

# Police Service of Northern Ireland

HQ Ref: Ops TRIM 2020-07

PD 04/04

## POLICY DIRECTIVE

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### PAYMENT OF FUNERAL EXPENSES BY PSNI

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#### 1. POLICY IDENTIFICATION

**POLICY TITLE:** Payment of Funeral Expenses by PSNI

**POLICY OWNERSHIP:**

<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	Operational Support
<b>SUB-BRANCH</b>	Operational Policy and Support
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Sergeant

**POLICY APPROVED BY:**

<b>CCF REF/OTHER</b>	Chief Constable's Forum – Ref 34/04
<b>DATE OF APPROVAL</b>	7 June 2004

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** 7 June 2004

**DATE OF ISSUE:** 8 November 2004

**DATE VERSION 5 ISSUED:** 13 April 2010

**REVIEW DATE:** 14 April 2011

**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

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**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

## **2. POLICY STATEMENT**

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) will pay funeral expenses in relation to members of the public if considered appropriate. Agreement or otherwise to pay for such expenses rests at Regional Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) level for the area where the cause of death arose.

## **3. INTRODUCTION**

- (1) There are occasions when, following the death of a member of the public, it is appropriate for the police to offer to pay for the funeral expenses of the deceased. Examples, while not exhaustive, may be when the death occurred whilst in police custody, or the death was connected with police action, or for some other reason it is considered appropriate for police to pay for the funeral. The utmost sensitivity will be required in dealing with these matters and in particular with the next of kin. This Directive sets out the PSNI Policy in relation to the payment of funeral expenses where considered appropriate.
- (2) The payment, if approved, is not an admission of liability or to proportion blame for the death but should be seen as a positive contribution to a better relationship with the family of the deceased and the wider community.
- (3) Nothing in this Policy Directive removes the requirement to comply with Section 55(2) of the Police Act (NI) 1998 which states:

‘The Chief Constable shall refer to the Ombudsman any matter which appears to the Chief Constable to indicate that the conduct of a member of the police force may have resulted in the death of some other person.’

## **4. IMPLICATIONS OF THE POLICY**

Consultation has taken place with the following:

- (1) ACC Urban;
- (2) ACC Rural;
- (3) ACC Crime Operations;
- (4) ACC Criminal Justice;
- (5) Director Human Resources;
- (6) Legal Adviser;
- (7) Director of Finance and Support Services;
- (8) Director of Media and Public Relations.

**5. HUMAN RIGHTS/UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (UNCRC)/EQUALITY/CODE OF ETHICS/FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

- (1) In deciding whether to offer payment for funeral expenses, the decision should not be based on grounds which would discriminate under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act or the Human Rights Act.
- (2) This Policy Directive and accompanying procedures are deemed to be Human Rights compliant and have no United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) issues. They have been screened for Section 75 considerations, meets the organisation's integrity standards and complies with the PSNI Code of Ethics.
- (3) This Policy is suitable for public disclosure via the Internet in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, however Section 7 is for internal dissemination only.

**6. REVIEW**

- (1) This Policy was first approved on 7 June 2004 by the Chief Constable's Forum.
- (2) The Head of Operational Support Department is responsible for reviewing the contents of this Policy on an annual basis.
- (3) Feedback relating to this Policy should be made to Operational Policy and Support Branch, Operational Support Department.