

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2019 AT 12.15PM IN WATERSIDE
TOWER, CLARENDON DOCK.**

PRESENT:

Mrs Anne Connolly (Chair)
Ms Deborah Watters (Vice-Chair)
(1) Mrs Joanne Bunting
(2) Mr John Blair
Prof Brice Dickson
(3) Mrs Linda Dillon
Mr Doug Garrett
Mr Gerry Kelly
Mr Philip McGuigan
Dr Paul Nolan
Mr Mervyn Storey
Mrs Wendy Osborne

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (4) Mr Derek Kennedy
IN ATTENDANCE (4) Ms Siobhan White

POLICE SCOTLAND IN (5) Mr Malcolm Graham, Deputy Chief Constable, Police
ATTENDANCE Scotland

POLICE SERVICE (6) Mr Simon Byrne, Chief Constable
OF NORTHERN IRELAND (7) Mr Stephen Martin, T/Deputy Chief Constable
IN ATTENDANCE: (6) Superintendent John McCaughan, Command
Secretariat
(6) One PSNI Staff Member

**OFFICIALS
IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

(1) Part item 4.2 to 15 (arrived at 12.25pm).

(2) Item 1 to part item 5. Part item 5 to part item 8.1 (left at 12.40pm, returned 12.45pm. Departed at 1.30pm).

(3) Part item 5 to part item 7.3. Part item 8.1 to item 15 (arrived at 12.30pm. Left at 1.18pm and returned at 1.22pm).

(4) NIPB Future Accommodation presentation only.

(5) Item 8.2 only.

(6) Items 8.2 and 9.

(7) Item 9 only.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Tom Frawley, Mr Colm McKenna and Mr Alan Chambers.

The Board agreed the agenda for the meeting.

The Chair reminded Members of the importance of submitting apologies to Board Officials in advance of a meeting if they were not going to be in attendance. The Chair noted that from January 2020 if apologies were not submitted to Board Officials then Members would be recorded as absent in the minutes of the meeting.

Members discussed the arrangements for the public Board meeting which was scheduled for 19 December 2019 and it was agreed that the public meeting would commence at 10am with Partnership and Resources Committee meetings being held in the afternoon.

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 MEETING HELD ON 6 & 7 NOVEMBER 2019

The Board considered the draft minutes of the Board held on 6 and 7 November 2019.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 6 and 7 November 2019 be approved.

4. UPDATE ON ACTION LOG

Members noted the following updates in regards to the action log from the Board meeting held on 6 and 7 November 2019. NOTED.

Members further noted the supplementary information that had been received from the PSNI which responded to a number of queries raised at the Board meeting held on 6 and 7 November 2019. NOTED.

Action Point 1

A meeting with the Chair's Advisory Group would be held in 2020 before the Department of Justice (DoJ) Permanent Secretary attended a Board meeting to discuss the tri-partite policing relationship.

Action Point 2

The Director of Performance would take this forward within the Performance Committee.

Action Point 4

The PSNI's Culture, Ethics and Diversity Board Terms of Reference and a list of that Board's agenda items and the PSNI's policies on Police Misconduct, Police Staff Disciplinary Procedures and Dignity at Work Policies were enclosed with Members papers.

The Chief Executive noted that while action point 4 was noted as closed on the Action Log, it would be reopened to allow Board Officials to fully consider

the information received from PSNI and to decide what information should be referred to the Board's Committees for further consideration.

Action Point 6

The Independent Reporting Commission had been invited to attend the Partnership Committee on 23 January 2020 and an invitation would be extended to all Board Members to attend that Committee meeting.

Action Point 7

The Chair would meet with two Members who had expressed a willingness to be appointed as a Trustee to the RUC George Cross Foundation.

Action Point 10

A draft Programme for the Partnership Committee's visit to Gartcosh, Lanarkshire would be considered by the Partnership Committee at its meeting on 19 December 2019.

Action Points 3, 5, 8 and 9 from the meeting held on 6 and 7 November 2019 were closed.

Members noted the following updates in regards to the action log from the Board meeting held on 2 and 3 October 2019. NOTED.

Action Point 2

The Board Effectiveness Report was included within the meeting papers at agenda item 8.1 and would be discussed fully at the Board Planning Day which is being arranged for early 2020; details have not yet been confirmed.

Action Points 6 and 7 from the meeting held on 2 and 3 October 2019 were closed.

Members noted the following updates in regards to the action log from the

Board meeting held on 4 and 5 September 2019. NOTED.

Action Points 2 and 3

The DoJ Permanent Secretary would be invited to a future Board meeting to discuss the tri-partite policing architecture and a Chair's Advisory Group meeting would be arranged after the General Election to further discuss the governance and accountability arrangements.

Action Point 6

As was discussed at the last Board meeting, the PSNI has stated that a review of the matters raised was underway.

Action Points 1, 5 and 7 were closed.

Members noted the following updates in regards to the action log from the Board meeting held on 6 and 7 June 2019. NOTED.

Action Point 7

Dates for future Board meetings would be discussed with Members in due course.

5. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

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

- The Chair's engagements during the period 4 November to 3 December 2019.
- A list of correspondence received by the Chair during the period 4 November to 3 December 2019.
- A list of correspondence issued by the Chair during the period 4 to 28 November 2019.

Members discussed the correspondence received by the Chair from T/DCC Martin dated 4 November 2019 regarding an Independent Advisory Group on PSNI Recruitment and Representativeness and Members agreed it was not appropriate for a Board Member to Chair or be a Member of the Advisory Group. Members requested that a copy of the Advisory Group's Terms of Reference be shared with them. **(AP1)**

Members referred to the discussion at Resources Committee on the subject of representativeness within the PSNI and the statistics presented to the Committee indicating that the number of police staff who had declared as LGBT+ was much lower than police officers. Members noted that the PSNI had participated in a number of events including PRIDE. It was agreed that Resources Committee would continue to consider the issue of representativeness within the PSNI as well as the organisation's culture.

In response to a query from a Member, Officials briefed the Board on the history of the PSNI service medal which had been discussed by the Board a number of years previously and which had subsequently received the necessary approvals. It was agreed that this would be discussed later in the meeting with the Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable.

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Members noted a report from the Chief Executive to the Board. NOTED.

The Chief Executive updated Members on a number of matters within the Board, including the Policing Board future accommodation proposals and the presentation Members would receive later in the meeting from Department of Finance (DoF) officials.

An easement of £106,000 had been declared to the DoJ part of which may be

used to offset the increased cost to DOJ for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services Police annual inspection of the PSNI, due to commence in January 2020.

Officials updated the Board on a potential data breach which had occurred. A notification had been made to the Information Commissioner's Office who had decided not to take any further action.

The Board Vice-Chair referred to the meeting of the Policing Plan Working Group which had been held earlier that morning. Work continued to develop the measures for the Policing Plan following the public consultation events. A further meeting of the working group had been scheduled for January 2020 to agree final measures.

7 COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Performance Committee – 14 and 27 November 2019

The Board noted a report from the Chair of the Performance Committee which provided an overview of the material items considered at the Committee meetings held on 14 and 27 November 2019 and draft minutes of both Committee meetings. NOTED.

Following discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Performance's Committee Review on Policing Domestic Abuse be published on the Northern Ireland Policing Board's website.

7.2 Partnership Committee – 21 November 2019

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

Members discussed the Committee meeting which had partially taken place at Grosvenor Road Police Station and Members had met representatives from the National Crime Agency, the joint Paramilitary Crime Task Force and HM Revenue and Customs.

7.3 Resources Committee – 21 November 2019

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

The Resources Committee Chair provided an overview of the items that had been considered by the Committee at its meeting on 21 November 2019 including the PSNI's 2020 recruitment campaign and representativeness within the PSNI. The Committee had also received a briefing on the PSNI's Equality, Diversity and Good Relations Strategy and Action Plan from PSNI representatives. The Chair also noted the work of the Police Remuneration Review Body (PRRB) Working Group which was considering the issues that the Board would like highlighted to the DoJ as being within the scope of the review. The Board's written submission to PRRB would be prepared in January, discussed with the Resources Committee and shared with all Board Members thereafter.

7.3.1 NIPB Equality and Disability Action Plans

Officials presented the NIPB Equality and Disability Action Plans and the Audit of Inequalities which was being recommended to the Board for approval by the Resources Committee.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Northern Ireland Policing Board's Disability and Equality Action Plans and Audit of Inequalities be approved and

- i. published on the Northern Ireland Policing Board's website and
- ii. also shared with the Equality Commission.

8. BOARD BUSINESS

8.1 Board Effectiveness Review

Officials noted that the Board Effectiveness Review had been completed and Business Consultancy Services had provided their final report which had been included within Members' meeting papers. The Chief Executive noted that the Effectiveness Review Report would be discussed further at a Board Planning day in early 2020.

NIPB FUTURE ACCOMMODATION

Department of Finance (DoF) representatives briefed the Board on NIPB's future accommodation proposals including the previous Asset Management Strategy for managing office accommodation across the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) estate. It was noted that while previously each NICS department had managed their own accommodation, the Reform of Property Management Programme changed the policy direction and has centralised the management of the NICS estate.

It was proposed that NIPB would move to James House within the old Gasworks site, Belfast, a NICS owned building rather than remain a tenant of a private landlord within its current leased accommodation. It was proposed that other Public Bodies would also move into James House but none would

be from the Justice family. DoF representatives noted that they had engaged with Board officials to accommodate the Board's unique needs in terms of office accommodation and meeting space.

Members discussed a number of issues with the DoF representatives including:

- The space available within James House and how it compared to the current space within Waterside Tower.
- Anticipated cost savings to NIPB if the Board relocated to James House. It was noted that James House would not charge market rent and DoF would simply seek to recover its costs from the tenants of James House.
- Whether other accommodation options had been considered for NIPB other than a move to James House.
- Car parking facilities available within James House.
- The timeline by which a decision was needed by NIPB and the anticipated progress of the James House project.

DoF representatives noted that if NIPB agreed to move to James House, the relocation costs would be met by DoF and NIPB would not have to bid for capital funding to meet the costs of the relocation.

It was:-

AGREED:

The Resources Committee would consider the Accommodation Proposal at its meeting on 19 December 2019 and provide further direction to the CEO on the proposal. An update would also be provided to the Board on the outcome of the Resources Committee meeting. **(AP2)**

8.2 Briefing from DCC Graham, Police Scotland on Operation Klina

The Chair welcomed the PSNI Chief Constable and Police Scotland Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) Graham to the meeting. DCC Graham updated Members on the progress and approach to the investigation including the continuity to the investigation as DCC Graham had been the senior investigating officer since the investigation began 5 years ago and was focussed on meeting the investigation's Terms of Reference. It was anticipated that the investigation would conclude during 2020.

During discussions, Members raised issues with DCC Graham including:

- The co-operation of other State agencies with the investigation. DCC Graham noted his team had been given access to the information needed during their investigation.
- The nature of the various lines of the enquiry that the investigation team had to investigate.
- The timescale for the conclusion of the investigation and possibility of criminal charges being brought thereafter. DCC Graham noted that he was focussed on the investigation and delivering against the Terms of Reference. Criminal charges would be a matter for the Director of Public Prosecutions to consider once the final report was available.

Members thanked DCC Graham for the update.

9. PRIVATE SESSION WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE INCLUDING CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

The Chair welcomed PSNI T/DCC Martin to the meeting with the Chief Constable.

Members raised the following issues with the Chief Constable:

- A Member commended two PSNI officers who had recently rescued a person from a burning car.
- Following the terrorist attack at London Bridge during which two people were killed, Members enquired about the number of people on release under license within Northern Ireland.
- The written question that had been submitted to the Chief Constable from Resources Committee about accessible custody suites within Northern Ireland. The T/Deputy Chief Constable referred to the PSNI's Custody Reform Strategy and the PSNI's aim to have a fewer number of custody suites within Northern Ireland. The Chief Constable noted that it was intended that the opening of the new Waterside Police Station in Derry /Londonderry which would have accessible facilities would mean that the current custody suites in Strabane and Strand Road would no longer be required.
- People trafficking with Northern Ireland and Operation Vowelist as referenced within the Chief Constable's report. The Chief noted that the trafficking victims were not from Northern Ireland and came from a number of different areas including China and Eastern Europe. A Member enquired about how Northern Ireland compared to other jurisdictions including Ireland and Scotland in regards to people trafficking and in particular sexual exploitation of victims.
- The Chief Constable updated the Board on Operation Seasons Greetings which brought together a number of crimes including anti-

social behaviour in Belfast city centre, drink driving, and domestic abuse. The Chief Constable agreed to provide an evaluation of Operation Seasons Greetings within his February Report to the Board. Members also discussed with the Chief Constable the strategic vision of Operation Seasons Greetings which should continue beyond the Christmas and Holiday period. The Chief Constable noted the importance of a multi-agency response in tackling a number of elements on a long term basis.

- The recent announcement of a number of legacy inquests by Justice Keegan and whether the PSNI would meet its disclosure obligations. The Chief Constable noted that there was ongoing dialogue between the Coroner and the Legacy Investigation Branch and that the PSNI intended to meet its disclosure obligations.
- The PSNI Service Medal. The T/Deputy Chief Constable noted that the Service Medal had first been raised a number of years ago and the Board at the time had been aware of it. The T/Deputy Chief Constable further noted that following detailed discussions the Honours and Decorations Committee (HDC) had approved the criteria for the awarding of the Service Medal. The T/DCC also advised that the medal can only be awarded in accordance with the HDC approved criteria.

The T/Deputy Chief Constable further noted that if a future Medal was to be considered then the Board would be consulted on the issue.

- The ongoing investigation into the Quinn Industrial Holdings incident in Fermanagh. The Chief Constable had recently visited Fermanagh and met with the families involved.
- A Member discussed with the Chief Constable the nature and level of paramilitary activity. It was noted that while the Chief Constable's report provided information on the number of punishment beatings and shootings, there was other activity including people being required to move from their homes by paramilitaries.
- The Chief Constable provided an update on Operation Turnstone and

Lamplighter. It was noted that a number of PSNI resources were being directed to both investigations.

- The Chief Constable updated the Board on the investigation in the Fermanagh Child Abuse allegations.

The Chief Constable agreed to revert to the Board with further information about a number of queries that had been raised during the meeting. **(AP3)**

The Chair thanked the Chief Constable and T/Deputy Chief Constable for attending the meeting.

10. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

10.1 Written Questions and Responses

The Board noted written responses from the PSNI to questions which had been submitted to the Chief Constable from Committees. NOTED.

10.2 Key Issues of Public Interest

The Board noted a paper which discussed the recent issues of public interest. NOTED.

11. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no communications to be released.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No Member raised any other business.

13. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Members noted the Forward Schedule of Events. NOTED.

14. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Members noted the Forward Schedule of Meetings which included meeting dates to March 2020. NOTED.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next public meeting was noted to be 19 December 2019.

The meeting concluded at 4.15pm

CORPORATE SERVICES

DECEMBER 2019

Chair