

PERMANENT SECRETARIES' STOCKTAKE

Minutes of meeting on Friday 1st November 2019, 8:45am Traffic Information and Control Centre, Airport Road, Belfast

1. **Present:** Katrina Godfrey **Chair**
Sue Gray
Peter May
Jill Minne
Denis McMahon
Andrew McCormick

- Apologies** David Sterling
Tracey Meharg
Derek Baker
Richard Pengelly
Brenda King
Noel Lavery
Hugh Widdis
Chris Stewart
Mark Browne
Neill Jackson
Chris McNabb

- In attendance:** Alex Gordon (for Brenda King)
Fiona Hepper (for Derek Baker)
Eugene O'Loan (for Hugh Widdis)
Louise Warde Hunter (for Tracy Meharg)
Diarmuid McLean (for Noel Lavery)
Jackie Johnston (for Richard Pengelly)
Hannah Cavalleros (Secretary)

Prior to the meeting, those present received a short briefing on the work of the Traffic Control Centre from Roy Gordon, Principal Traffic Engineer and Head of the Centre.

2. **Minutes of 18 October 2019 Meeting**
The minutes were agreed.
3. **Matters Arising**
There were no outstanding matters arising.
4. **Brexit Update**
Andrew McCormick provided an update on the latest position regarding Brexit and the potential impact of a general election. It was agreed that, following the publication of election manifestos, it might be useful for

Permanent Secretaries to assess and then discuss the implications of manifesto commitments for Northern Ireland.

ACTION: Andrew McCormick/Chris Stewart

Discussion also took place around the opportunity for more direct engagement with Whitehall civil servants during the pre election period, seeking to increase knowledge and further understanding of the implications of the Withdrawal Agreement for Northern Ireland. It was agreed that Andrew McCormick would consider this suggestion in light of existing structures and advise on how this could be taken forward.

ACTION: Andrew McCormick

The need for advice to civil servants during the pre-election period was discussed and it was agreed that this should issue as soon as possible.

ACTION: Neill Jackson

5. **Tour de table**

DfC

Louise Ward Hunter provided an update on a range of issues including welfare mitigation and also challenges associated with progressing some public appointments.

OLC

Alex Gordon gave an update on the Domestic Abuse bill.

DfE

Diarmuid McLean reported on the sale of Bombardier to Spirit AeroSystems and agreed to follow up with Invest NI on the latest position following the sale of Wrightbus and report back to DoF and DfI.

ACTION: Diarmuid McLean

DE

Fiona Hepper provided an update on CCEA appointments and issues relating to the publication of the Children and Young Peoples Strategy.

TEO

Andrew McCormick gave an update on a number of issues including North South implementation bodies, an MoU relating to Cyber Security, and potential relationship building between Baltimore Maryland and Northern Ireland.

DoH

Jackie Johnston advised on the potential industrial action within the health service.

DoF

Sue Gray advised that the Northern Ireland Budget Bill received Royal Assent on the 31st October, and is now an Act of Parliament. She also reminded everyone that the NICS Awards event will take place on the 28th November, and encouraged everyone to attend to support their departments nominees.

Chair

Katrina Godfrey recorded congratulations from Permanent Secretaries to Ronnie Armour, Dave Kennedy and the staff of Maghaberry Prison, in winning a prestigious international Excellence Award from the International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA).