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The Board is an independent body made up of 19 Members to ensure for all the people of Northern Ireland the delivery of an effective, efficient, accountable and impartial police service which will secure the confidence of the whole community by reducing crime and the fear of crime. **Click here** to see the Board membership.

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Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs appointed



The first meeting of the Partnership Committee.

Following the Board's reconstitution each of its Committees met for the first time and appointed new Chairs and Vice Chairs.

The Board's Committees are responsible for progressing more detailed aspects of its work. The new Chairs and Vice Chairs are:

Performance

Nelson McCausland MLA (Chair)

Roisin McGlone (Vice Chair)

Partnership

Nichola Mallon MLA (Chair)

Catherine Pollock (Vice Chair)

Wendy Osborne (Interim Vice Chair)

Resources

Gerry Kelly MLA (Chair)

Wendy Osborne (Vice Chair)

Audit and Risk Management

Ross Hussey (Chair)

Ryan Feeney (Vice Chair)

Special Purposes

Stephen Farry (Chair)

FRONT COVER CAPTION

Pictured at the Business Crime Action Plan launch are: (l-r) C/Supt Chris Noble, NIRC Director Aodhan Connolly, Justice Minister Claire Sugden, Chris Lyttle MLA and Board Chair Anne Connolly.

Special Meeting

The Board also held a Special Meeting on 16 June 2016 to question the Chief Constable on matters relating to the impropriety of student officers at the Police Training College.

For more detail on this meeting

[click here](#)

[click here](#)

for more information on the roles, responsibilities and membership of each Committee

[click here](#)

for the schedule of meetings

Tackling business crime

A new action plan to tackle crime within the business community has been jointly launched by Justice Minister, Claire Sugden and Anne Connolly, Chair of the Policing Board.

The plan, developed in partnership with the DOJ, Board, PSNI and representatives from the business community, sets out aims and actions to improve protection, share information to prevent criminal activity and improve confidence in the criminal justice system.

Welcoming the new plan Board Chair Anne Connolly said:

“We have listened to the views of the business community, the impact that crimes have on lives and livelihoods and the types of measures that need to be taken to reduce crimes in this sector.

Success in the delivery of this plan is dependent on continued collaboration with the business community and it is vital that as wide a network of people as possible are aware of this plan, and the work being done, in partnership with the business community, to deliver on it.

Referring to the plan as another positive step in the ongoing fight against business crime Justice Minister Claire Sugden said:

“Continued partnership working is essential if sustainable solutions are to be developed. I welcome the commitment from the business community to work with law enforcement and criminal justice agencies to develop a cohesive approach to reduce the impact and cost of crime on businesses.”

The PSNI's C/Supt Chris Noble added:

“We recognise that businesses are at the heart of prosperous communities and we will continue to work with our strategic partners to implement the recommendations set out in the business crime action plan.”

Welcoming the plan, Aodhán Connolly, Director of the Northern Ireland Retail Consortium said:

“This action plan will make our high streets and towns not only safer, but a better place to invest and do business for everyone from the corner shop to the large multi-national retailer.”

The Board and DOJ will be working with PCSPs to agree a way to take forward some of the objectives on the ground.

[click here](#)

to find out more about the Business Crime Action Plan

Board Seeking Selected Medical Practitioners

The Board has a statutory duty for administering applications from current and former police officers in respect of health retirement and injury on duty awards. The Board is required to reach decisions in relation to the ability of officers to continue to perform the duties of a police officer. To assist, the Board is seeking to establish a qualified list of medical professionals called Selected Medical Practitioners (SMPs).

The closing date for submission is 12 noon Friday 29 July 2016.

[click here](#)

for more information



Board Chair Anne Connolly speaking at the launch of the Action Plan.

PSNI progresses website design competition

Nine talented young people have taken part in the next stage of the PSNI's REFRESH competition to compete for a coveted place in its Young Digital Team.

The shortlisted group pitched their creative ideas to a panel of experts, including Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters, on how the existing Youth Section within the organisation's website could be revamped to make it more appealing and relevant to their age group.

The successful candidates selected from this part of the process can win an iPad Air 2 and will work with online industry professionals to develop the new website section dedicated specifically to young people and the issues affecting them.

Assistant Chief Constable Alan Todd, who launched the competition earlier this year and sat on the interview panel, explained:

“The PSNI is currently re-developing and re-designing its external website to ensure it is fit for purpose and user-friendly. As part of this project we reviewed the youth section and decided that rather than



One of the applicants Eimear Creaney with panel members Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters, ACC Alan Todd and PSNI Corporate Communications Manager, Victoria Sloss.

guessing what relevant information young people would like to see about policing and the issues affecting them, we should speak to that audience directly, and in fact give them the necessary tools to design it.

The idea developed from there to create a Young Digital Team so that the feel, content

and look of the new page could be influenced by the very people we are trying to engage with and appeal to. We will be able to tap into their invaluable knowledge about what needs to be showcased, issues affecting their peer group, the language we should use and how information should be presented to ensure maximum interest and engagement.



Watch out for the 'Blob'

Crimestoppers have launched a new film 'The Blob' with a hard hitting message - "when crime infects your area, it spreads fast!"

The film aims to raise awareness of the charity and the vital role it plays in preventing and solving crime in Northern Ireland.

People are also encouraged to pass information to Crimestoppers by phoning **0800 555 111** anonymously or using the **Anonymous Online Form.**

[click here](#)  **to view the film**

Board Meeting News



Board Chair Anne Connolly opening the July Board Meeting in Public.

Opening the July Board Meeting in Public Chair Anne Connolly spoke about the Special Board meeting that was convened to consider matters relating to the impropriety of student officers at the Police Training College.

Following lengthy discussions on this issue she told the meeting that while concerns remain on the operations of the Police College, the Board has also been encouraged by some of the actions that have been taken to date.

She also emphasised there would be further questions on other measures to restore confidence.

Having had time to digest the report and recommendations of the Fresh Start Panel Report on the Disbandment of Paramilitary Groups, the Board Chair confirmed that while some discussions had taken place prior to the meeting, further time will be taken on responses to questions raised as they relate to policing and the Board.

Anne Connolly also praised the behaviour of fans at the Euro 2016 tournament in France which sent out a very positive image of Northern Ireland both nationally and internationally. She also commended the PSNI officers who supported the police operation.

In his report to Board Members Chief Constable George Hamilton assured Members that policing will play its part in the new Programme for Government. He also confirmed that C/ Supt Barbara Gray has been appointed to coordinate the police responses to the consultation on the Programme, the Fresh Start Panel Report, the Cross Jurisdictional Paramilitary Action Plan, the Organised Crime Taskforce and the Northern Ireland Terrorism Strategy.

To respond to the growth in Cybercrime the Chief Constable also told Members that a new purpose built Cybercrime Centre will be completed shortly, and additional staff are being recruited to increase investigative capacity. At a business level, he also emphasised that the PSNI are continuing to work with key stakeholders to highlight the ongoing and emerging risks.



to view the Chief Constable's report to the Board

Changes to the Firearms Licencing process

The Chief Constable was also questioned on the new online process to apply for a Firearms Licence including the level of consultation undertaken prior to the establishment of the new system and the rationale for the increase in the licence fee from £50 to £98. In answering ACC Todd explained that the paper-based system, costing £1.5m per year to administer in addition to the increased fee, urgently needed to be modernised.

He also outlined both the financial and staff pressures associated with supporting the paper-based system and the fact that 1 in 8 applications had to be returned by post resulting in a huge administrative cost.

He assured members that there had been engagement with key stakeholders about the proposed approach and, while he acknowledged that the preference of some was the continuation of a dual process, he confirmed that this was not a viable option.

Board Meeting **News** continued

Questions to the Chief Constable

In relation to impropriety of student officers at the Police Training College, the Chief Constable was asked if a wider review and a temporary freeze on recruitment were necessary.

In responding the Chief Constable confirmed that there was a need for a wider review and that a Terms of Reference has been developed with independent input from a Senior Practitioner in the field. He also acknowledged the impact that the incident could have on community confidence and would consider a freeze on recruitment until the review was completed. ACC Todd provided more detail on the review and told Members that a report would be brought to the Board in the Autumn.

The impact Brexit would have on policing across the island was also

raised and in answering DCC Drew Harris acknowledged that a lot of work needed to be progressed. He also confirmed that the National Crime Agency was undertaking a specific piece of work to analyse the European treaties relevant to policing and the changes that may need to be made.

In the wake of Brexit the Chief Constable was also asked if, as experienced in parts of England, there had been a rise in Hate Crime incidents. In response ACC Martin confirmed that there had actually been a reduction in the reporting of hate crime incidents compared to the same period last year. The week after the referendum a total of 31 race hate crimes were recorded compared to 47 during the same week last year.

Acknowledging that the Chief Constable had recognised and

apologised for the collusion detailed in the Police Ombudsman's Report on the Loughinisland massacre, he was asked to further clarify his statement that he would be "looking to take that conclusion into evidence through arrests, interviews and charges." In response the Chief Constable explained that the authority to undertake such actions rested solely with the Ombudsman's Office and in interview he had expressed his surprise that the office had not begun this process. He also emphasised that the PSNI are currently looking at areas of the report that could be taken forward, such as any non-police officer involvement in the murders.

Other questions raised included the PSNI involvement in Euro 2016 and the cost of supporting the police

operation in France, the impact of VES on organisational resilience and an update on the recent disturbances in Carrickfergus.

[click here](#) 

to view footage from the July meeting

[click here](#) 

to view Written Answers to Chief Constable's Questions

Board Meeting News continued

Policing the Twelfth

During the meeting the Chief Constable was also questioned on the plans in place to police parades and protests over the twelfth period. He assured Members that months of planning had gone into the operation and, while acknowledging tensions in some areas, was optimistic of a peaceful outcome.

He also confirmed that 594 parades would be taking place and 17 main demonstrations with thousands of officers on duty. Also questioned on the PSNI policy on bonfires, ACC Stephen Martin confirmed that the police had no specific statutory responsibilities for this area. He did however stress the need for partnership working with other agencies to ensure safety and that no breaches of criminal law took place during these events.

Having now taken place, as was hoped, the Twelfth passed off peacefully. Unfortunately some houses were badly fire damaged by burning embers from a bonfire in the Shankill area on the eleventh night. Following on from this incident there was further criticism of the PSNI over its handling of bonfires. In response ACC Stephen Martin called for a collective approach to the problem stating that consultation, dialogue and partnership working with other agencies, political and civic leaders and critically communities must be at the heart of finding a solution.

[click here](#)

to listen to ACC Martin speaking about the police operation over the Twelfth



Board Chair Anne Connolly receiving a morning briefing from Chief Constable George Hamilton and ACC Stephen Martin on the police operation on the Twelfth.



Some Board Members also took the opportunity to receive a briefing on the Twelfth policing operation. Pictured are: (l-r) Board Members Roisin McGlone and Ryan Feeney, US Consul General Dan Lawton, ACC Martin, Board Members Wendy Osborne and Paul Nolan, Ruairí de Búrca, Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Bernadette Roberts, US Consulate, Karen Pierson, DOJ and Supt Simon Walls.

Visits and Events

Work of Independent Community Observers acknowledged



The Board recently organised an informal dinner for the Independent Community Observers (ICOs) to thank them for their important contribution to the oversight of the police recruitment process. Pictured with the ICOs at the event are Board Chair Anne Connolly (front row centre) and Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters (front row right).



Pictured at the launch are (l-r): Deputy Chief Constable Drew Harris, Board Chair Anne Connolly, Jenny Bell, National Crime Agency and Anthony Harbinson, DOJ.

OCTF Report

Board Chair Anne Connolly recently attended the launch of the Organised Crime Task Force Annual Report and Threat Assessment 2016. The Report records enforcement activity taken by OCTF partners against organised crime groups at all levels over the 2015/2016 financial year. It also sets out the main threats from organised crime in Northern Ireland.

[click here](#) 

to view the report



Policing Authority CEO visits Board

Helen Hall, Chief Executive of the recently established Policing Authority Ireland visited the Board to discuss issues of mutual interest in relation to police accountability. Pictured with Helen Hall (right) is Amanda Stewart, Board Chief Executive.



Board publishes Annual Report 2015-16

The Board has published its Annual Report and Accounts for 2015 - 2016 which highlights the work of the Board over the last financial year. Laid in the Northern Ireland Assembly on 30 June 2016, this Report details how the Board exercises its oversight role across a wide range of work areas.

[click here](#) 

to view the report