PERMANENT SECRETARIES' STOCKTAKE
Friday 08 July 2022

8.30am, Executive Room, Stormont Castle

Attending

Hugh Widdis (Chair), Alex Gordon, Denis McMahon, John Smith (for Mark Browne), Katrina Godfrey, Mike Brennan, Peter May, Richard Pengelly, Colum Boyle, Julie Harrison, Sharon Smyth (for Neil Gibson), David Hughes, Roisin Coleman, Ann-Marie McCoy, Pamela Carson (Minutes).

Items 3 and 4 only – Derek Kennedy

1. **Apologies**
   Jayne Brady, Mark Browne and Neil Gibson.

2. **Minutes of 24 June 2022**
   The minutes of the meeting on 24 June 2022 were agreed.

3. **Working From Home**
   Sharon Smyth and Derek Kennedy provided an update on the New Ways of Working, the implementation plans for the return to the office and discussions with TUS. The group discussed the need for consistency in messaging, the ongoing pilots and flexibility in Workstyle Agreements.

4. **BMO Estate Management**
   Derek Kennedy provided an update on the New Ways of Working project and the roll out of the Hybrid Working Policy and Connect2 hubs which will significantly change the way accommodation is used. He advised the shift in working practices would maximise the space usage, reduce the carbon footprint and provide more suitable environments for staff.

   The group endorsed the outlined approach and encouraged early communication with Ministers and TUS.

   [ACTION: Sharon Smyth/Derek Kennedy]

5. **Tour de Table**

   <u>DfI</u>
   Julie Harrison updated colleagues on potential strike action at NI Water.

DfE

Mike Brennan advised that several queries have been received following meetings with the parties on the missions.

DoJ

Peter May advised that he will be representing NI at a ceremony in London marking the award of the George Cross to the NHS.

DE

John Smith updated on the outcome of a recent court case on the teaching of religious studies in schools.

DfC

Colum Boyle spoke in relation to land issues and approvals in relation to bonfires.

DSO

Hugh Widdis advised that he will be bringing forward advice in relation to the Health & Safety Executive issue shortly.

5. AOB

There was no other business.

Meeting ended at 9.34am