

PERMANENT SECRETARIES' STOCKTAKE (PSS)
Friday 27 March 2026 @ 9am
Executive Room, Stormont Castle

In attendance:

Jayne Brady (Chair)	David Malcolm	Toni Gunn
Mike Farrar	Neil Gibson	Alex Gordon <i>virtually</i>
Julie Thompson	Moira Doherty	Declan McGeown
Emer Morelli	Mark Lee	Hugh Widdis
Grainia Long		

Janet Smyth, Jayne Byrne (Secretariat)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Katrina Godfrey, Louise Crilly and Ian Snowden. They were represented by Julie Thompson, Toni Gunn and Mark Lee.

2. Minutes 20 March 2026

Minutes of the meeting of 20 March were agreed subject to minor amendments.

3. Delivering the People Strategy

Memo circulated to Permanent Secretary colleagues setting out the resourcing and funding required to delivering the People Strategy through to 2030.

Action: HoCS to discuss further at a future meeting.

4. Executive Business

HoCS provided a high-level update on ongoing Executive Business.

5. TOUR DE TABLE

5.1 **DoH:** MF provided an update on Health's work associated with community neighbourhoods and engagement at place based level.

@ 10am MF left the meeting due to another appointment

5.2 **DE:** DM provided an update on the recently signed partnership agreement between DE and the Education Authority. DM also updated on the ongoing work associated with Summer Schools.

5.3 **DfC:** EM provided an update on the Shared Island work and also the work ongoing associated with the energy payment schemes.

- 5.4 **DoJ:** HW provided an update on the inspection report which described Magilligan Prison as one of the highest performing prison establishments in the UK and as a 'model for the rest of the UK'. HW also reported on pressures within the prison system.
- 5.5 **DSO:** Provided an update on legal matters.
- 5.6 **FLC:** AG provided an update on the Bill programme up to the summer period.
- 5.7 **DfE:** ML updated on a consultation launch and the issuing of guidance following a recent Written statement. published guidance to Invest NI.
- 5.8 **DfI:** DMcG provided an update on the Speed Limit Review consultation. The review seeks feedback on potential changes including implementing further 20mph limits, reducing speed limits on rural roads and adjusting HGV speed limits. DMcG also mentioned the launch of the consultation on Safer Journeys to School.
- 5.9 **DoF:** NG provided an update on recruitment and enquired about participation / attendance at an upcoming EY Four Futures Event.
- 5.10 **TEO:** MD provided an update on Ending Violence against Women and Girls.
- 5.11 **DAERA:** Updated on the environmental agenda.
- 5.12 **HoCS:** HoCS mentioned NICS Board, her engagement with Lesley Hogg NIA and provided an update on her visit to Washington and events associated with St Patricks week. HoCS commended the work of the International Relations Team, the NI Washington Bureau and David Huddleston PRONI.
- 6. **AOB**
NICS Board scheduled 31 March 2026

@ 10.30 meeting finished