



AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA
POLICING AUTHORITY

Minutes of Meeting of the Policing Authority

Date: 6 April 2017

Venue: 90 North King Street

Part A – Authority Meeting

Attendance

Authority: Josephine Feehily (Chairperson)

By Conference Call: Noel Brett, Bob Collins, Pat Costello, Judith Gillespie, Maureen Lynott,

Secretary: Aileen Healy

Executive: Helen Hall (Chief Executive), Catherine Pierse, Margaret Tumelty

Apologies: Vicky Conway, Valerie Judge, Moling Ryan

1. Chairpersons Opening Remarks

The agenda was agreed and there were no disclosures of interest in relation to any of the items for discussion.

The Chairperson updated the Members and there was a brief exchange of views in relation to proposals for a Commission on Policing, which are likely to go to Government in the coming week. The Chairperson agreed to reflect Members' views if an opportunity to comment on the TORs was provided. The importance of this Commission addressing a range of high level and fundamental questions in relation to policing and security architecture and accountability was emphasised. In addition, it was agreed that ongoing work needs to continue in the meantime, in particular the culture audit and the implementation of the recommendations of the Garda Inspectorate reports.

2. Update from Chief Executive on procurement of external consultancy

Further to the Authority's decision on 27 March 2017, the Chief Executive updated Members regarding progress in procuring an external provider to undertake an examination of the MAT and FCN matters which would now be expanded to take account of the formal request received from the Tánaiste in accordance with S62O(6) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005. The Executive has been supported by the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) to prepare a specification for the procurement process, which will be a drawdown from under an OGP framework agreement, allowing for a shorter, restricted tender process to firms which have been pre-cleared through the framework. It is expected that the tender will be issued early in the week commencing 10 April with a view to having the successful provider in place within 7-8 weeks.

An update was also provided in relation to the material received on 31 March from the GS in relation to the MAT and FCN issues and which is currently being examined. It is clear from this material that no internal audit or independent audit had taken place on these matters to date, rather it was various internal

examinations. However, the Executive is confident that the material is sufficient to inform the completion of the specification for the Authority’s independent external audit of the matters and that there was no benefit to requesting further information at this time. In the meantime, the examination being undertaken by Assistant Commissioner Michael O’Sullivan should continue and may feed into the external audit in due course. The Chief Executive will continue to engage with the GS in relation to this work.

3. Commissioner’s non-availability for meeting on 27th April

The Chief Executive briefed Members in relation to the Commissioner’s confirmation of her non-availability for the Authority’s meeting in public on 27 April due to a scheduled European security meeting. Members expressed disappointment, noting that the Authority’s meeting dates had been scheduled and notified to the Commissioner in July 2016.

Mindful of the ongoing damage to community confidence, Members strongly expressed the importance of exercising its statutory responsibility of meeting the Commissioner in public without undue delay in relation to the MAT, FCN and other emerging performance issues.

In light of the particular preparations made for the meeting on the 27th, including engagement with civil society groups who are also due to be in attendance, it was agreed that it was important for this meeting to go ahead as planned and that the decision on whether to attend the Authority meeting on 27 April is one for the Commissioner.

The Authority decided that the Chairperson should write to the Commissioner and the Tánaiste to convey its views. It also decided to reserve the right to arrange an additional meeting with the Commissioner in public at short notice after 27 April and that the Secretary would solicit members availability in early May on a contingency basis.

No.	Action point	By Date	By Whom
A_020_01	The Chairperson to communicate the Authority’s views to the Commissioner regarding attendance at the Authority meeting on 27 th April and send a copy of this correspondence to the Tánaiste.	Immediate	Chairperson
A_020_02	The Secretary to solicit Members availability for a meeting in early May.	Immediate	Secretary

4. Other Business

None arising.