

**Deirdre Toner**  
Chair

**Date:** 28 September 2023

**Issue via E-Mail:** [northircom@parliament.uk](mailto:northircom@parliament.uk)

Mr Simon Hoare MP  
Chair  
NI Affairs Committee  
House of Commons  
Palace of Westminster  
London, SW1A 0AA

Dear Chair

I write further to our evidence giving session on 19 September 2023 and the follow up email received from the Committee Clerk on 21 September 2023.

I will ensure the Committee is provided with a copy of the PSNI Cultural Audit findings, when available.

In relation to your second query I can, as advised at the session on 19 September, only comment that the Board was made aware of the breach by means of a telephone call to our Chief Executive on the evening of 8 August. The Board sought at urgent meeting with PSNI on 10 August, at which the breach was identified by PSNI as “due to human error”.

As you are aware, the Board agreed at that meeting on the need for an end-to-end review of information management processes. The full details of this were publicised in our Statement on 22 August, and included in the Terms of Reference for the Review, by the specialist independent team, was that the review was designed to “understand (a) the processes and actions that led to the breach occurring ...”. A full copy of the statement of 22 August is attached for ease of reference. The Board awaits the final report from the end to end Review before attempting to draw any firm conclusions around root causes.

I am not in a position to share the Terms of Reference for the Review of the Policing Board as those will be determined by the Department of Justice but I can advise the Committee that the suggestions we have made to the Department for that review are:

- Review how the Policing Board carries out its legislative duties in holding the PSNI to account and in ensuring an efficient and effective policing service.
- Review issues referred to in the Scofield judgment as they relate to the operation of the Policing Board and whether, in this instance, the Board respected the respective legislative duties of the Board and of the Chief Constable.

**Northern Ireland Policing Board**

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- Review the Codes of Conduct for Policing Board members and senior staff with particular reference to working practices between them and senior PSNI staff, as well as issues of confidentiality and the corporacy of the Board.

I trust this response is helpful.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deirdre Toner".

**Deirdre Toner**  
Chair

Trim No: 545941

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