



AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA
POLICING AUTHORITY

Minutes of Meeting of Audit & Risk Committee

Date: 7 July 2016

Venue: 90 North King Street, Dublin 7.

Attendance

Committee: Moling Ryan (Chair). Melanie Pine, Ronan Nolan.

Apologies: Josephine Feehily (Chairperson of the Policing Authority).

Secretary: David Murphy

Executive: Helen Hall (Policing Authority CEO), Aileen Healy.

1. The following matters were considered and discussed as set out in the agenda:

- 1.1. Introductions
- 1.2. A short overview of the Policing Authority
- 1.3. Review of the Audit & Risk Committee Charter
- 1.4. Areas meriting early attention by the Committee
- 1.5. Functioning of the Committee, dates for forthcoming meetings
- 1.6. AOB

2. Actions and matters of note

- 2.1. In opening the meeting, the Chair introduced and thanked the committee members for agreeing to serve on the Committee.
- 2.2. Helen Hall gave a short overview of the role and structure of the Policing Authority. The Department of Public Expenditure & Reform (DPER) has sanctioned a staff complement of 35 and it is expected to have full staff onboard within 18 months of start-up.
- 2.3. The Policing Authority's relationship with the Garda Inspectorate was discussed, with particular regard to the roles of both organisations and the ability of the Authority to ask the Inspectorate to perform work on its behalf. The CEO stated that the Authority has a positive relationship with the Inspectorate, with the Authority benefiting from the Inspectorate's expertise. There is also a leaflet which sets out the roles of the three agencies: Policing Authority, Garda Inspectorate, and Garda Ombudsman.
- 2.4. The transfer of functions from the Department of Justice and Equality to the Policing Authority was discussed. The Policing Authority will assume of the function of appointment of Gardaí at certain senior ranks shortly, when the appropriate regulations have been made and the functions commenced by the Department. A number of

- documents will be circulated to the Committee for information including the soon to be published Governance Framework and Strategy Statement for 2016-18.
- 2.5. The CEO described the arrangements in place for provision of the range of corporate services and the shared service arrangements in place under Service Level Agreements (SLAs). The committee emphasised the importance of protecting the independence of ICT systems, with particular regard to content.
 - 2.6. There was a discussion of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter. It was agreed that the Charter would be reviewed in early 2017 with any recommended changes reflected in the Committee's Annual Report to the Authority. The Chair emphasised the need to prioritise and direct energies and there was a brief discussion of areas meriting early attention, including the form of regular financial reporting to the Committee.
 - 2.7. The Committee discussed the possibility of increasing the membership of the Committee from three to four. It was agreed to maintain the number for the time being and review the matter in early 2017.
 - 2.8. The Committee agreed that it would meet four times a year and would welcome attendance by appropriate members and staff of the Executive at future meetings.
 - 2.9. The preparations for an internal audit service were discussed, particularly in relation to the scope of the audit and the areas targeted. The Executive will investigate sourcing of an external provider in light of the Authority being too small to support or require its own dedicated unit and will prepare a proposal for the Committee's consideration in the Autumn.
 - 2.10. There was a brief discussion regarding risk management. The Committee agreed that the approach to this issue would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.
 - 2.11. Following a brief discussion on the various responsibilities of the Authority and the Executive, it was agreed that this would be discussed in greater detail at the next meeting and a paper drafted to inform this discussion. This should reflect the current arrangements set out in the Governance Framework and identify any temporary arrangements and issues where training may be beneficial.
 - 2.12. The following documents are to be provided to the Committee members:
 - Policing Authority Governance Framework
 - Policing Authority Strategy statement 2016-18
 - Draft policy on protected disclosures;
 - Copy of the 2015 version of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies
 - Monthly expenditure profiles.

2.13. The date of the next meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee was set for Tuesday 4th October at 10 am.