

**NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD  
HELD ON THURSDAY 6 MAY 2021 AT 9.30 AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER,  
CLARENDON DOCK AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE FACILITY**

**PRESENT:**

Mr Doug Garrett Chair  
Dr Tom Frawley Vice-Chair\*  
Mr Michael Atkinson\*  
Mr Tom Buchanan MLA\*  
Ms Joanne Bunting MLA\*  
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA\*  
Dr Janet Gray\*  
Mr Edgar Jardine\*  
Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA\*  
(1) Mr Gerry Kelly MLA\*  
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA\*  
Mr Colm McKenna\*  
Mr Frank McManus\*  
Ms Carmel McKinney\*  
Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA\*  
Mr Mervyn Storey MLA\*  
Ms Deirdre Toner\*

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

- (2) Mr Simon Byrne, Chief Constable\*  
(2) Mr Mark Hamilton, Deputy Chief Constable\*  
(2) Ms Pamela McCreedy, Chief Operating Officer\*  
(2) Superintendent John McCaughan, Command Secretariat\*  
(2) One PSNI Staff Member\*

**NORTHERN IRELAND  
POLICING BOARD  
OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs Amanda Stewart, Chief Executive  
Ms Aislinn McGuckin, T/Director of Police Administration  
Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of Performance  
Ms Jenny Passmore, Director of Resources  
Ms Dympna Thornton, Director of Partnership  
Three Board Officials

**NORTHERN IRELAND  
POLICING BOARD HUMAN**

Mr John Wadham, Human Rights Advisor

**RIGHTS ADVISOR IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

\*Attended meeting by video conference facility

- (1) **Part item 4 to part item 10 (Joined meeting at 10.20am and departed at Midday)**
- (2) **Item 10 only**

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr John Blair MLA and Mr Seán Lynch MLA, whose brother Brendan Lynch, recently passed away. The Chair noted that the Board offered its condolences to Mr Lynch.

The Board agreed the Agenda for the meeting.

No one declared any items they wished to raise under 'Any Other Business'.

**2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

**3. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 1 APRIL 2021 AND 7 APRIL 2021**

A Member raised a query regarding the minutes of the Board Meeting held on 1 April 2021 and they were not approved. It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2021 would be amended and brought to the Board Meeting on 3 June 2021 for approval. It was further agreed that the minutes of the Policing Plan Review Working Group meeting held on 8 March 2021 would also be brought to the Board Meeting on 3 June 2021. **(AP1)**

It was **RESOLVED:-**

- That the minutes of the Board meeting held on 7 April 2021 be approved.

#### **4 BOARD ACTION LOG**

Updates as detailed within the Action Log from the Board meeting held on 1 April 2021 were noted in addition to the following verbal updates provided by the Chief Executive and the additional information included at agenda items 4.1, 4.2 and 4.4:

##### **Action Point 2**

The Chief Executive referred Members to the additional information made available at item 4.4 which provided more detail on the consequences of the proposed change to the Statutory Rule delegating functions to Officials. Members noted that the Department of Justice (DoJ) are progressing an amendment to the Miscellaneous Provisions Bill to amend the Police (NI) Act 2000. Members were supportive of the position advised by the Chief Executive that the Board will continue with arrangements put in place following the McKee judgement and will not rely on the statutory rule change as a matter of course. It was agreed that this action may be closed.

##### **Action Point 3**

The Chief Executive referred Members to the additional information available at item 4.1 regarding the Recommendations detailed within the Independent Commission on Policing in Northern Ireland (referred to as the Patten Report). Members discussed the Patten Report outstanding Recommendations and requested information on what Recommendations had still been outstanding in 2010 (when the Commission was stood down) and what Recommendations are currently outstanding, and activity undertaken to progress the outstanding Recommendations. A Member also requested information on why Recommendations 115 (Liaison with schools and universities, 116 (Pilot

Cadet Scheme) and 127 (Recruitment Agency should seek to identify Catholic police officers, particularly senior officers, from Northern Ireland serving in other police services, and encourage them to apply for positions in the PSNI) were closed and was the rationale for their closing. It was agreed that the Chief Executive would bring a paper to the Board providing an update on the outstanding Patten Recommendations. **(AP2)**

Updates as detailed within the Action Log from the Board meeting held on **4 March 2021** were noted in addition to the following verbal updates provided by the Chief Executive:

#### **Action Point 1**

The Chief Executive referred Members to the additional information available at 4.2 and the correspondence received from the PSNI Chief Operating Officer (COO) dated 20 April 2021 about the anonymous whistleblowing complaint raised by a PSNI third party contractor. Following discussion on the correspondence received, the Chair noted that the CEO would discuss with the PSNI the issues raised by Members on the PSNI's whistleblowing policy and procedures

#### **Action Point 2**

The Chief Executive referred Members to the additional information available at 4.3 on the PSNI's arrangements for the selection and development of Chief Officers. Members discussed the additional information received and noted that the matter is being progressed through the Resources Committee.

Updates as detailed within the Action Log from the Board meeting held on **3 December 2020** were noted in addition to the following verbal updates provided by the Chief Executive:

#### **Action Point 1**

In the context of the Minister of Justice's proposed stocktake of policing accountability arrangements, a discussion paper would be brought to the full Board in advance of a meeting between the Board and the Minister of Justice..

## 5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

The Chair presented a report which advised Members of:

- The Chair's engagements, including meetings held by teleconference and video conference facilities during the period between 1 April 2021 and 6 May 2021.
- A list of correspondence received by the Chair during the period between 29 March 2021 and 30 April 2021.
- A list of correspondence issued by the Chair during the period between 1 April 2021 and 30 April 2021.

The Chair noted that that the recruitment and selection process for the PSNI Director of People and Organisational Development had concluded without an appointment having been made. The Chair noted that an Executive Search Firm would be engaged to progress both the future recruitment and selection processes for both Director of People and Organisational Development and other PSNI Chief Officer roles.

The Chair provided an overview of engagements he had held including contact with the part time PSNI Officer involved in the dissident attack in Dungiven, Co. Derry/ Londonderry, and a meeting with the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People where the use of spit and bite guards on children had been discussed.

Members discussed the correspondence exchange between the Chief Constable, Secretary of State and Minister of Justice about the Criminal Justice Act (NI) 2013 and the Board's Human Rights Advisor stated that he

had asked the PSNI to write to the Board to outline what their ask is from Minister of Justice and Secretary of State in relation to DNA database.

Members discussed the correspondence from the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to the Chief Constable dated 2 April 2021, which had been copied to the Board, in respect of the Public Prosecution Service's decision not to prosecute anyone for alleged breaches of the COVID-19 Regulations when attending the funeral of Mr Bobby Storey in June 2020. Members requested sight of the Chief Constable's response to the DPP and the Chief Executive agreed to follow this up with the PSNI. **(AP3)**

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

Members noted a report and related verbal overview provided by the Board's Chief Executive. Issues addressed included an update on the Board's financial position for the year ended 31 March 2021, the Board's 2020-21 Annual Business Plan performance and the 2021-22 Annual Business Plan.

The T/ Director of Police Administration also provided an update on the Ill Health Retirement and Injury On Duty processes as it pertained to the ongoing work to progress NIAO report recommendations contained in their report on injury benefit schemes in Northern Ireland.

## **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **7.1 Performance Committee 15 April 2021**

The Board noted the Performance Committee Chair's Report and draft minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2021 and the Committee Chair also provided a verbal update on matters considered at the meeting including the five year review of the Office of the Police Ombudsman and a briefing from

Assistant Chief Constable Mark McEwan on the implementation of the Covert Human Intelligence Source Act in Northern Ireland.

## **7.2 Resources Committee 21 April 2021**

The Board noted the Resources Committee Chair's Report and draft minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2021 and the Committee Chair also provided a verbal update on matters considered at the meeting which included a briefing on PSNI's Procurement and Contract Management practices and an update on PSNI Human Resources matters including recruitment.

## **7.3 Partnership Committee 22 April 2021**

The Board noted the Partnership Committee Chair's Report and the Committee Chair also provided a verbal update on matters considered at the meeting including a briefing from the PSNI on Policing With the Community. A Member raised an issue in regards to the content of section 17.5 of the draft Partnership Committee minutes from 22 April 2021 and it was agreed that this matter would be referred back to Partnership Committee to be progressed.

## **8. BOARD BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Report on 2020-2021 Board Business**

The Chief Executive presented a paper which provided an overview of the work undertaken by the Board during 2020-21. Reports from each of the Board's Committees which summarised the work of the Committees undertaken during the year was also included. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that:

- The Report be approved for reference where appropriate, in the Board's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.
- The Report be approved for publication on the Board's website as part of the composite Committee Report.

## **8.2 Verbal Update from the Vice-Chair – Ongoing Work on Committee Structure**

The Board Vice-Chair provided an update on the ongoing Annual Committee Effectiveness Review and review of Committee structures. It was noted that the conclusions of the Annual Committee Effectiveness Review were being collated for consideration by each Committee and would also be considered by the Board at an away day due to be arranged later in 2021.

## **9. KEY ISSUES OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

The Board noted a paper which detailed recent issues of public interest which were relevant to the Board's areas of work.

## **10. PRIVATE SESSION WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE INCLUDING CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT**

The Chair welcomed the Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) Mark Hamilton, and Pamela McCreedy, (COO) to the meeting.

The Chief Constable noted the publication of the Police Ombudsman's Report into the deaths of Patrick Rooney, Hugh McCabe, Samuel McLarnon and Michael Lynch in August 1969 and that his thoughts and sympathies were with the families of the deceased.



The Chief Constable provided an update on his engagement with a number of stakeholders, including those from the Loyalist community and youth workers to discuss policing. The Chief Constable also provided an update on the PSNI's fight against Organised Crime including significant drug seizures.

During the meeting, Members discussed a number of issues with the Chief Constable including:

- The work being undertaken by the PSNI's Economic Crime Unit on Operation Grandeval and the investigation of a number of fraud offences targeting older and vulnerable people, with offenders representing themselves as police officers. The Chief Constable provided an update on Operation Grandeval and agreed to provide a copy of the advertisements and publications that would be used in the upcoming PSNI public campaign on vulnerability/harm.

The Chief Constable also noted that Scamwise NI was a partnership between the PSNI and a number of other agencies and aimed to raise awareness of crimes involving scams, and that 'Action Fraud' was a UK wide initiative and brought together policing and banking to report fraud and cybercrime.

- Media reports about information that may be included in the upcoming Queen's Speech at the State Opening of Parliament about legacy issues in Northern Ireland and whether the Chief Constable had been made aware of the potential inclusions in advance. The Chief Constable noted that he did not have any detail on the inclusion of legacy related matters within the Queen's Speech and awaited further information from the Government. He noted that a further conversation may be useful at the next Board Meeting in June 2021 once the contents of the Queen's Speech were known.

- The collapse of the trial of two former soldiers who had been accused of killing Joe McCann in 1972. DCC Hamilton noted that the Judge's comments following the collapse of the trial were awaited.
- An update on the ongoing investigation into alleged abuse and neglect at Muckamore Abbey Hospital in Co. Antrim. DCC Hamilton noted that a number of dedicated officers were assigned to the investigation which involved the review of thousands of hours of CCTV footage.
- The ongoing investigation into the murder of Kevin McGuigan in August 2015 and the information available to be the PSNI at the time. The Chief Constable noted that he was mindful that the inquest was going but agreed to seek input from PSNI Crime Operations about what further information may be made publicly available.
- The Chief Constable's engagement with working class loyalists/unionists. The Chief Constable referred to work being undertaken by T/ACC Singleton with the Community Relations Task Force and noted that an update would be provided in June and that the Partnership Committee would be briefed thereafter.
- The outstanding Patten Report Recommendations that had been discussed earlier in the meeting and the current position of the PSNI Part-Time Reserve (PTR). DCC Hamilton noted that the 2019 Local Policing Review had referred to the PTR, police volunteers and Special Constables and these issues still had to be considered but the impact of COVID-19 had caused a delay, however an update would be brought to the Partnership Committee in due course.
- PSNI's financial position for 2021-22 and the additional £12 million that had been received from the Department of Finance for the purpose of increasing the officer headcount, and what the Board could do to support the PSNI in receiving recurrent funding. The COO noted that there was a recurrent impact of the £12 million that had been received and it was hoped that the funding may be received annually.

In response to a Member's question regarding a recent media article about the appointment of a number of people to PSNI's Communications and Engagement Department, the Chief Constable noted that a review had been undertaken comparing the PSNI's Communications and Engagement Team to other similar UK police services which identified that the PSNI was under resourced in this area. The Chief Constable noted that, as a consequence, a number of appointments had been made with a view to improving PSNI's communications with the public and media, and to strengthen the PSNI's brand.

The Chair thanked the Chief Constable, DCC, and the COO for attending the meeting.

## **11. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

### **11.1 Issues Arising from Committees**

There were no issues arising from recent Committee meetings for the Board's attention.

### **11.2 Committee Written Questions and Responses**

The Board noted the response provided by the Chief Constable to one question received from the Partnership Committee.

### **11.3 Individual Members' Written Questions and Responses**

The Board noted the responses provided by the Chief Constable to Members individual questions.

## **12. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

Members noted the issues that the Chair would be commenting on within the opening statement at the public Board Meeting, and that a press briefing would be held with the Chief Constable following the public Board Meeting.

### **13. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

Members noted the Schedule of Meetings to June 2021.

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

No other business was conducted.

### **14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

There would be a Board Meeting on Monday 17 May 2021 at 10am to consider the Report of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services in the PSNI's approach to the policing of the funeral of Mr Bobby Storey in June 2020.

The meeting closed at 12.31pm.

*The private meeting closed and the Board moved into public session at 12.50pm which was held by a video conference facility and livestreamed. A verbatim recording of the Board meeting in public is available on the Board's YouTube page @nipolicingboard*

### **Corporate Services**

**Date:** May 2021

**Chair**