Constable and their colleagues for attending the meeting and they left.

The Board considered and agreed the questions to ask the PSNI at the meeting in public.

### **13. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

The Board condemned a threat which had been issued to a Derry/Londonderry Youth Club because of the presence of the PSNI at the

event. It was agreed that a news release should be issued condemning the threat. **(AP8)**

#### **14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **Letter from Home Secretary regarding the 2019 Strategic Priorities for the NCA**

The Board considered a letter dated 2 April 2019 from the Home Secretary regarding the 2019 Strategic Priorities for the NCA.

Following discussion the Board

##### **AGREED:**

To write to the Home Secretary outlining the Board's agreement to the 2019 Strategic Priorities for the NCA.

#### **15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members noted a schedule of events for April 2019. NOTED.

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 5 and 6 June 2019

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](http://www.facebook.com/policingboard).

(Meeting closed at 1.45 pm).

## **CORPORATE SERVICES**

**Date:** April 2019

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**Chair**