

OPEN MINUTES

POLICE COMMITTEE HELD AT THE SECRETARIAT ON 16 APRIL 2014

These minutes are draft minutes until confirmed by resolution at the next meeting of this Committee

Present: His Honour the Acting Governor, Chair
Keith Padgett, Chief Executive
Peter Judge MBE, Attorney General
Chief Supt Barry Marsden
Hon Mike Summers OBE
Hon Dr Barry Elsby
Mrs Ruth Taylor JP
Mr Keith Biles JP

In Attendance: Mrs U Wallace, Secretary to the Committee

- | | Part I | Action |
|-----|---|---------------|
| 1. | Apologies for Absence | |
| 1.1 | Apologies for absence were received from Mr Anton Livermore JP. | |
| 2. | Declaration of Interest | |
| 2.1 | There were no declarations of interest. | |
| 3. | Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 16 April 2014 | |
| 3.1 | The minutes were confirmed as a correct record. | |
| 4. | Matters Arising | |
| 4.1 | <u>Noise Nuisance</u> (5) – MLA Summers noted that, under paragraph 5.4 of the minutes, the Committee had agreed to commission further investigation into the extent of the problem caused by noise pollution but no action point had been specified. The Chief Police Officer explained that the initiative had been led by MLA Short (when he was portfolio holder for the Emergency Services) and the Attorney General’s Chambers. RFIP statistics did not identify noise nuisance as a particular problem. There was also an issue surrounding the clarification of what constituted a noise nuisance. The Attorney General confirmed that there was currently no regulation/legislation against noise nuisance and that in the United Kingdom it was not a police matter but was dealt with by local authority environmental officers. MLA Elsby confirmed that the subject had been raised with the Environmental Committee who had felt that noise pollution | |

was not within their remit. The Attorney General agreed to progress the subject with the Group who had previously advised on noise nuisance and to report back to the Committee with recommendations.

- 4.2 Liquor Licensing (10) – MLA Summers noted that the submission of a report to Executive Council covered in paragraph 10.9 of the minutes had also not had an action point allocated to it. The Chief Police Officer clarified that it had been intended that a revision of the legislation would be included in the list of legislative priorities compiled by the Attorney General’s Chambers and submitted to Executive Council for approval. Mr Biles confirmed that the guidance notes for licensees on the present Ordinance had been completed.

5. **Report of the Chief Police Officer**

- 5.1 The report covering the third quarter of 2013/14 (January to April 2014) had been circulated to the Committee.
- 5.2 MLA Summers noted that during the period there had been 79 false 999 calls and 28 genuine calls. The Chief Police Officer clarified that the false calls were often caused by the numbers on mobile telephones being depressed and were not malicious. He explained that the incoming callers were always called back to ensure that there was not an emergency. HH the Acting Governor requested that the media remind the public of the need to exercise caution with their mobile telephones.
- 5.3 MLA Elsby, whilst commending the RFIP on taking measures to ensure road safety, requested confirmation that the 4,501 seat belt checks had not led to an excessive amount of paperwork for the officers. The Chief Police Officer was able to clarify that the checks were undertaken routinely and did not cause an increase in paperwork unless an offence had been committed.
- 5.4 HH the Acting Governor expressed his thanks for the speed at which the emergency services had attended the RTC which he had personally come across whilst travelling on the MPA Road and for the professionalism with which the situation had been handled.
- 5.5 Mr Biles noted that under the section entitled Finance, reference had been made to the high cost of overseas telephone calls linked to investigations and he questioned whether Skype was used. The Chief Police Officer confirmed that Skype had not been used as he was unsure as to the security of the system. He also assured the Committee that the RFIP did not allow finance to inhibit investigations when dealing with the victims of crime.
- 5.6 The Committee thanked the Chief Police Officer for his report.

6. **Confirmation of Date of Next Meeting**

6.1 It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Police Committee would be held at 1400 on Wednesday 23 July 2014 in the Liberation Room.

7. **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

7.1 The Committee resolved to exclude the press and public on the grounds that the next items of business to be considered were exempt within the terms of paragraph 5 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012 relating to enforcement activities, etc.

Part II

8. **Confirmation of Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 January 2013**

8.1 The minutes of the meeting were confirmed as a correct record.

9. **Matters Arising**

9.1 Proposed Organisational Structure of the RFIP (15) – The Chief Police Officer noted that the report of the Overseas Prison Advisor mentioned in paragraph 15.2 of the minutes had been released by Government House and MLAs have had sight of the report although it had not been formally accepted. HH the Acting Governor advised that it had been agreed that the report would be formally submitted to Executive Council. CPO

10. **Board of Prison Visitors Report Recommendations**

(Not for publication by virtue of Paragraph 5 of Schedule 3 of the Committees (Public Access) Ordinance 2012 relating to Enforcement Activities, etc)

10.1 The Chief Police Officer explained that previous reports from the Board of Prison Visitors had been circulated to the Governor but there had been no forum at which the report could be discussed. It was felt this was unsatisfactory and it had therefore been agreed that this Committee was the appropriate place for discussion and monitoring of the recommendations to take place.

10.2 The recommendations from the report of the visit which had taken place on 25 March had been extracted and formed the HMP Stanley Development Plan which was discussed by the Committee.

10.3 In response to a question from MLA Summers, the Chief Police Officer advised that the revised Prison Ordinance had been issued for consultation. The Attorney General agreed to check the present position and timescale and report back to the Committee. AG

10.4 The Committee discussed what the Terms of Reference for the Board of Prison Visitors were, and how the Board would sit under the new Ordinance. They felt it was important that accountability and good management be maintained. The Attorney General agreed to examine these and report back to the Committee.

AG

17 April 2014