

PERMANENT SECRETARIES STOCKTAKE (PSS)

Friday 1 September 2023 @ 9am

Executive Room, Stormont Castle

In Attendance:

Jayne Brady (Chair), Mike Brennan, Mark Browne, Neil Gibson, Katrina Godfrey, Alex Gordon, Peter May, Richard Pengelly, John Smith (DfC), Hugh Widdis, Colin Woods (DfI).

Gareth Black, Jayne Byrne.

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies were received from Colum Boyle and Denis McMahon.

2. Minutes 21 July 2023

The minutes of the meeting on 21 July 2023 were agreed following a minor amendment.

3. Actions Arising from Meeting of 30 June 2023

The status of actions arising from the meeting of 21 July 2023, as outlined in the agenda, was agreed.

4. Update on Party Leaders Engagements

An update was given on meetings with party leaders / representatives around recent work on a draft Programme for Government, fiscal framework and discussions with the UK Government (UKG).

A discussion was held on recent engagements between departments and the Northern Ireland Office (NIO).

5. Budget

Members were given a brief update on the current budget related work following mid-year returns from departments.

A discussion was held on budget allocations to external agencies, capital expenditure, and recent engagements with the NIO.

6. HoCS COVID 19 Inquiry Reference Group Update

It was agreed that this item would be deferred to a future PSS meeting.

7. Tour de Table

Updates were received on:

- the PSNI;
- access restrictions to the NICS HR database;
- the addition of Security to the Digital Shared Services portfolio;
- Northern Ireland Water;
- the appointment of a new Consul General Belfast;
- RAAC school surveys and guidance on changes to the RSE curriculum;
- the drafting of bills through the Office of the Legislative Counsel,
- extension of Senior Crown Counsel.

8. AOB

There were no items of AOB raised.

9. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of PSS will take place on Friday 8 September 2023 at 9am in the Executive Room, Stormont Castle.

Actions Table:

Item	Action	Person Responsible
6	COVID 19 Inquiry Reference Group Update to be deferred to a future PSS meeting.	HoCS Office