

**THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE DEPARTMENTAL BOARD MEETING
25 SEPTEMBER 2019, EXECUTIVE ROOM, STORMONT CASTLE**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mark Browne (Chair), Brenda King, Chris Stewart, Karen Pearson, Denis Power, Peter Toogood, Sarah Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE: Kevin Kerr (Secretary)

1(a). Apologies

Apologies received from David Sterling and Andrew McCormick.

(b). Minutes of 31 July 2019 meeting

The minutes as amended were agreed.

(c). Matters Arising

Board members reviewed the matters arising and noted that both issues were ongoing.

(d). Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2(a). Political Update

The Board discussed the current political situation including more recent developments at Westminster.

(b). Legislative Programme

Board members noted the paper provided by Brenda King.

3. Programme for Government and NICS of the Future

Chris Stewart confirmed that a commissioning note on a roll forward of the Outcomes Delivery Plan issued on 16 August 2019 and is not expecting the plan to be materially different. Chris confirmed that the team are developing a live reporting system that provide for a real-time assessment of the Plan with the intention to provide timely and relevant information to citizens and stakeholders. Chris advised that the Programme for Government is only in draft form and further development of this will be required to prepare for a returning Executive.

4. Intergovernmental Relations, International Relations & EU Exit

Karen Pearson provided an overview of the paper circulated and led a discussion on difficulties currently being experienced.

5. Budget/Finance report

Peter Toogood updated the board on the current financial position following completion of the in-year monitoring round. The Board also considered the need to assess the financial impact of operating in the current political environment and the need to undertake an assessment across the different scenarios that may materialise over the next few months. Denis Power asked that consideration be given to a short presentation to the Audit and Risk Committee.

ACTION: Peter Toogood

6. NICS HR

Sarah Wilson provided a verbal update on departmental HR issues including Management Information transformation project, recruitment competitions, resourcing, employee relations, pay negotiations and NICS People Strategy. The Board also considered the management of existing work pressures and it

was suggested that the Top Leadership team should consider solutions and a way forward.

7(a). Non-Executive Directors Forum

Denis Power provided an update following the recent Forum focusing on EU Exit and related issues.

7(b). Business Improvement Plan

Peter provided a summary of the closing report on the 2018/19 Business Improvement Plan and outlined the development process for the 2020/2021 Plan.

7(c). Forward Planner

The noted the plan and that the next Audit and Risk Committee would now be in November.

7(d). Papers issued between Meetings

Noted.

8. Date of next meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 30th October.

KEVIN KERR

26 September 2019