

New PSNI chief constable says policing must 'get the funding it deserves'

Boucher insists that independence of policing was 'sacrosanct'

Policing Board says no conflict with previous role overseeing Operation Kenova

SEAMIN GRAMHAM

Policing in Northern Ireland "cannot fail" and must "get the funding it deserves", the newly appointed Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) Chief Constable has said.

Jon Boucher pledged to lobby government at "every single level" to address the £52 million yearly budget shortfall facing the service, which is also dealing with a staffing crisis and rocketing sickness absence.

Addressing reporters yesterday following confirmation on

Tuesday evening that he had secured the North's most senior policing job, Mr Boucher described the current financial position as "really challenging" but one that was "mirrored across public services".

"I'm conscious that others will be (lobbying) for other public services. But policing in Northern Ireland and we all are alive to this cannot fail. In this particular place, policing has to be funded in a way that we know we can make people safe," he said.

He also insisted that while he

would listen to political concerns, the independence of policing was "sacrosanct".

"My reputation is very well known for independence in policing - I think it's fairly well known I'm quite a robust individual," he said.

The 58-year-old former English police chief has been serving as interim PSNI chief constable for the past month after Simon Byrne stepped down in September following a series of controversies, including an unprecedented data leak.

Mr Boucher said that despite reports of low morale, he was "delighted" by the welcome he had received.

"I have to say that everywhere I've went, I've been met with hugely positive responses," he said.

He added that there were officers who sometimes felt they "operate in fear of get-

ting things wrong and the unfair consequences of doing that".

"Sometimes - sometimes - we get things wrong but when we do get things wrong we will learn from those issues collectively," he said. "Everybody makes mistakes. We are not robots we are human beings and

Operation Kenova, its report is expected to be published in the coming weeks.

Mr Boucher's team investigated multiple murders linked to the British agent known as Stakeknife, widely believed to be west Belfast man Freddie Scappellato. Part of the vast inquiry's remit included the examination of the role of the British state and security forces, including the former Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), in the killings.

Sitting alongside Mr Boucher at yesterday's press conference, the vice chairman of the Northern Ireland Policing Board, Edgar Jardine, said assurances had been given that there would be no conflict between Mr Boucher's new role and his previous job overseeing Operation Kenova.

Asked about a timescale for the report's release and whether from families involved in



Jon Boucher: My reputation is very well known for independence in policing

by and large the service that is provided by this organisation is best in class in this country."

For the past seven years, Mr Boucher has headed up independent £37 million investigation into the British army's top spying during the Troubles. Known

North slips further down UK's to-do list



Freya McClements

Window for DUP to re-enter North's powersharing arrangement is rapidly closing

In the entire speech, it came to 17 words. As King Charles set out his government's legislative programme at the State Opening of Parliament in London on Monday, the only nod towards the political impasse in Northern Ireland was his affirmation that "my government will promote the integrity of the Union and strengthen the social fabric of the UK".

Never mind that one would hardly expect him to say anything else; this stating of the obvious will be scant reassurance for unionists, and if anything is further evidence of just how far the ongoing crisis at Stormont has slipped down the UK government's to-do list.

It certainly was not the fig-leaf of legislation reaffirming Northern Ireland's place in the union which, so the narrative goes, should have been the next step in the choreography that would, coupled with a financial package, bring the DUP back.

DUP leader Jeffrey Donaldson had made clear in advance that the king's speech was not going to deliver the long-anticipated breakthrough, telling BBC Radio Ulster on Monday that talks with the UK government were continuing.

conversation will not continue indefinitely. London has other priorities, not least the looming prospect of a general election; in Dublin, the frustration was evident in Justice Michael Martin's comments on Sunday, when he told RTE the momentum towards restoring powersharing appears to have "ebbed" and negotiations between the DUP and the UK government had "more or less come to a conclusion".

Dublin has made clear that, in the absence of a restored Stormont, there will have to be "alternative arrangements" for the North within the scope of the role laid out in the Belfast Agreement. Sinn Féin has called for joint authority, the SDLP for "shared stewardship".

After more than 18 months of political stasis, patience is almost exhausted; if Stormont is not restored soon, the consequence for the people of Northern Ireland could be a year or more of stalemate, with the institutions in limbo until the far side of the UK general election.

Throw into the mix the latest Lack of Polling on the state of the Northern parties, in Monday's Belfast Telegraph, which was encouraging reading for the DUP.

With party support two points up to 28 per cent of the first preference vote, among DUP voters almost three-quarters



DUP leader Jeffrey Donaldson had made clear in advance that the king's speech was not going to deliver the

Taoiseach condemns TD's move to sue Irish Times journalist

SARAH BURRIS

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has described a Sinn Féin TD's decision to sue an Irish Times journalist as "frightening".

Speaking in the Dáil yesterday, Mr Varadkar said suing a journalist personally was only designed to do "one thing".

"It's designed to make journalists afraid, it's designed to make them think twice about what they write, and I think it's wrong," he said.

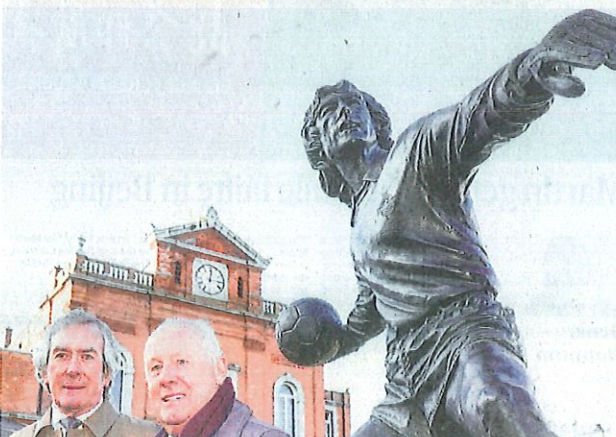
The Fine Gael leader was responding to Social Democrats leader Holly Cairns, who said she was "very concerned" about the prevalence of strate-

famed in an article written by McGee and published in The Irish Times concerning Sinn Féin's response to the Hamas attack on Israel last month.

Among the matters covered in the article were comments by Mr Andrews on social media about the events in Israel, which included his response to a tweet from European Commission president Ursula von Leyen.

Mr Varadkar said he "wasn't going to bring up the matter but that he did agree with the Social Democrats leader.

Press Council



A monumental 'keeper Jennings statue unveiled in Newry

A statue of Northern Irish goalkeeper Paul Jennings was unveiled in Newry, Co Down yesterday.

Former Northern Ireland players Billy Hamilton and Gerry Armstrong and former Tottenham player Ledley King were among those in attendance while

Jennings was present for the unveiling in his native city despite falling ill at a match between Tottenham and Chelsea in London on Monday evening.

The 78-year-old made 119 appearances for Northern Ireland, making his international debut against Wales

along with George Best in April 1964. During his 23-year career, he played for Heron Town, Walford and won the FA Cup with Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal.

Jennings is pictured above with former Arsenal team mate Liam Brady. PHOTOGRAPH BY RYAN

Tuesday in a statement responding to the speech, in which he said discussions would continue but it was important the UK government stated commitment to the union was "demonstrated with concrete actions".

Conversations are continuing, the problem for the DUP is that, if it is to re-enter the powersharing institutions, the window in which to do so is rapidly closing.

For Downing Street, the call for "concrete action" was the Windsor Framework, agreed between the UK and the EU in response to unionist concerns over its predecessor, the Northern Ireland protocol.

It has made clear those negotiations will not be repeated - and not indeed would the EU return them - and it is equally clear that, from its point of view, the

ters backed its Stormont boycott, so, as they did not want a return to the institutions until the Windsor Framework was removed.

A cautious politician by nature, Mr Donaldson wants to risk alienating some of that 72 per cent ahead of an election? Or, given the choice, the DUP will face in East Belfast and Lagan Valley, would staying out be the greater risk?

That the DUP has not paid a price, electoral or otherwise, for stalling the institutions makes it all too easy to the limbo continues.

A return to Stormont was always going to require courage from Donaldson. How it will require even more.

DUP's self-interest may keep Donaldson stuck, page 12

corporations taking vexatious cases against media, activists or indeed members of the public in an effort to muzzle their critics," she said.

"It is particularly concerning when journalists are personally sued in addition to the publisher as in these cases can be financially ruinous."

"When proceedings are taken in the High Court, costs sometimes run into the millions of euro, forcing journalists and media outlets to settle out of court, even in cases that they could win."

She was speaking after the Sinn Féin TD for Dublin Bay South, Chris Andrews, lodged defamation proceedings in the High Court against the Irish Times and its political correspondent, Harry McGee.

Mr Andrews is understood to be claiming that he was de-

think that it's the appropriate course that people should follow and to see a member of this House, not just using a major newspaper but also personally suing a journalist, that's only designed to do one thing - it's designed to make journalists afraid, it's designed to make them think twice about what they write, and I think it's wrong."

The Irish Times chapel of the National Union of Journalists met yesterday and unanimously passed a motion noting "with great concern" the action by Mr Andrews and the Irish Times and Harry McGee.

Attempts to silence journalists or to stop investigative research through legal action filed by individuals, political parties, or by corporations are to be condemned," it said.

Quinn writes to TDs calling for investigation into company takeover

CONOR GALLAGHER

Former billionaire Seán Quinn has written to TDs denying any role in the kidnapping of Quinn Industrial Holdings executive Kevin Lynne and detailing a long list of grievances against the Government and State agencies.

The founder of the Quinn Group, which is now called Manok, called for an inquiry into why various State agencies declined to investigate his claims of fraud relating to the company's takeover.

"I would sincerely ask you, as a public representative, to ensure any cover up or negligence in terms of investigating the whole issue is reviewed and brought to the public's attention," he said in the letter sent to public representatives yesterday.

Mr Quinn wrote that he has been "wilted for long enough" and was motivated to write the letter due to the "overwhelming response" to his recently published book, In My Own Words, which detailed how he believes his company could have been saved from takeover during the collapse of its main lender Anglo Irish Bank.

The Co Fermagh businessman told TDs he was compelled to write to them "as over the past 15 years or so an unsubstantiated narrative has developed attempt-

ing to place me at the centre of possible criminal activity, financial or otherwise and these perpetual untruths have been damaging and particularly upsetting to both my family and I".

Anglo seized the Quinn plant and equipment in 2011 because it was owed a debt of €2.8 billion.

Mr Quinn said in his letter that several State agencies had responsibility for his company being improperly taken over.

He also accused the Garda Síochána of producing false evidence related to the Quinn Group.

He said the then government and Anglo achieved their goal of leaving him "perennial for the issue is reviewed and brought to the public's attention," he said in the letter sent to public representatives yesterday.

Mr Quinn told TDs he did not have "any hand act or part in Kevin Lynne's abduction, either arranging or paying for it".

Comhairle Cathrach
Bhailte Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

AN YACHT UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT, 2000 (ARNA LEASÚ)
NIA RIALACHÁIN PHLEANÁLA AGUS FORBARTHA 2001 (ARNA LEASÚ)
- CUID B

Iarratáirí: Comhairle Cathrach Bhailte Átha Cliath, Seirbhís Cúlúir, Ainéasa & Eacnamaíochta.
Suíomh: Droichead na hÍrise, Bailte Átha Cliath 8.
Togra: De bhun na rianachána a bhaineann leis an míd thuaslaí, tugtar fógra leis seo go bhfuil sé íoctaig ag Comhairle Cathrach Bhailte Átha Cliath iarratas a dhéanamh ar chead na hAinéasa cúlúir a bhaineann leis an míd thuaslaí den chos láithreach i n-Átha Cliath na hÍrise, Bailte Átha Cliath 8.

Is éard a bheidh san fhorbairt:

- Córas pontáin ar an bhfarraig le h-ádh ar an cead de dhéanamh ar oileán nua atá.
- Ardán na cúlúir agus coirreille tógtha amach ó bhun na hárthann agus atá ceanglaigh leis an bponnán le stáipáil nua.
- Féara a bhaint ar an mbealach isteach go dtí an ponntán agus bealach nua rochtana nua a shuiteáil ó dhéana na Life uachtáir ar an gcead go dtí an ponntán nua atá suite ó thuaidh ar an Life foictáil.
- Droichead coise cruch atá lonnaithe ar an oileán a bhaint go seadach, a athchóir agus a chur ar ais mar a bhí.
- Féara lag atá ann cheana féin a bhaint, cráin sháinníú atá ann cheana féin a phróinál agus 25 cráin na h-ádh a bhaineann leis an míd thuaslaí a athchóir agus a chur ar ais mar a bhí.
- Na h-ádhacha cúlúir a bhaineann leis an míd thuaslaí, arna bhaint go seadach na h-ádhacha cúlúir a bhaineann leis an míd thuaslaí a athchóir agus a chur ar ais mar a bhí.

Féidir Pleanáil agus Monasáil na h-ádhacha atá mullaigh, ná a cheannas ar fáil ná nach n-á na ceads réasúnach a bhaineann le cóip a dhéanamh ar leath léimh a 4 seachtaine den 09/11/2023 le h-inneacsáil oicéil poiblí ag Oifig Chomhairle Cathrach Bhailte Átha Cliath, An Conter Poiblí, an Boinn Pleanála agus Forbairt Macao, Blv. 4, Ullár na Tábán, Oifig na Cathrach, an Ché Adhmaid, Bailte Átha Cliath 8, Luan - Ádh 9.00am go 4.30pm. Tá Pleanáil agus Monasáil ar fáil le h-ádhacha oicéil ar líne ar Spás na Saoránacháil/consultation.dublin.ie.

Tar éis réasúnúchá a dhéanamh, tá sé socráite ag an Oidreáil Ádh nach dócha go mbeidh tionchar suntasach ag an bhforbairt atá mullaigh agus mar sin, ní gá le Measúnacháil Tionchar Tempealachta.

Is féidir aighneas nó tuairim maidir leis an bhforbairt atá mullaigh a dhéanamh i scríobh, sa chóip a bhaineann sí le pleanáil chead agus le forbairt i n-ádhacha a cheannas ar fáil ná nach n-á na ceads réasúnach a bhaineann le cóip a dhéanamh ar leath léimh a 4 seachtaine den 09/11/2023 le h-inneacsáil oicéil poiblí ag Oifig Chomhairle Cathrach Bhailte Átha Cliath, An Conter Poiblí, an Boinn Pleanála agus Forbairt Macao, Blv. 4, Ullár na Tábán, Oifig na Cathrach, an Ché Adhmaid, Bailte Átha Cliath 8, roimh 4.30pm ar an 20/12/2023. Lughá mís féidir aighneas a dhéanamh ar líne ar Spás na Saoránacháil roimh 23.59u ar an 20/12/2023.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED)
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED)
- PART B

Applicant: Dublin City Council, Culture, Recreation and Economic Services Department.
Location: Islandbridge, Dublin 8.
Proposal: Pursuant to the requirements of the above, notice is hereby given Dublin City Council intends to apply for planning permission for a development on Citizen Space https://consultation.dublin.ie

The development will consist of:

- A floating pontoon system within the River Liffey anchored to the existing island shore.
- A new shore and concrete platform built from the riverbank and connected to the pontoon by a new gangway.
- The removal of vegetation on approach to the pontoon and installation of a new access walkway from the south upper River Liffey at the weir to the new pontoon located north on the lower River Liffey.
- The temporary removal, refurbishment and reinstatement of an existing steel footbridge.
- The removal of poor existing vegetation, pruning of existing healthy trees and the replanting of 25 new high-quality trees and growing shrubs at native to local.
- All ancillary works relating to the above, such as temporary regrading of land during site works for access onto the island.

Plans and Particulars of the proposed development may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy for a period of 4 weeks from 09/11/2023, during public opening hours at the offices of Dublin City Council, Public Counsel, Planning and Property Development Department, Block 4, Ground Floor, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, Monday - Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm. The plans & particulars are available to view online on Citizen Space https://consultation.dublin.ie

The Local Authority has concluded following a preliminary examination that there is no real likelihood of the proposed development having significant effects on the environment and therefore an EIA is not required.

A submission or observation in relation to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be made, in writing, to the Executive Manager, Planning and Property Development Department, Dublin City Council, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, before 4.30pm on 20/12/2023. Submissions or observations may also be made online on Citizen Space https://consultation.dublin.ie before 23.59hrs on 20/12/2023.

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