



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FOI Reference number: 42/2017

Date: 6 September 2017

Request:

1. At a meeting of the committee for justice of the Northern Ireland Assembly ("the Justice Committee") on 20 June 2013, DCC Gillespie stated as follows in relation to the Desertcreat College project.

' [the budget] was £135 million ...£90 million from the PSNI, £10 million from the Prison Service, and £30 million from the Health Department. The shortfall was met by the disposal of police estates at Garnerville and Steeple'.

In respect of the shortfall referred to above, to be made up from sale proceeds of the police training establishments at (i) Garnerville, East Belfast and (ii) Steeple in Antrim, please:

- (A) confirm what valuations had been provided of the Garnerville and Steeple properties, during the period from 2010 to 2015;
- (B) confirm what the projected sale proceeds of the Garnerville and Steeple properties were both (i) at the start of the projected construction works on the Desertcreat College, and (ii) at the end of the projected construction works;
- (C) provide a copy of the paper seeking formal approval to the disposal of the Garnerville and Steeple properties (referred to at item 13 of the IPB meeting minutes dated 07 July 2011);
- (D) provide copies of correspondence with the PSNI and the Deputy Chief Constable in relation to the disposal of the Garnerville and Steeple properties (referred to in item 13 of the NIPB Board meeting minutes dated 07 July 2011); and
- (E) provide any written record/presentation produced on the proposed retention of some of the facilities at Garnerville (referred to at item 13 of the NIPB meeting minutes dated 02 May 2013).

Answer:

- 1A** The Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) does not hold this information. Although NIPB is the legal owner of the police estate, all actions in relation to the police estate are delegated to the Chief Constable. Requests for

information relating to land transactions and valuations would be more appropriately made to PSNI.

- 1B** NIPB does not hold this information. Although NIPB is the legal owner of the police estate, all actions in relation to the police estate are delegated to the Chief Constable. Requests for information relating to land transactions and valuations would be more appropriately made to PSNI.
- 1C** Information attached.
- 1D** Information attached.
- 1E** This was a verbal update and the NIPB does not hold any further recorded information.

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

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:-

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Telephone: - 0303 1231114
Email: - ni@ico.org.uk

Please be advised that Policing Board replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.nipolicingboard.org.uk.

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

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD – 7 JULY 2011**DISPOSAL OF GARNERVILLE AND STEEPLE PSNI TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS****1. Purpose of paper**

To seek Members' formal approval to dispose of police training establishments at Garnerville in East Belfast and Steeple in Antrim to part finance the construction of the Public Services Training College at Desertcreat, outside Cookstown.

2. Background

Although the Policing Board is the legal owner of the police estate, it delegates responsibility for the running of the estate to the Chief Constable. (The PSNI's Estate Services Business Unit manages the estate on behalf of the Chief Constable.) Under Sections 7 and 6 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000, the Policing Board "*may acquire, hold and dispose of land for police purposes*" and "*may provide and maintain buildings and equipment for police purposes*".

The business case for the development of the Public Services Training College at Desertcreat requires funding from the disposal receipts from the sale of the current police training establishments at Garnerville in East Belfast and Steeple in Antrim. These receipts are necessary to part finance the development – i.e. they are needed to pay part of the construction costs in the final year of the construction phase.

The previous Board unanimously supported the Desertcreat College project, including the acceptance of the Garnerville and Steeple site disposals. In April 2011, the Desertcreat Programme Board (the Chairman and Chief Executive represent the Policing Board on this Board) directed that both sites be put up for sale, under the disposal of surplus public sector property guidelines. These guidelines state that the property must be offered to the public sector initially and thereafter placed on the open market if no sustainable interest is received within the public sector. The timing of the disposals will be aligned with the opening of the new college to ensure continuity in the PSNI's training provision.

In fulfilling its responsibilities as owner of the police estate, two Board Members and the Chief Executive sign all legal documents associated with estate acquisitions and disposals, before the documents are sealed. This process will be followed when sales are completed on both training sites in due course.

3. General Considerations

(i) Resources – none at this stage in respect of the Board. There will be capital receipts associated with disposing of Garnerville and Steeple, which will be put towards the Desertcreat capital funding requirement.

(ii) Equality and Human Rights – none at this stage in respect of the Board.

(iii) Publication Status of paper – this paper would be available under Freedom of Information.

4. To resolve

Members are asked to resolve to approve the disposal of the Garnerville and Steeple training establishments.

Planning Directorate

23 June 2011

Trim ref: 163557

Brian Rea MBE JP
Chairman

Date: 8 July 2011

Mrs Judith Gillespie
Deputy Chief Constable
Private Office
Brooklyn
Knock Road
BELFAST
BT5 6LE

Dear Judith

At yesterday's Board meeting Members approved the disposal of the Steeple and Garnerville training establishments which are required to part fund the new Desertcreat Public Services College. You are therefore now free to dispose of these sites under the agreed Surplus Assets disposal procedures.

During discussion, the Board expressed deep concern that in approving the D1 notices for the Garnerville and Steeple sites, the Desertcreat Programme Board acted outwith their remit and encroached on the Policing Board's legal responsibilities as the owner of the PSNI Estate. The Board wish to clarify that it's formal approval is required, in advance of any disposal (or indeed acquisition) of land within the PSNI Estate.

Yours sincerely



Brian Rea MBE JP
Chairman

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