

PERMANENT SECRETARIES' STOCKTAKE
Friday 13 August 2021

8:45 am, TEO, EXECUTIVE ROOM, STORMONT CASTLE

Attending

Jenny Pyper (Chair), Jayne Brady, Alex Gordon, Colum Boyle, Tracy Meharg, Anthony Harbinson, Claire Archbold (attending for Hugh Widdis), Declan McGeown (attending for Katrina Godfrey), Sean Holland (attending for Richard Pengelly) , Julie Harrison (attending for Peter May) David Malcolm (attending for Mike Brennan) , Ann-marie McCoy, Mairead Rooney.

1. Apologies

Denis McMahon, Katrina Godfrey, Hugh Widdis, Mark Browne, Richard Pengelly, Peter May, Mike Brennan.

2. Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 July were agreed.

3. Horizon Scanning Update

Jenny Pyper proposed, and colleagues agreed , that 'Horizon Scanning' be removed as standing agenda item, with any updates covered under Tour de Table.

4. Tour de Table

DfC

Tracy Meharg provided an update on the main issues for DfC.

DfI

Declan McGeown provided an overview of the main issues for DfI.

DoH

Sean Holland provided an update on the main issues for DoH.

DAERA

Anthony Harbinson provided an update on the main issues for DAERA.

OLC

Alex Gordon gave an overview on the role and main issues for OLC.

DSO

Claire Archbold gave an overview on the role and main issues for DSO.

DoJ

Julie Harrison provided an update on the main issues for DoJ.

Jenny Pyper provided an update on a recent meeting with IRC Commissioners. Jenny suggested, that a presentation providing an update on the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme be scheduled for a future PSS meeting.

Action: [DoJ & HOCS Office]

DfE

David Malcolm provided an update on the main issues for DfE.

DoF

Colum Boyle provided an overview and update on the main issues for DoF.

5. AOB

CES Workshops – Next Steps

Jenny Pyper referred to the papers previously circulated providing feedback on the CES workshops and asked colleagues to share the outputs with their senior teams/GD3's. Jill Minne is preparing a paper on way forward, which will be included as an agenda item for NICS Board meeting.

UU PgC funding increase

Anthony Harbinson had issued correspondence to colleagues in relation to an increase in fees for the Ulster University 2021/22 Post Graduate Certificate (PGC) in Public Administration for consideration.

Jenny invited comments from colleagues. Following discussion it was agreed to approve for this year, with the caveat that an evaluation of the programme will be required.

COP 26

The correspondence from Cabinet Office regarding recruitment of volunteers to COP26 Delegation Liaison Officer roles, circulated to PS colleagues was considered. Noting that DAERA and DfE have a key interest in the event, it was agreed they would take the lead as key contact /liaison points with Cabinet Office.

PfG

Jenny Pyper provided an update to colleagues, and it is hoped that a draft Executive paper on the PfG Outcomes framework will issue for consideration at September meeting of the Executive.

6. The next meeting will take place on Friday 3 September 2021.