



Record of meeting

AUTHOR		Sharon Dutton		
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SUITABLE FOR PUBLICATION SCHEME		NO	DATE CREATED	27/02/2025
TITLE	Operation Kenova Governance Board held 26 th February 2025			
SUMMARY	Record of updates, discussions and recommendations made by the Board			
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Minutes of Meeting held in Belfast

26th February 2025

Present

Sir Iain Livingstone – IL (Chair)

Bertha McDougall – BM

Monica McWilliams – MMW

Rev. Harold Good – HG

Tony Fuller - TF

James Redmond – JR

Minutes

Sharon Dutton - SD

Apologies

Fr. Martin Magill – MM, Liam O'Brien - LO

Agenda

1. Introduction / Declaration of Interest
2. Minutes of previous meeting and December Update
3. Update on Additional Disclosure and Security Checking
4. Operational Updates
 - I. Kenova – Family Reports and Meetings
 - II. Mizzenmast
 - III. Turma
 - IV. Denton Report and Family Meetings
5. Operation Kenova Final Report
6. Finance
7. Demobilisation Planning
8. Issues Register
9. AOB



1. Introduction / Declaration of Interests

IL Thanked the members for all their attendance and support while their role continues in the final months of Kenova.

IL updated that he, **TF** and **JR** had just come from a meeting with the Security Service where access was given to a recent review relating to the MI5 disclosure. This will be discussed in further detail later in the meeting.

MM has sent his apologies and will be provided with an update of the meeting.

No declaration of interests reported.

2. Minutes of previous meeting and December update

MMW identified a possible error in the wording of a sentence in item 5. **SD** will check her original notes and rectify.

3. Sensitive Issues regarding Additional Disclosure and Security Checking

A lengthy discussion took place that covered the following points:

- A summary of the sensitive review carried out by Helen Ball QPM,
- Concerns that the delays caused by the Cabinet Office are already affecting public confidence,
- The lack of response from letters to the SOS NI,
- Recommendations from the Interim Report,
- Concerns regarding the new Commission

4. Operational Updates

i Op Kenova

IL advised that despite a number of letters and meetings, the 26 family reports still remain with the Cabinet Office for security checking. Some have been with them since last August, others were submitted in October.

JR is due to meet with an MI5 senior lawyer this Friday to hopefully progress any issues. NCND and the naming of SK are their main concern.

ii. Op Mizzenmast

IL confirmed that the work carried out by Kenova is now complete. **JR** is acting as intermediary between the family and PSNI.

JR advised that following the sad death of their legal advisor, Niall O'Murchu, the family instructed Darragh Mackin which has caused further delay. There is to be a meeting with PSNI within the next month.

iii Op Turma

JR advised that PSNI are now leading the case and have had positive contact with the families.

BM refers to the trauma this causes to the families and the toll that it takes on them.



iv Op Denton

IL confirmed that the Denton report of around 500 pages has gone for security checking. Once completed, it can be shared with members for their information.

Meetings with the families will be taking place over the next two months. Because of time restraints, they are being updated verbally before the security checking is complete. They will not be receiving their own reports like the Kenova families but will receive information they have probably never heard before.

JR confirmed that two meetings had taken place this week, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX and they provided positive and useful feedback.

We also met with the XXXX family who were not in our ToR. Their son was badly beaten before being murdered. We were able to provide new information to them and they were appreciative.

Further meetings are currently being arranged by our FLC Paul Webb who is contact with Margaret Unwin regarding the Dublin and Monaghan victims.

MMW asked what was different with what they had been told from previous investigations.

JR explained that we had managed to access significantly more intelligence and, following a Memorandum of Understanding with the AGS, this had been provided by both jurisdictions.

IL concluded that in regard to publication considerations, the report would then go through the PSNI process.

5. Op Kenova Final Report

IL confirmed that work had already commenced on the Final Report, although it can't be completed until after the Denton Report. It will highlight all the matters investigated and reviewed by Kenova and include the issues we have experienced with MI5.

6. Personnel and Finance

TF introduced the finance report and explained how a request for £880k had been verbally agreed by PSNI for the period 1st October 2024 – 31st March 2025.

Following negotiations with Bedfordshire Police, they have agreed not to claim their £200k annual administrative costs. This leaves us with a total underspend of £377k. Bedfordshire will allow this to be carried forward enabling completion of Kenova over the next four months without a further budget.

Members agreed that the finances had been well managed.

IL advised that Kenova also greatly appreciate the support received from the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), such as office accommodation, use of their IT systems, staffing and very reasonable forensic costs.

BM commented that money might be tight but it is important that the report is completed and goes to the PSNI.



MMW stated there is no doubt that the overall £44m cost will be criticised.

TF concluded that the costs would have been far greater if it were a Public Inquiry and compared favourably against all the previous similar style investigations/reviews.

7. Demobilisation

TF confirmed that Kenova are now working from smaller offices in XXXX provided by the MPS without any costs.

Sensitive documentation has been returned to the originators.

There is a small team remaining that will be sufficient to complete the outstanding work.

HOLMES accounts are being closed (Mizzenmast, Turma).

IL confirmed that he considered everything was being well managed.

8. Issues Register

The following were agreed:

- De-commissioning Project – Amber
- Operational – Red
- Finance – Red
- Accommodation – Amber
- Resources – Amber
- Public Independence – Amber
- Legacy Arrangements – Amber
- Stakeholder Engagement – Red
- Civil Claims – to be reduced to Green as only one case remains
- MI5 Disclosure – Red

9. AOB / Date of Next Meeting

IL thanked the members for their oversight and contributions.

Two final meetings of the Governance Board are anticipated. Dates at the end of April and June will be agreed as soon as possible.