

NICS Board Meeting

Executive Room, Stormont Castle

Friday 7 June 2019

Minutes

Board Members	In Attendance
David Sterling (Chair)	
Derek Baker	
Brenda King	
Sue Gray	
Katrina Godfrey	
Tracy Meharg	Colin Lewis
Peter May	Robert Huey
Brenda King	Judith Black (pay item only)
Hugh Widdis	Roisin Coleman (Secretary)
Chris Stewart	
Jill Minne	
Richard Pengelly	

1. **(a) Apologies**

Apologies were received from Noel Lavery (Colin Lewis deputised), Andrew McCormick, Denis McMahon (Robert Huey deputised), and Mark Browne.

(b) Minutes of 29 March 2019 meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed with an amendment.

(c) Matters arising

The Board reviewed and updated matters arising from previous meetings.

(d) Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

2. **Brexit Update**

David Sterling provided details on the current position and outlined thinking on next steps in relation to contingency planning. David indicated his intention to write to the Cabinet Secretary with the NICS assessment of the impact of a no-deal scenario.

3. **Programme for Government update**

Chris Stewart provided an update on the Programme for Government within the content of the ongoing political negotiations.

4. **Political Update**

David Sterling updated board members on the various strands of the current round of political talks and outlined the timeline envisaged going forward.

5. **(a) Strategic HR Issues**

Jill Minne spoke to the paper tabled and drew particular attention to the RHI handover arrangements; progress on apprenticeships; the NIAO value for money study; capability and capacity issues within the NICS, reform of the NICS and diversity and inclusion.

The Board noted the current sickness absence returns.

Jill advised the Board of the need for prioritisation when considering elective transfers. **[All to note]**

(b) Management Schedule

Board members noted the management schedule.

****Chris Stewart left the meeting.***

(c) Grade 5 Development

A discussion took place in relation to Grade 5 Development. Board members were content to hold further discussions as required.

6. **AOB**

NICS Pay

Sue Gray and Judith Black updated the Board on the negotiations associated with the 2018 pay award and proposed next steps regarding its imposition. Following discussion, the Board:

- agreed to proceed to impose the 2018 pay award as detailed in a memo to all staff on 7 June 2019;
- Was content to commence an investigation into a possible two-year pay deal;
- Agreed that stats in relation to comparison on welfare/cost of living should be circulated to inform further thought; **[ACTION: Tracy Meharg]** and:
- That Finance Directors should be engaged at an early stage to ensure pressures are kept in view. **[ACTION: ALL]**

Papers between meetings

The Board noted two papers circulated since the last meeting.

DfC

Tracy Meharg recorded that options in relation to the Charities Commission are currently under consideration.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 28 June 2019

Roisin Coleman