

PERMANENT SECRETARIES' STOCKTAKE

Minutes of meeting on Friday 11th October 2019, 9:30am, HMP Maghaberry

1. **Present:** David Sterling **Chair**
Sue Gray
Derek Baker
Richard Pengelly
Tracey Meharg
Katrina Godfrey
Mark Browne
Peter May
Brenda King
Jill Minne
Hugh Widdis
Denis McMahon

- Apologies** Chris Stewart
Noel Lavery
Andrew McCormick
Neill Jackson
Chris McNabb

- In attendance:** Mike Brennan (for Noel Lavery)
Hannah Cavalleros (Secretary)

2. **Minutes of 04 October 2019 Meeting**
The minutes were agreed.

3. **Matters Arising**

There was discussion around the Public Sector Pay policy. It was agreed that Sue Gray would revise the associated draft communications and share with members today or Monday for agreement before the pay policy is published.

ACTION: Sue Gray

The need for a strategic budget discussion was also discussed, and it was agreed that this would be arranged to take place within the next 4 weeks. The need for up to date analysis of economic indicators to feed into this was also discussed. Separately it was agreed that Sue would discuss with Siobhan Carey the potential for a piece of external analysis from the UU Economic Policy Centre on public sector pay and costs of living etc.

ACTION: Sue Gray

4. **Strategic Update**

The meeting was provided with an update on a range of recent issues including the outcome of discussions between the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach on Thursday 10 October, the JMC-EN meeting on the 10 October, and recent engagement with HMT.

5. **Role of CSC in chairing SCS competitions**

A letter from the Civil Service Commissioners was discussed and it was agreed that any issues would be raised at the next meeting between CSC and Permanent Secretaries before a formal response is issued.

6. **Tour de table**

DfC

Tracy Meharg advised of the efforts undertaken this week to raise awareness of welfare issues. HOCS and Permanent Secretaries thanked those civil servants who have actively promoted the welfare system in public.

DSO

Hugh Widdis advised that JR80 is being heard at the Court of Appeal today.

NICS HR

Jill Minne advised that NICS HR is currently gathering information for departments to inform their returns to the NIAO

OLC

Brenda King provided an update on a number of bills.