

**BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT WOBURN HOUSE,
20 TAVISTOCK SQUARE
LONDON
ON THURSDAY 17 July 2003 AT 10.00 HOURS**

Present

Mr James Jerram (in the Chair); Sir David O'Dowd; Mr Adrian Shooter; Mr Iain K Brown; Mr Keith Ludeman.

Apologies

Mrs Diana Lamplugh; Mr Mike Brown (Mr Spencer McManus attended as an observer); Mrs Christine Knights (because of severe disruption to her rail journey).

In Attendance

Mr I Johnston, Chief Constable; Mr. A Lake, Deputy Chief Constable; Mr P Nicholas, Assistant Chief Constable; Mr P Robb, Assistant Chief Constable; Mr P Crowther, Chief Superintendent; Miss K Sanderson, Treasurer to the Committee; Mr R Hemmings, Clerk to Committee; Inspector A Gregory; Mr S Thomas, Interim Personnel Director.

CONTENTS

33/2003	PART 1 & 2 BUSINESS.....	2
34/2003	DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE.....	2
35/2003	MINUTES - 15 MAY 2003.....	2
36/2003	THE CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT.....	2
37/2003	TRANSITION TO THE NEW AUTHORITY.....	4
38/2003	BUDGET UPDATE.....	4
39/2003	AIRWAVE PROJECT.....	5
40/2003	CLERK'S REPORT.....	5
41/2003	MANAGING FATALITIES.....	6
42/2003	MINUTES OF THE AUDIT PANEL OF 9 JUNE 2003.....	7
43/2003	MINUTES OF THE COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 11 JULY 2003.....	7
44/2003	SUPERANNUATION FUND VALUATION AT 31 DECEMBER 2002 CLERK'S REPORT.....	8
45/2003	PAY AND CONDITIONS.....	8
46/2003	FORCE RELOCATION.....	8
47/2003	CASES OF INTEREST.....	9

**PART TWO MINUTES
CONFIDENTIAL**

48/2003	SUPERANNUATION FUND.....	9
49/2003	PAY AND CONDITIONS.....	10

33/2003 PART 1 & 2 BUSINES

AGREED:

The allocation of business between Parts 1 and 2 of the Agenda

34/2003 DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Chairman reported Mr Lake's successful appointment as Chief Constable in Lincolnshire. The Committee warmly congratulated him, and thanked him for the valuable contribution he had made during his time with the Force.

AGREED:

The Committee's thanks and best wishes be recorded.

35/2003 MINUTES – 15 MAY 2003

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 May were approved.

36/2003 THE CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT

The Chief Constable presented his report, and updated the Committee on matters of current interest. He referred to the Committee the fact that the Force was achieving 6 out of the 11 targets. As far as route crime was concerned, the figures collected by the industry showed an encouraging downward trend.

He informed the Committee that terrorism continued to present an ongoing challenge. He briefed the Committee about an emergency exercise, which was to be undertaken on the London Underground in September. As a result of the planning for this event, he had been authorised by the Secretary of State for Transport to acquire two more response vehicles. He outlined some of the difficulties that the emergency services faced in handling a major incident.

The Committee raised concerns about the impact of the exercise, in particular, on members of the travelling public. The Chief Constable assured the Committee that the Force had undertaken a risk analysis, especially in relation to matters such as moving a train that had been stuck in a tunnel. The intention behind the exercise was to identify where there were gaps in the responses made by the emergency services in terms of capacity and capability.

The Committee urged the Chief Constable to ensure that the impact of any major incident on other parts of the Network were addressed and managed. The Committee had in mind in particular the impact on railway stations in the immediate vicinity. The Chief Constable pointed out that, in addition to managing the incident itself, there was a need to manage the political expectations and relations with the media. This was the responsibility of the Department for Transport, who had been liaising closely with the emergency services.

The Chief Constable updated the Committee on discussions he had had with the Chief Executive of the Rail Accident Investigation Board. He expressed concerns about the fact that protocols were intended to deal with many issues rather than being part of the legislative framework. These protocols will be drawn up by the Chief Constable, the Health & Safety Executive, ACPO and the Chief Executive of RAIB.

The Committee recognised that robust and sensitive investigations were going to be an important feature for the rail industry in the future. There was a need for clear and dispassionate investigations of incidents. The Chief Constable urged the industry representatives of the Committee to take soundings within the industry, so that the Force could be better prepared to manage and respond to investigation. The Committee expressed the hope that RAIB will gain the same level of credibility as the Air Investigation Bureau.

The Chief Constable reported that the Railway Safety Bill had now received Royal Assent and that the Secretary of State was proposing an implementation date of 1st July 2004. The Force had been successful in securing powers to appoint Community Support Officers, although they could not be employed until the Authority had been established.

The Committee discussed the recent investigation in relation to the Hatfield train crash. (Mr Iain Brown withdrew from the Meeting during this discussion.)

The Chief Constable confirmed that the investigations had been completed and that the Force were now involved in disclosure of documents.

The Committee asked the Chief Constable to do a presentation to the next Committee about the way in which the Force was handling violence against the person. The Committee wanted to have an informed debate about the Force's strategy.

AGREED:

- 1) The Chief Constable's report be accepted and noted.**
- 2) Views from the industry in relation to rail accident investigation be sought and relayed to the Chief Constable.**
- 3) The Chief Constable do a presentation at the next Committee about violence against the person.**

37/2003 TRANSITION TO THE NEW POLICE AUTHORITY

The Committee considered the paper prepared by the Clerk. In commenting upon the Information for Candidates, the Committee felt that some people would be deterred if they were expected to undertake 25 days' commitment. It felt that the time commitment should be expressed as being between 10 and 25 days a year (paragraph 7.4 of the draft).

The Committee endorsed a proposal that the Secretary of State be asked to afford RPC a nomination right.

AGREED:

- 1) Subject to the comments above, the draft profiles and information pack be endorsed.**
- 2) The Secretary of State be asked to consider giving a nomination to RPC.**

38/2003 BUDGET UPDATE

The Committee considered a report by the Interim Director of Finance and Administration. The Chief Constable reported that the current out turn was predicting an under-spend of £400k. This was because staff costs were lower than predicted. However, he recognised that this was early on in the financial year.

As far as staffing numbers were concerned, the Force was currently 35 below the budgeted figure. If the Force were to achieve the highest level from the previous year (1,337), this would result in an over-spend of £1.2m. He felt that a target of 1,300 would be more manageable.

Recruitment would be dependent upon a number of factors, including the availability of training places.

In commenting on the financial profiles, the Committee noted that line managers within the Force now have much more accurate predictions about their budget performance. This had meant that the raw data was much more reliable and made validation more accurate.

AGREED:

- 1) **The Committee noted that the year to date surplus for overland policing for the 12 weeks to 21 June 2003 stood at £0.6m.**
- 2) **The year to date spend on capital expenditure is £0.40m, £0.3m of which was funded by Government grant.**

39/2003 AIRWAVE PROJECT

The Committee considered a report from the Assistant Chief Constable (Crime). He informed the Committee that the Government were now sponsoring research into the long-term costs relating to Airwave insofar as it had an impact upon and use within the Underground Network. He informed the Committee that the Force had been successful in securing additional funding from the Home Office.

He reported on two incidents where the Airwave facility had proved very beneficial to the Force's operation and the links that the Force had had with other emergency services and Police Forces.

AGREED:

The report be noted.

40/2003 CLERK'S REPORT

The Committee considered a report from the Clerk. In particular, they noted the requirement to establish an Appointment Panel, following the Deputy Chief Constable's successful appointment as Chief Constable to Lincolnshire.

The Committee was advised that the interview date was 23rd September. The vacancy would be advertised by the end of July, with a return date for applications by the end of August.

AGREED:

- 1) **An appointment panel comprising the Chairman, Sir David O'Dowd and Mr Adrian Shooter be established and delegated the authority to make the appointment**
- 2) **Any other Member of the Committee who wished to attend the interview would be able to do so.**

41/2003 MANAGING FATALITIES

The Committee received a presentation from Assistant Chief Constable Paul Nicholas about the Force's current practice in managing fatalities. (A set of the slides used in the presentation is appended to these Minutes.) He confirmed that all the targets set out in the Force's strategy were monitored.

The Committee expressed its appreciation about the success that the Force had achieved and the approach that they adopted in managing fatalities. They were particularly pleased to note the significant improvement in performance. They asked the Chief Constable to give consideration to whether or not it would be possible to undertake the same sort of rigorous approach in relation to threatened suicide.

Following this presentation, the Committee asked the Chief Constable to examine other broad policy areas to see whether or not the determined and methodical approach adopted in this particular case could be applied with benefit to other areas.

AGREED:

- 1) The Committee's congratulations be conveyed to those involved in managing fatalities in respect of the improvement in performance**
- 2) The Chief Constable examine whether other areas of Force activity could be subjected to the same rigorous approach.**

42/2003 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT PANEL, held on 9th June 2003

The Minutes were noted. The Chairman (Mr Iain Brown) highlighted the Panel's concern about the Auditors' concerns about business continuity.

43/2003 MINUTES OF THE COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 11 JULY 2003

The Chairman, Sir David O'Dowd, presented the Minutes. He drew attention to the fact that in those cases where Officers were under suspension, there was a wide range of serious offences. The Deputy Chief Constable informed the Committee that he had reinforced his and the Sub-Committee's concerns to senior and supervising Officers throughout the Force.

PUBLIC MINUTES PART 2 BUSINESS

**44/2003 SUPERANNUATION FUND
VALUATION AT 31 DECEMBER 2002 – CLERK’S REPORT**

The Committee considered the Clerk’s report.

AGREED:

- 1) That the views of the Committee be relayed to the Pensions Trustees and the Joint Working Party and that the Chairman be authorised to take any further action necessary.
- 2) The Force should start making contributions from 1st April 2004.
- 3) In framing the budget for 2004/5, the Force Finance Director should make the appropriate provision for future funding of the Scheme.

45/2003 PAY AND CONDITIONS -

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Constable.

AGREED:

- 1) That the Committee’s views be relayed to the Federation.
- 2) The alternative lines of approach should be explored as a matter of urgency.
- 3) The Chairman be delegated authority to take any decisions that might be necessary.

46/2003 FORCE HQ RELOCATION

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Constable.

Agreed:

- 1) The Committee note that:
 - a) the two-year extension to the existing lease will give both surety of continued occupation and safeguard compensation rights at a later date.

- b) negotiations were being undertaken for the extension on the best possible commercial terms.
 - c) the critical path and timescale for relocation was being reviewed in the light of the separate relocation of IT with a view to minimising the speed and operational impact of eventual relocation.
 - d) a condition survey had been commissioned to assess possible claims for dilapidations.
 - e) relocation options for IT were being assessed and a further report being made to the next meeting of the Police Committee.
- 2) The Chairman be authorised to agree any revised terms of occupation.

47/2003 CASES OF INTEREST

The Chief Constable's report was noted.

The meeting finished at 1245.