BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 29TH JULY 2008

at
6TH FLOOR – FHQ, 25 CAMDEN ROAD

Present:	**Mrs W Towers (Chair)** **Mr R Culley** **Mr I Dobbs**
In Attendance:	**Mr A Trotter, Deputy Chief Constable** **Mr E Carroll, Detective Chief Superintendent** **Mr A Gent, Detective Superintendent** **Miss L Barrick, Business Support Manager & Minutes** **Miss R Pazos, Administration Assistant & Minutes** **Mr G Young, Detective Inspector Young (Part)**
Observing:	**Mr J Martin, Police Complaints Commissioner Scotland** **Mr F Mulligan**

30/2008 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
Non-Agenda

The Chair said that apologies had been received from Mr Foxall

Mr Culley was welcomed as a substantive Authority member.

Mr Martin, Police Complaint Commissioner Scotland and his colleague Mr Mulligan were welcomed to the meeting.

31/2008 MINUTES OF MEETING 29TH APRIL
Agenda Item 1

Subject to small amendment on page 4, the minutes were approved as an accurate record.

32/2008 MATTERS ARISING / ACTIONS OUTSTANDING
Agenda Item 2

The Chair questioned when the IPCC report into the number of complaints nationally would be complete. DCS Carroll said that the IPCC had advised that the report would be ready in autumn. Early indications from Nick Hardwick were that the numbers of complaints across all forces were stable with some forces showing increases and

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other showing decreases. The Chair observed that BTP had a significant increase in complaints and the Committee would await the report.

The Chair asked Miss Barrick if there had been any progression with the recruitment and refresher training of lay members. Miss Barrick responded that the current members were being written to, and an evening reception arranged to discuss the Taylor reforms and what these meant for them. Refresher training was also being organised and a recruitment campaign to increase the number of lay members would be underway in September.

All other actions had been discharged.

33/2008 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FILE REVIEW

Agenda Item 3

The Chair commented that there were a few files with copies of letters missing, DSC Carroll agreed to check on the process of copying and filing letters. A query arose with regard to the information in the IO's report on officers' antecedents and witness details and whether any of this was redacted on the copy of the report which went to the complainant. DCS Carroll agreed to review this and feedback his comments to the committee.'

34/2008 QUARTERLY REPORT

Agenda Item 4

The Chair shared her concern regarding the disparity in the number of complaints recorded each month during the quarter. DCS Carroll suggested that the reason for this might be a blip and that no obvious reasons had been uncovered from the analyst.

Mr Culley questioned why the number of misconduct cases had increased in March 08. DCS Carroll replied the increase of numbers was mainly due to how it was recorded. The new recording standard had resulted in an increase in the number of allegations, and some back conversion had taken place in that March.

The Chair questioned why the ‘others category’ in table 1.8, has such a high proportion of the total and explained that this didn’t help identify problems areas. DCS Carroll explained the categories were determined by the IPCC and the system was set up to record these.

In regards to outstanding complaints cases, The Chair noted that the workload had gone up and asked about the department’s IOs workload. DCS Carroll said that a high proportion of these cases had been sent to Area for local resolution therefore the IOs workload had not increased.

An additional table on ethnicity of complaints which contained figures following the completion of cases was included in the report. The Chair suggested that in future only having this table rather than the table which showed ethnicity at the time of recording would be more useful. Mr Dobbs suggested that the Committee should wait until next meeting to see the figures. The Chair agreed.

The Chair shared her concern that only one civil claim had been completed in the last quarter. DCS Carroll confirmed that since this report was published more cases had been completed and closed. He noted that there had been a significant increase in the number of civil claims that came in this quarter. DCS Carroll then followed on to say there was a concern regarding the number of complaints that related to dog bites.

Mr Dobbs questioned who was responsible as to whether to settle a claim. The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that he was responsible. DCS Carroll also commented that it was their responsibility to determine if the case should be investigated as a complaint.

The Chair asked that a column be included on outstanding hearings as well as the numbers heard. DCS Carroll confirmed that were 12 cases to be heard before the Taylor regulations came in. A further 7 may also be heard.

The Deputy Chief Constable raised concern in regards to the length of time it was taking IPCC to complete some of the independent investigations.

The Chair requested that additional commentary be added to the report to explain the obvious anomalies.

Agreed

- **The Force to include a table on the number of cases recorded in the quarter in addition to the number of complaints.**
- **Analysis on anomalies cases to be included in report.**
- **A copy of the IPCC report to be obtained when it is published.**
- **A column to be included on outstanding hearings.**

35/2008 UPDATE ON PSD PLANS

Agenda Item 5

DCS Carroll confirmed that the PSD Plans so far were on target and an update plan would be presented at the next meeting.

36/2008 SECRETARIAT UPDATE

Agenda Item 6

Miss Barrick updated on the appeal situation. The Authority was currently dealing with five appeals, one of which was due to be heard the following day. Two appeals were waiting for dates to be set and a fourth was the subject of some clarification as to exactly what the appellant was seeking. The final case had only recently been received and the paperwork was awaited.

37/2008 UPDATE ON TAYLOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Agenda Item 7

DCS Carroll said that the Taylor regulations implementation date had moved from 1st of November to 1st of December 2008. He questioned

whether it was necessary for BTP to wait. DS Gent said that training was already underway and the staff polices had been developed and as such he felt the Force could continue to implement the changes as of 1st of November. The Chair said the reason for the delay had to be known before committing to going ahead on 1st of November. Assuming that this delay was for police forces to have time to train their staff, there was no reason why BTP could not go ahead.

Agreed

- **To check with Home Office why there is a delay on Taylor Regulations, before going ahead on the 1st of November.**

38/2008 BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE (COMPLAINTS & MISCONDUCTS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008

Agenda Item 8

The Chair asked what was meant by the term "member of the police force". DS Gent replied that it meant an officer only and was a direct lift from legislation.

The Chair expressed her concern that the regulations did not clearly state that they applied to Scotland only. DS Gent felt that this was not an issue as there were other regulations for England and Wales.

The Deputy Chief Constable questioned whether the Chief Constable had to be present at the Conference; Miss Barrick said she would look in to this.

The Committee approved the regulations with amendments in item 8a.

The Committee approved the suggested nominees, subject to Miss Barrick checking the Rail Transport Safety Act 2003 regarding the Chief Constable's attendance at the Conference.

Agreed

- **Miss Barrick to check the RTSA regarding the Chief Constable role**

39/2008 NATIONAL RECORDING STANDARD

Agenda Item 9

DCS Carroll updated that the Force was compliant. It was agreed that this could no be taking off the agenda as a standing item.

Agreed

- **No longer required National Recording Standard report as an update.**

40/2008 UPDATE ON HEARINGS AND TRIBUNALS

Agenda Item 10

This had been covered in the quarterly report.

Agreed

- **Updates to be continued as part of the quarterly report.**

41/2008 HMIC SELF ASSEMENT

Agenda Item 11

DCS Carroll informed the Committee that an external consultant had been employed to work on this.

DCS Carroll noted that the PSD did not currently have a risk register. There is a risk matrix, but it's not how HMIC would like to see it. He said that he was meeting with the risk team to look at developing a risk register.

The Chair questioned whether at item 3.3 HMIC were looking at disproportionality of PSD actions rather than the amount of complaints from BME, officers and staff.

DCS Carroll confirmed that the response did look at outcomes. However, they had not looked at witness at misconduct cases.

Mr Culley asked if there was opportunity to learn from other Forces. DCS Carroll said that he had asked the HMI which forces BTP would benefit from the liaising with in order to improve their rating and he had visited these forces. He added that, he was on the ACPO complaints and misconduct committee and the Force was nationally plugged into complaints and misconducts matters.

42/2008 REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS RELATING TO DIVERSITY BETWEEN 01 NOV 06 TO 31 OCT 07

Agenda Item 12

The report was noted and an updated would be prepared later in the year.

43/2008 ANTI-CORRUPTION PRESENTATION

Agenda Item 13

Detective Inspector Young gave a presentation on the Anti-Corruption unit. The members thanked him for an informative presentation.

44/2008 AOB

Agenda Item 14

There was no AOB.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 23rd October 2008 at 12pm – 2pm File Review, 2pm – 4pm Meeting.

Signed…….

Chairman