



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FOI Reference number: FOI 44/2016

Date: 12 October 2016

Request:

Page 7 of the September 2016 issue of *Policing Matters* refers to a meeting between the Chair and Chief Executive of the Board and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission "to discuss the Board's human rights work and opportunities for progressing future partnership working."

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 [REDACTED] requests:

- 1) *What information the Board holds in relation to the above matter;*
- 2) *For copies of such information falling into (1) above.*

This would include but not be limited to notes and any other records of the above meeting.

Answer:

1. A briefing note was prepared for the Policing Board Chair before the meeting.
2. A copy of the briefing note is attached.

The Board does not hold any other information in relation to this meeting.

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 all 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.

BRIEFING NOTE FOR MEETING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER	
TO:	Anne Connolly, Chairperson
CC:	Chief Executive
DATE:	30 August 2016
TIME:	10:30 – 11:00am
VENUE:	Waterside Tower
OFFICIALS	Amanda Stewart, Board Chief Executive Lorraine Calvert
OUTLINE OF BRIEFING NOTE	<p>A meeting with the Human Rights Commissioner, Les Allamby has been arranged as part of a round of meetings with key statutory bodies. The meeting will also provide an opportunity to explore how the Board and the Commission might work more closely. This briefing includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key roles and responsibilities of the Human Rights Commission 2. Key Human Rights issues for the Board 3. Areas for discussion with the Commissioner 4. Pen Picture – Human Rights Commissioner Les Allamby

1. Human Rights Commission – Key Roles and Responsibilities

As the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) in Northern Ireland, the Commission has a range of duties and responsibilities including contributing to the monitoring of international human rights treaties in Northern Ireland. The core aspects of daily operations are key to compliance with the United Nations Paris Principles on the role of a NHRI and the Nolan principles of ethical standards in public life.

Statutory functions include:

- Advising the Westminster government, the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly, and key agencies on legislation and compliance with human rights frameworks;
- promoting awareness of human rights through education, training and research;
- International treaty monitoring work;
- Legal advice work including taking strategic legal cases;
- Engagement with other national human rights institutions in the UK; and
- Work as part of the Joint Committee with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC).

Each year, the Commission reviews progress by government and public authorities with human rights laws and standards.

In 2015, the Commission was elected the chair of the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions.

The Commission has seven members and a Chief Commissioner, all of whom are appointed by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. The seven members are Grainia Long, Christine Collins, John Corey, Milton Kerr, Alan McBride, Marion Reynolds and Paul Yam who have all been reappointed for a further three years, until 31 August 2017. The NIHRC Director is Virginia McVeigh.

In the last number of years the Commission has undertaken a number of inquiries covering issues such as female genital mutilation, emergency health care and alternative care and children's rights in Northern Ireland. In relation to policing and criminal justice the NIHRC recently provided advice to the government on improving health within criminal justice. In December 2014 the NIHRC also produced a study note on 'Policing hate crime: the Kosovo and New South Wales experience'.

2. Policing Board – Key Human Rights Issues

Monitoring the PSNI's Compliance with the Human Rights Act 1998

The Board is required by section 3(3)(b)(ii) of the Police (NI) Act 2000 to monitor the performance of the PSNI in complying with the Human Rights Act 1998. In order to assist it with fulfilling this duty, the Board appointed Human Rights Advisors in 2003 to devise a framework detailing the standards against which the performance of the police in complying with the Human Rights Act 1998 would be monitored. The framework has been expanded upon and covers PSNI Human Rights Programme of Action; Training; Policy; Operations; Complaints, Discipline and the Code of Ethics; Public Order; Use of Force; Covert Policing; Victims; Treatment of Suspects; Policing with the Community and Human Rights Awareness; Privacy, Data Protection and Freedom of Information; and, Children and Young People. The Board's Performance Committee, with the assistance of the Human Rights Advisor, is responsible for implementing the monitoring framework. This work has been reported upon by way of a Human Rights Annual Report every year since 2005.

Board's Human Rights Advisor – Roles and Responsibilities

The Board's Human Rights Advisor, Alyson Kilpatrick BL, was appointed in August 2012 to advise the Board on how to meet its statutory duty under section 3(3)(b)(ii) of the 2000 Act. Her role includes preparing the Human Rights Annual Report, covering 14 key areas of work, and an agreed number of thematic reviews. Alyson also undertakes extensive and on-going personal engagement with stakeholders and provides advice and opinion to the Board regarding critical incidents.

Human Rights Annual Reports / Thematic Reviews

The Human Rights Annual Report 2015 Report, published on 31 March 2016, is the eleventh such report and it provides an account of PSNI performance with regard to PSNI's compliance with the Human Rights Act 1998. The Report serves a number of key functions, namely in assisting the Board in holding the PSNI to account for their compliance and is in this respect a reflection of the work undertaken by the Board, particularly through the Performance Committee, in holding PSNI to account. The Report is also an open and public commentary on police performance and of the Board's monitoring work.

PSNI has now implemented over 200 recommendations made in ten previous Annual Reports across a range of issues such as domestic abuse, hate crime, children and young people, public order, use of force, stop and search, covert policing, complaints and discipline and many more.

As well as Annual Reports, the Board and Human Rights Advisor monitors and reports on PSNI's human rights compliance through thematic reviews. These reviews provide a means of undertaking detailed examinations of specific areas of police policy and practice from a human rights perspective, using the community's experience of policing to inform the evidence base against which compliance with human rights principles can be evaluated. The thematic reviews and associated follow-up reviews have made a combined total of 73 recommendations and have examined the police response to domestic abuse; children and young people; policing with and for lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals and transgender individuals; and police powers to stop and search and stop and question under the Terrorism Act 2000 and the Justice and Security (NI) Act 2007.

The Board's Human Rights Advisor is currently finalising a thematic review of the PSNI response to race hate crime, the findings of which will be published during 2016.

The importance of the Board's approach, through the publication of annual reports

and thematic reviews, is reflected in the sheer breadth of work undertaken by the Board and by the Human Rights Advisor. The challenges facing PSNI are ever changing and evolving and it requires the Board to be proactive in identifying issues which will pose new and complex challenges for PSNI in keeping people safe.

Human Rights Event

The Board is holding an event to mark the launch of its Human Rights Annual Report on 7 September 2016 in the Crumlin Road Gaol from 9:30am. The event will focus on why human rights is important for the community and policing. Facilitated by the Board Vice Chair, the Board's Human Rights Advisor will provide an update on the progress of recommendations implemented by the PSNI. The panel will include the Board Chair, Chief Constable and Human Rights Advisor.

15th Anniversary Conference

To mark the 15th Anniversary of the establishment of both the Board and the PSNI a joint conference will be held at Queen's University on 2/3 November 2016.

This is a milestone event and an opportunity to reflect on the importance of the changes and the contribution new oversight arrangements have made to building political and community confidence in policing and the wider justice structures. Within the framework of a new draft Programme for Government the conference on 3 November will explore the future opportunities to improve police service effectiveness; service delivery to the public; and how stronger collaborative working relationships within the wider Public Sector will assist this.

Outline Programme

- **2 November 2016:** 17:00 -19:00 Seminar '**Reflecting and Refocusing: 15 years on**' in QUB followed by a Reception with invited guests.
- **3 November 2016:** 09:00- 15:30 Conference in QUB comprising 4 sessions for invited delegates examining: Models of Police Accountability: Perspectives and Views on what works; Collaborative Working: More than just a policing problem – the potential to improve public services; Measuring Success: How

do we know the police are effective?; and Future Opportunities and Challenges.

- **4 November 2016:** Policing Board Meeting in public to coincide with the anniversary.

3. Areas for discussion with the Commissioner

- Current engagements or discussions with the Board's Human Rights Advisor
- Current engagements / ongoing work with PSNI
- NIHRC priorities for the next 3 – 5 years and potential opportunities for the Board / NIHRC to work together on a project.

4. Pen Picture – Les Allamby

Les Allamby took up the post of Chief Commissioner in September 2014 and has been appointed for a period of five years.

Les is a solicitor and formerly the Director of the Law Centre (Northern Ireland). He was appointed honorary Professor of Law at the University of Ulster last year and is a trustee of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland. He was a former Chair of an Advisory group to Human Rights Commission on proposals for economic and social rights within a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland.

He was also formerly the Chair of the Social Security Standards Committee for Northern Ireland, a member of the Legal Services Commission (Northern Ireland) and a member of the Legal Services Review Group. He has undertaken election monitoring for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and International Organisation for Migration in Bosnia, Pakistan and Georgia. Les was also a former Chair of the immigration sub group (OFMDFM) and a former member of the Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership (Home Office).