

# PROTECT



## MINUTES

### NATIONAL POLICE AIR SERVICE (NPAS) NATIONAL STRATEGIC BOARD (MEETING NUMBER 15)

10 March 2016

#### PRESENT

NAME	REPRESENTING
PCC Mark Burns-Williamson OBE (MBW) Chair	Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire police – Lead Local Policing Body
T/CC Dee Collins QPM (DC)	West Yorkshire Police – Lead Local Chief Constable
Ch. Supt. Ian Whitehouse (IW)	NPAS Accountable Manager
Andy Bell (AB)	Deputy CFOA CBRNE Lead – London Fire Brigade
Katherine Johnson (KJ)	Treasurer – West Yorkshire Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
Mark Reeves (MRe)	Temporary Director of Finance - West Yorkshire Police
Supt Tyron Joyce (TJ)	NPAS Programme Director
Susan Carte (SC)	NPAS Business Development Manager
Steve Jones QPM (SJ) – representing Ollie Dismore	NPAS Assistant Operations Director, Central & North West Region
Janine Nelson (JN)	Solicitor, Legal Services, West Yorkshire Police
PCC Barry Coppinger (BC)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland - North East Region
CC David Jones (DJ) (by phone)	North Yorkshire Police – North East Region
CC Simon Byrne QPM (SB) (by phone)	National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) Aviation Lead
PCC Ron Ball (RB)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire – Central Region
ACC Rob Nixon (RN) (on behalf of Neil Rhodes) (by phone)	Leicestershire Police – Central Region
Cmdr. David Musker (DM)	Metropolitan Police Service – London Region
PCC Anthony Stansfeld (AS) (by phone)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley - South East Region

## PROTECT

T/Chief Supt Simon Hawkins (SH) representing ACC Sarah Hamlin	Hertfordshire Police - South East Region
PCC Christopher Salmon (CS) (by phone)	Police & Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys – South West Region
CC Suzette Davenport (SD)	Gloucestershire Police - South West Region
Jonathan Scanlan (JS)	Home Office – Workforce and Capability Unit
Sgt Julian Bosley (JB)	Base Manager, NPAS Wattisham
Jenny Walker (JN)	NPAS Marketing & Communications Manager
Melanie Jaundziekars (MJ)	NPAS Support Officer

### APOLOGIES

NAME	REPRESENTING
ACC Sarah Hamlin (SH)	Norfolk Police – South East Region
Fraser Sampson (FS)	Chief Executive & Solicitor – Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire
Ollie Dismore (OD)	NPAS Director of Operations
PCC John Dwyer (JD)	Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire – North West Region
CC Mark Polin QPM (MP)	North Wales Police – North West Region
Emma Smithies (ES)	Staff Officer to CC Simon Byrne – Cheshire Police – North West Region
Rachel Watson (RW)	Home Office – Head of Police Workforce and Capability Unit
CC Neil Rhodes (NR)	Lincolnshire Police – Central Region
Rebecca Lawrence (RL)	MOPAC

The Chair, PCC Mark Burns-Williamson (MBW) opened the meeting and invited introductions from those in the room and dialling in on the conference call facility.

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Noted and recorded.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were raised.

#### 3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11 FEBRUARY 2016

CC Simon Byrne (SB) raised Item 8 FRS User Requirement for clarity around the relationship with FRS. Ian Whitehouse (IW) stated that he had met with Andy Bell (AB) to discuss the FRS user requirement and a paper would be produced for the Board meeting on 16 June 2016. PCC Christopher Salmon (CS) confirmed he was not supportive of the Option 3 as reflected in the minutes of the budget meeting.

## PROTECT

### 4. ACTIONS

See Action list for updates. MBW thanked PCC Ron Ball (RB) and the panel members for undertaking the work involved with the dispute resolution process.

### 5. PURDAH – NPAS FACT FINDING EVENT

IW raised that NPAS had received requests from a number of candidates who had expressed an interest and a desire to visit NPAS bases on a fact finding event. Due to the volume of requests and the impact on operational delivery, IW stated that NPAS would be holding an event on Monday 25 April 2016 for all PCC candidates to have a fact finding briefing on the journey of NPAS and the current and future position to enable each candidate to receive the same consistent information. Commander Dave Musker (DM) asked if the normal Purdah rules applied and whether staff had been informed. IW stated that all bases had been made aware. The event would focus on how NPAS had been created and the governance arrangements.

### 6. HUMBERSIDE – TERMS OF JOINING

CC Dave Jones (DJ) presented a paper, the contents of which were discussed at length by Board members. DJ stated that Humberside are due to join NPAS on 27 September 2016 when the lease on the Humberside aircraft terminates and therefore only require the service of NPAS aircraft for the second half of the 2016/17 financial year. Humberside had also suggested that a seasonal adjustment needed to be made to the budgeted costs to accurately reflect the lower level of actual use of air support in Humberside during the Autumn and Winter months. After a lengthy discussion Board members stated they acknowledged the submission regarding seasonal adjustment but the unanimous decision of the Board was that this was not supported. It was agreed that further amendment to the funding model to consider seasonal use was unnecessary and there needed to be a consistent application of previous decisions made at the Board which had seen forces with particular concerns being dealt with fairly, equitably and transparently.

It was highlighted that Humberside would receive a significant saving by joining NPAS in my event. The unanimous decision of Police and Crime Commissioners on the Board was that seasonal adjustment would not be supported but members agreed the pro-rata payment requested.

**Agreed** - The Board endorsed the agreement of the pro-rata payment. A unanimous decision was taken not to support the requested seasonal adjustment.

**Action – MBW to write to PCC Matthew Grove outlining the decision of the Board.**

## **7. BUDGET/FINANCE**

Mark Reeves (MR) stated that the budget position for NPAS as at 31 January 2016 showed early revenue savings had been delivered of £1.6m. NPAS is likely to be underspent as at 31 March 2016 due to the transition to the new operating model moving quicker than anticipated and delivering the savings earlier than expected. The capital programme as at 31 January 2016 remains on track for NPAS to spend the Home Office grant. MR stated police officer and police staff pay are underspending due to the vacancies that had arisen as transition occurs. It was highlighted that there is a 40% saving on aviation fuel due to price and volume. Within the capital programme fixed wing is included along with further costs around the base development at Doncaster to accommodate the fixed wing. The forecast position at the end of the year is an early revenue saving of £1.8m. The capital schemes should be in line with the budget towards the end of the financial year.

Jon Scanlan (JS) requested if NPAS would be claiming the full Home Office capital grant to which it was confirmed it would.

PCC Ron Ball (RB) asked if NPAS would be fitting voice and cockpit recorders to aircraft in light of the Glasgow incident. SC confirmed that NPAS had carried out market testing on behalf of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to look at the costs of implementing and the information was now with the CAA to make a decision. SC stated that the recorders would be purchased from the capital programme should the need arise and they were included in the forecasts.

DM asked what would happen to the £1.8m. MR stated that once the new Operating model is fully implemented it would be a decision for the Board to decide what they wished to do with the funds and whether any surplus would be returned back to Forces. MR raised the option of retaining a fuel reserve should the cost of fuel increase. This would be earmarked specifically for any fuel variations and would be something for the Board to consider in due course.

PCC Anthony Stansfeld (AS) suggested purchasing fuel now to save costs. MR stated storage would be an issue as NPAS only have limited storage if bowsers are filled to capacity extra costs would be incurred, this could be something to be raised with procurement as this could be an emerging risk.

PCC Barry Coppinger (BC) stated that one option could be a threat, harm and risk incentivisation model where forces receive an incentive for adopting the model. T/CC Collins (DC) raised that one unforeseen risk which had not been budgeted for was the Airwave replacement.

MBW thanked MR for the report and Board members noted the good progress regarding the early savings.

## PROTECT

### 8. FIXED WING UPDATE

Susan Carte (SC) stated that all activities including recruitment, training, base build and aircraft acquisition for NPAS currently remain on time, although the supplier had missed some of their internal deadlines. SC confirmed that the first aircraft had flown and is due to be painted shortly, activity in relation to flight into known icing (FIKI) had also commenced.

AS raised the question whether the FIKI had been included in the de-icing programme. SC stated that she believed it was but would confirm. It was later confirmed that the FIKI certification covers the aircraft in a complete mission equipped state.

Rob Nixon (RN) raised the issue around weight and equipment and the effect this would have on the duration the aircraft could be airborne. SC confirmed the weight bearing in the aircraft is tight and this is being closely monitored.

Ron Ball (RB) requested if there would be an opportunity for the aircraft to be flown over for a demonstration to which SC stated she would raise the question but felt it would take time out of the suppliers timeline. SC raised the question following the meeting and it was stated that the aircraft is on a permit to fly under Austrian regulation. To that end it would have to be transferred to "out of state" operations which is very unlikely.

In addition, to fly it over to the UK adds time to the airframe hours and would delay the project. SJ advised that one option was for members to see one of the new upgraded mission systems in the rotary aircraft as this was on a par with that to be fitted in the fixed wing.

### 9. DONCASTER – FIXED WING BASE

IW stated that for commercial reasons NPAS had never formally ratified that the fixed wing base is going to be built at Doncaster. NPAS had looked at Liverpool, East Midlands and Birmingham as potential sites and Doncaster is now the preferred base. IW stated that work is progressing well and NPAS are almost at a position to negotiate Heads of Terms. NPAS have set capital aside for the build with a projected completion date of November 2016. IW stated that NPAS need to progress to the next stage and requested the Board to agree for NPAS to utilise the ring fenced capital for the build. IW stated that NPAS need the flexibility to enter into negotiations around the Heads of Terms for anything from a 10 year lease up to 25 year lease and to proceed with the build with an anticipated completion date of November 2016.

IW stated NPAS can formally announce that Doncaster would be the fixed wing base once Heads of Terms had been agreed.

**Agreed** – the Board agreed to accept the recommendations to utilise the ring fenced capex and to allow the heads of terms to be negotiated for anything from a 10 to 25 year lease.

## PROTECT

### 10. UPDATE FROM NPCC AVIATION LEAD

SB stated work is ongoing with the Laser Working Group and there had been various media enquiries. SB would be working with the One Show. SB proposed that NPAS in conjunction with SB, seek ministerial support to progress and the need to be more robust around internet sales. The Board agreed and SB stated he would keep the Board updated of progress.

SB stated he is seeking support from HMIC and had written to the Inspectorate asking them to consider adding a wider inspection of the effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy of NPAS to the future inspection programme and is awaiting a response.

### 11. LASER UPDATE

IW stated that the laser threat in both the public and political arena had escalated on 15 February 2016 following the attack on the New York Virgin Atlantic flight. NPAS is both victim and part of the criminal solution in terms of identifying the perpetrators. IW stated that NPAS had conducted trials with some laser eye protection products which Sgt Julian Bosley (JB) had been leading on to provide reassurance that NPAS are not putting their crews at risk in tackling the issue with regards to lasers.

JB stated NPAS conducted the trial following a request from the UK Airport Police Commanders Group (UKAPCG) in response to the growing number of strikes on civil aircraft and had requested NPAS to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] JB confirmed that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) had requested NPAS to provide staff with a variety of laser protective eyewear before engaging in the request from the UKAPCG. JB confirmed that NPAS had conducted trials to look at the products that had been offered and secondly if NPAS decided to go ahead to procurement could demonstrate there had been a rigorous selection process. JB stated the trial had been conducted in 3 stages:-

- (i) lab testing to verify if the products had the ability to block lasers;
- (ii) test exposures where volunteers had been exposed to laser light as bright as the eye could tolerate without the risk of damage;
- (iii) in flight testing

JB passed a variety of eye protection samples around Board members and stated that the tested samples had only covered blue and green laser wavelengths.

JB stated that NPAS are currently trialling an e-learning package for West Yorkshire staff to ensure police officers on the ground have consistent knowledge regarding the law around lasers and aircraft with the ambition to roll the training out nationally.

## PROTECT

The Board noted the content of the report and potential financial impact of equipping crews to meet the laser threat. MBW thanked JB for the work and progress that had gone into this trial.

### 12. OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Steve Jones (SJ) updated the Board on a number of changes to NPAS operational delivery which had occurred since the meeting on 9 December 2015. In line with the Board's endorsed move to the new Operating Model of [REDACTED] rotary wing bases, a number of base closures had taken place, these being Halfpenny Green, Ripley and Sheffield. SJ confirmed that Dyfed-Powys Police had joined NPAS on 1 January 2016 which coincided with the removal of the Dyfed-Powys aircraft from Pembrey which was now awaiting disposal. These changes leave Durham Tees Valley, Warton and Wattisham as the only rotary wing bases left to close in line with the new Operating Model already agreed. Twenty four hour operations are now in place at [REDACTED] bases.

SJ stated that the first upgraded 135 T2 aircraft had returned to service. The new mission management system on the aircraft had enabled the crew to locate the precise location of a stolen vehicle which would have been much harder to locate without the new system.

SJ stated that NPAS had taken part in a Combined Tactical Air Cell (CTAC) concept whereby all air assets assigned to a major incident come under the operational direction of a single command cell sitting alongside strategic command, NPAS is leading on the implementation across emergency service air support. This concept was put into practice for the first time during the recent extreme weather in Cumbria which caused widespread flooding and the lessons learnt will be worked on.

### 13.145 UPGRADE – BUSINESS CASE

SC stated the 145 upgrade would be based on similar lines as the T2 upgrade in terms of upgrading the equipment and reducing the weight of the aircraft. SC confirmed that NPAS are looking to increase the endurance of the aircraft and eliminating the liability NPAS have with ageing and dated equipment. NPAS had identified £4m in the capital plan to upgrade four EC145 aircrafts as part of the process of moving towards a better platform. In order to deliver the project within the planned timescales SC stated that activity would be required imminently by NPAS in terms of the specification and procurement process.

**Agreed** – the Board agreed the recommendations and approved the business case and funding of the project.

#### **14. OSLO AIRCRAFT UPDATE**

IW updated the Board regarding progress of extending the lease to Oslo Politidistrikt in Norway following Oslo's approach to NPAS to renew the lease on LN-OCB. IW confirmed that the proposals submitted by NPAS of a daily charge of ████████ to recover expenditure to date had been accepted and a revised lease had been prepared and submitted to Oslo to which NPAS were awaiting the signed version.

The Board noted the progress of the negotiations and the terms of the extended lease after reassurance that costs would be recovered.

#### **15. COMMUNICATIONS – EARLY THOUGHTS**

Jenny Walker (JW) presented to the Board progress to date and proposals to build on successes. JW stated that NPAS branding is consistently applied across the fleet and the need for recognition of the brand to build on success to formalise corporate identity further. DM stated it would be useful to have a look at the staff surveys which highlight areas of risks. CS complimented JW on the energy and enthusiasm shown but raised concerns about the focus of efforts of communication and not just generating publicity.

AS suggested giving each aircraft individual names to raise public interest.

MBW thanked JW for the presentation and the views of Board members. JW to report back on progress.

#### **16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **Accountable Manager**

DC informed the Board that IW had given an early indication of his intention to retire. DC stated due to the need to succession plan she had liaised with the CAA to ensure they are content with the current arrangements. DC stated that the CAA had confirmed that the position should be a serving police officer and remain at Chief Superintendent rank. DC confirmed the role profile would be updated and in line with the College of Policing the preference would be to advertise the position nationally.

DM raised the question as to why the post had to be a police officer to which it was stated the CAA had confirmed in writing this is their view as NPAS remains a police operation and therefore it should be a suitably qualified police officer.

##### **Amendments to S.22 Agreement**

IW stated that amendments to the S.22a had been circulated with proposed amendments to the schedules for consultation. Feedback would be provided to Board members to approve the amendments.



## **PROTECT**

DM stated that the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) would be obtaining legal advice regarding amendments to the schedules. Board members were asked to consult and feedback so that the amended schedules could be approved at the next meeting.

### **PCC Ron Ball**

RB indicated that he would be standing down and this would be his last Board meeting. MBW thanked RB for his dedication and support from the outset of the NPAS process and wished him well for the future beyond the PCC elections.

MBW stated the next Board meeting would take place on 16 June 2016 and thanked everyone for attending.

**Date and time of next meeting – 16 June 2016 - 1.00pm – 4.00pm  
Carr Gate, Bradford Road, Wakefield, WF2 0QD.**