

PROBATION BOARD FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER 2020

11.30 AM – WEBEX VIDEO CONFERENCE

426th MEETING – 22nd OF THE TWELFTH TERM OF OFFICE

ATTENDANCE

Mr D Ashford, Chair
Mr N Bodger
Dr K Clark
Mr K Donaghy
Mr P Douglas
Mrs J Gillespie
Ms P Keenan
Mr M Murray
Mr G OhEara
Mr D Wall

OFFICIALS

Ms C Lamont, Chief Executive
Mr H Hamill, Director of Operations
Mrs G McGreevy, Head of Communications
Ms G Montgomery, Assistant Director
Dr G O'Hare, Director of Rehabilitation
Mrs G Robinson, Head of HR
Ms C Teggart, Head of Finance
Mr M Cox, Board Secretary
Mrs W Rodgers, Secretariat (Minutes)

1. WELCOME, OPENING REMARKS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Board Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked members and officials for attending. The meeting has a single item agenda. He set out the protocols for the meeting and advised members that the Report being discussed will remain under embargo until Ministerial approval is given for it to be published. He also advised members that there would be a short closed session at the end of the meeting to discuss the Deputy Chair position and the Board Development Day, planned for 13 November 2020.

No potential Conflicts of Interest were declared.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Dr J Byrne, Member; Dr T Donaldson, Member and Mrs J Anderson, Boardroom Apprentice.

3. AN INSPECTION OF THE PROBATION BOARD FOR NORTHERN IRELAND: CJI(NI) REPORT

The Chief Executive thanked members for attending this Special Board Meeting. Officials in attendance were the Executive Team; Ms McGreevy, Head of Communications and Ms Montgomery, AD. Ms Montgomery together with the Director of Operations, Mr Hamill, were the leads on the Inspection.

The Chief Executive advised members that the Action Plan would be sent to the CJI(NI) as requested following this meeting. They can now write to the Minister requesting permission to publish the Report. Publication is likely to be late October 2020 or early November 2020.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the Members with a briefing on the Report which the Chief Executive reminded members was still confidential as this remains a Working Copy of the Report until the Chief Inspector adds her Foreword to the final draft. The Chief Executive provided the Members with a summary of the process of responding to the CJI(NI) on the Factual Accuracy Check (FAC). The CJI(NI), following its letter to the Chief Executive on 15 September, stated it did not see a need for any further correspondence around the FAC. The Chief Executive reminded members of a number of areas where the Organisation had faced particular challenges over the last number of years including the security issues in 2017, these have been referred to in the Working Copy of the Report. She also noted that the fieldwork for the Report had been undertaken 12 months ago.

Members were advised of the 12 domains assessed in the Report – 3 were rated as outstanding; 5 rated as good and 4 rated as needing improvement. Of those in the final group, 2 fell into this category instead of the 'good' category by 1%. Members' attention was drawn to an additional short paper which presented information from HMI Probation Inspection on case assessment performance between England and Wales inspections with PBNI.

Ms McGreevy provided detail of the communication plan for the internal and external audiences following the publication of the Report. Following discussion, it was agreed that it was important for a comment from the Board to show it had considered the Report and endorsed the response to it.

The Chief Executive provided an outline of the key issues of the Report for members. Discussion ensued on the Action Plan and it was noted that a number of the recommendations have either been completed or were scheduled to be marked completed this year.

Members provided comment on the Report with officials noting the comments.

The Board Chair provided a summary of the discussion. It was agreed that each recommendation will be allocated to the relevant committee for detailed discussion and review. The recommendations will now be a standing item on each committee's agenda, and committee chairs will update the Board accordingly, with the caveat that if an item needed to come to the Board's particular attention that will happen.

The Chief Executive wished to place on record her appreciation of the senior team who have worked hard over the past year and have provided leadership, professionalism and drive during the Inspection. She noted that there is a solid foundation in PBNI to make

improvements, where necessary. The Chief Executive welcomed the oversight of the Action Plan through the relevant committees moving forward.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 12.40 pm

D Ashford QFSM
Board Chair

Date _____