



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

**FOI Reference number: 16/2013**

**Date: 29 April 2013**

**Request:**

A copy of all statements prepared by the Policing Board since the start of 2007 and intended for publication on an "if asked" basis. The request covers any statement prepared by the Board and intended to be published if a journalist enquired about the topic; but not statements which were sent out as normal to every journalist on the Policing Board press office mailing list. Please provide copies of each statement, and include whether each statement was ever released to the media.

**Answer:**

Details are contained in the table below with copies provided at Annex 1. Where appropriate names have been redacted in line with Data Protection legislation.

Date	Subject	Released to media
<b>2013</b>	No records	-
<b>2012</b>		
February 2012	DPP Member Court Appearance	No
June 2012	PCSP Appointments	No
<b>2011</b>		
May 2011	Chair of the Board	No
August 2011	PSNI Assistance	No
<b>2010</b>		
July 2010	Police Complaint Statistics	No
July 2010	PSNI Scenario Planning	No
<b>2009</b>		
January 2009	Met Commissioner job	No

January 2009	Moyle DPP Chair	Yes
May 2009	Cost of Irish Language meeting	Yes
May 2009	Chief Constable's post	No
August 2009	Strategic Review	Yes
December 2009	Operation Ballast	No
<b>2008</b>	No records	-
<b>2007</b>	No records	-

If you have queries about this request or the decision please contact the Board quoting the reference number above. If you are unhappy with the service you have received and wish to make a complaint or request a review you should write to the Board's Chief Executive at the following address:

Northern Ireland Policing Board  
Waterside Tower  
31 Clarendon Road  
Clarendon Dock  
Belfast BT1 3BG

Email: [foi@nipolicingboard.org.uk](mailto:foi@nipolicingboard.org.uk)

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot investigate or make a decision on a case unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Board. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:-

The Information Commissioner's Office – Northern Ireland  
3rd Floor  
12 Cromac Place  
Gasworks  
Ormeau Road  
Belfast  
BT7 2JB.

Telephone: - 02890 269 380  
Email: - [ni@ico.org.uk](mailto:ni@ico.org.uk)

Please be advised that all Policing Board replies under Freedom of Information will be released into the public domain via our website @ [www.nipolicingboard.org.uk](http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk).

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

2013	No records
2012	
February 2012	<p>DPP Member Court Appearance</p> <p>Please attribute the following line to a Policing Board spokesperson:</p> <p>“The Board has a policy in place in relation to removal of members from office which is covered by Statute. It states that if a DPP member, either political or Independent, is convicted of a criminal offence after the date of appointment to the DPP then the Board, or the Council with the approval of the Board ‘may’ remove that person from office.”</p> <p><b>Notes to editors</b></p> <p>1. The legislation governing the removal of DPP Members from office can be found in the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 Schedule 3 section 7.  <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/32/schedule/3">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/32/schedule/3</a></p> <p><b>For guidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As part of the appointment process for DPPs, applicants were advised that ‘Means Tested Benefits’ may be affected by receipt of DPP allowances and that advice on this would have been available through local benefits offices.</li> <li>- DPP Independent Members will cease to hold office on 31 March 2012 with the establishment of PCSPs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Notes to editors ends</b></p>
June 2012	<p>PCSP Appointments</p> <p>Line Against Enquiry – Meeting with [REDACTED] re: appointment of PCSP Member</p> <p>Please attribute the following line to a Policing Board spokesperson:</p> <p>“Members of the Board today met with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to discuss issues relating to the appointment process for Independent Members of the newly established Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) and, within Belfast, District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (DPCSPs).</p>

	<p>The Board has responsibility for making these appointments and is required, as far as practicable, to ensure that the overall membership of each PCSP is representative of the community in the Council area and that each DPCSP is representative of that district.</p> <p>The process to appoint Members was conducted in line with the Code of Practice issued by the Department of Justice. Independent scrutiny and oversight of the process was incorporated at every stage including an independent panel member with voting rights involved on the Council and Policing Board panels, an Independent Assessor and an Independent Complaints Monitor.</p> <p>The Independent Assessor's report on the appointment process will be published by the Board in due course. A complaints mechanism is in place to deal for any applicant who is unhappy with the appointment process.</p> <p>ends</p>
<b>2011</b>	
May 2011	<p>Chair of the Board</p> <p>The new Policing Board has yet to be appointed and a date has yet to be confirmed for its first meeting. It will be at this meeting that the newly appointed Board Members will elect a new Chair and Vice chair.</p>
August 2011	<p>PSNI Assistance</p> <p>"Policing Board members have been informed that PSNI will be providing assistance to the Metropolitan Police Service.</p> <p>The Chief Constable has confirmed that this assistance will not affect the operational capability of PSNI or its ability to respond to any serious incident in Northern Ireland."</p>
November 2011	<p>Estates Strategy</p> <p>Line Against Enquiry: Estate Strategy 2011</p> <p>Attributable to a Board spokesperson.</p>

	<p>“Members of the Policing Board’s Resources and Improvement Committee received a detailed briefing today from PSNI on the 2011 Estate Strategy.</p> <p>Ensuring that the police estate meets current and future policing requirements is a key priority for the Board. As the owners of the police estate, the Board needs to be satisfied that the estate is being managed effectively and efficiently, particularly in light of efficiency savings PSNI are required to deliver in the next 4 years.</p> <p>During today’s presentation Members questioned PSNI and sought clarification on plans for investment in the police estate through the new build and maintenance programme for the next 4 years and also plans during this period for station review and rationalisation. All of these contribute to delivery of a police estate that is an appropriate in size, condition and location for the PSNI in the medium and long term.</p> <p>The Board acknowledges the significant public interest which the issue of station closures generates and is mindful of public concerns on this. In considering this Strategy and the future plans for the management of the police estate, the Board needs to be assured that the estate not only supports the delivery of the best possible policing service to the community but also delivers value for public money.</p> <p>Board Members have asked for further information on a number of issues. The Strategy, which covers the budget period to 2015, will now be considered by the Board at its December meeting.”</p>
<p><b>2010</b></p>	
<p>July 2010</p>	<p>Police Complaint Statistics</p> <p>Attribute following to a spokesperson: “The Board has a statutory duty to monitor the performance of the Police against the Human Rights act and, through the Human Rights Committee, monitors trends and patterns in police complaints.</p>

	<p>The community rightly expect a high level of service and that officers act in accordance with the high standards of professional and ethical behaviour set out in the Code of Ethics. It is important that those who do not meet these high standards are dealt with robustly.</p> <p>The Board regularly meets with officials from the Ombudsman's office to discuss the number and type of complaints made against the police and will be meeting with the Ombudsman in September to discuss issues relating to police complaints and service delivery.”</p> <p>Ends</p>
July 2010	<p>PSNI Scenario Planning</p> <p>Please attribute the following line to a Policing Board spokesperson</p> <p>“The Board and the PSNI will continue to engage with the Department of Justice so that forthcoming policing budgets can be agreed and secured and have submitted a planning scenario to the Department as requested.</p> <p>However, it remains the view of the Board and the PSNI’s Senior Management Team that the level of cuts being considered under the planning scenario cannot be delivered without a major reduction in human resources which would have a serious adverse impact on the ability of the PSNI to provide an effective and efficient police service within Northern Ireland.”</p>
2009	
January 2009	<p>Met Commissioner job</p> <p>Please attribute the following line to the Chairman /Vice Chairman of the Policing Board:</p> <p>“I am quite sure Sir Hugh Orde will be disappointed. However, the calibre of the shortlisted candidates was exceptional and it is a great tribute to Sir Hugh’s abilities and experience that he was one of the two Chief Officers selected for the final round of interviews”.</p>
January 2009	<p>Moyle DPP Chair</p> <p>“The Northern Ireland Policing Board will consider this case in line with the relevant legislation which is set out in Schedule 3 Paragraphs</p>

	<p>7(1) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 (the Act) as follows:</p> <p><i>Removal of members from office</i></p> <p>7. - (1) <i>The Board, or the council with the approval of the Board, may remove a person from office as a political or independent member of a DPP if satisfied that-</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>(b) he has been convicted in Northern Ireland or elsewhere after the date of his appointment of a criminal offence (whether committed before or after that date).</i></p> <p>Policing Board members will discuss this case at the next meeting of the Community Engagement Committee."</p>																				
<p>May 2009</p>	<p>Cost of Irish Language meeting</p> <p><b>Public Engagement Meetings – Costs</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="363 853 1407 1709"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="363 853 579 965">Event</th> <th data-bbox="579 853 703 965">Venue Hire</th> <th data-bbox="703 853 930 965">Stage/Sound set up</th> <th data-bbox="930 853 1289 965">Interpreter/Translator Costs</th> <th data-bbox="1289 853 1407 965">Total Cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="363 965 579 1189">Public Engagement Meeting - Kings Hall Belfast</td> <td data-bbox="579 965 703 1189">£1150</td> <td data-bbox="703 965 930 1189">£1840</td> <td data-bbox="930 965 1289 1189">£250</td> <td data-bbox="1289 965 1407 1189">£3240</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="363 1189 579 1413">Public Engagement Meeting - Millennium Forum Derry</td> <td data-bbox="579 1189 703 1413">£895</td> <td data-bbox="703 1189 930 1413">£1920</td> <td data-bbox="930 1189 1289 1413">£250</td> <td data-bbox="1289 1189 1407 1413">£3065</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="363 1413 579 1709">Irish Language Public Engagement Meeting – City Hotel Derry</td> <td data-bbox="579 1413 703 1709">£350</td> <td data-bbox="703 1413 930 1709">£2237</td> <td data-bbox="930 1413 1289 1709">£855 – £605 headsets and translation equipment and operator £250 translator costs</td> <td data-bbox="1289 1413 1407 1709">£3442</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Event	Venue Hire	Stage/Sound set up	Interpreter/Translator Costs	Total Cost	Public Engagement Meeting - Kings Hall Belfast	£1150	£1840	£250	£3240	Public Engagement Meeting - Millennium Forum Derry	£895	£1920	£250	£3065	Irish Language Public Engagement Meeting – City Hotel Derry	£350	£2237	£855 – £605 headsets and translation equipment and operator £250 translator costs	£3442
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<p>May 2009</p>	<p>Chief Constable's post</p> <p>Please attribute the following line to a Policing Board spokesperson:</p> <p>"There is no delay in the process to appoint a new Chief Constable. The Policing Board has moved quickly on the process and whilst we want to get someone in post as quickly as possible - we need to get it right.</p>																				

	<p>It is vitally important that we get the right person for the job so we can continue to move forward in the delivery of excellent policing across our community.</p> <p>The appointment of Chief Officers is a Statutory Duty of the Board and a comprehensive set of procedures has to be followed in line with legislation. Having consulted with the Northern Ireland Office, the Crown Solicitor's Office and the Chief Police Officers Staff Association the Board received the necessary clearance and the advert was placed on 26 May."</p>
August 2009	<p><b>Strategic Review</b></p> <p>"Members of the Policing Board have been briefed by the PSNI on the context for the Strategic Review and its findings.</p> <p>The internal review raises a number of issues which will require more detailed discussion with the Acting Chief Constable and the senior officer team.</p> <p>A further discussion on the Review and the Board's corporate response is scheduled for next week's monthly meeting."</p>
December 2009	<p><b>Operation Ballast</b></p> <p>"Following publication of the Operation Ballast Report (22 January 2007), the Policing Board accepted responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the recommendations relating to PSNI.</p> <p>Since that time, the Board, with the assistance of its Human Rights Advisor, has scrutinised the implementation of the recommendations and progress with the 'Operation Ballast' investigation.</p> <p>At a meeting of the Board on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009, the Chief Constable briefed Members on the 'Operation Ballast' Investigation and operational plans to move the ongoing investigation from the Historical Enquiries Team to PSNI Crime Operations Branch.</p> <p>Following discussion with the Chief Constable, Members agreed that further detail was required on the arrangements for the transition of the investigation from HET to PSNI Crime Operations. It was agreed that a further discussion would be held at a meeting of the Board in January 2010."</p> <p>Ends</p> <p>Notes to editors</p>

1. The Chief Constable briefed a meeting of the Board's Corporate Planning Policy and Performance Committee to which all Members were invited to attend. Members at the meeting: Chairman Barry Gilligan, Alex Attwood MLA, Alex Maskey MLA, Basil McCrea MLA, Daithí McKay MLA, Rosaleen Moore, Ian Paisley Jnr MLA, Professor Sir Desmond Rea, Trevor Ringland, and Jimmy Spratt MLA.

## 2. Police Ombudsman's Report

The Office of the Police Ombudsman received a complaint from Raymond McCord Senior in May 2002 alleging police misconduct regarding the circumstances surrounding the investigation into the murder of his son. The Report was published on 22 January 2007 and contained 20 recommendations. 17 recommendations related to PSNI.

Recommendation 20 states that the *'the Northern Ireland Policing Board should establish a mechanism to review the PSNI response to the recommendations made in this Report within a period of six months and at appropriate intervals thereafter'*.

Following a special meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2007, the Board agreed to monitor the implementation of the recommendations which fall within the remit of the PSNI.

Notes to Editors Ends