

PERMANENT SECRETARIES' STOCKTAKE
Friday 22 July 2022

8.30am, Executive Room, Stormont Castle

Attending

Jayne Brady (Chair), Denis McMahon, Lianne Patterson (for Mark Browne), Katrina Godfrey, David Malcolm (for Mike Brennan), Jim Wilkinson (for Peter May), Beverley Wall (for Colum Boyle), Julie Harrison, Neil Gibson, Louise Crilly (for Hugh Widdis) David Hughes, Roisin Coleman, Mairead Rooney (Minutes).

Item 1 only – Jane Holmes

1. Apologies

Mark Browne, Hugh Widdis, Mike Brennan, Peter May, Colum Boyle, Richard Pengelly and Alex Gordon.

2. Minutes of 24 June 2022

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

3. UK Covid Inquiry: NICS Preparedness

Jane Holmes gave an overview and update on the preparation for the UK-Wide Covid-19 Inquiry. Departments are establishing governance arrangements in relation to preparedness and response to the Inquiry, there is some uncertainty in relation to resource requirements and the impact on BAU.

Jim Wilkinson provided an overview of the DoH meeting with the UK C-19 Inquiry team on 14 July.

The statement of 21 September by the Inquiry Chair, Baroness Hallett, outlining the approach, will be discussed at the cross departmental meeting next week.

The inquiry is taking a modular approach. TEO is currently the key point of contact for the Inquiry team, once modules start, we may wish to identify key contact points within relevant departments.

The need for staff to be supported during the Inquiry process was reiterated. It was agreed that a communication from HOCS for issue to all staff in relation to the Inquiry should be prepared.

**[Action: Jane Holmes/HOCS
Office]**

4. HSENI

Louise Crilly provided an overview of the advice provided in relation to the Health & Safety Executive issue. David Malcolm reported on a recent meeting with HSENI. It was agreed that Louise and David would consider further and provide an updated advice for PSS consideration, reflecting the priority given to health and safety.

[Action: David Malcolm, Louise Crilly]

5. Tour de Table

DE

Lianne Patterson advised DE engaging with CCEA in relation to the AS, A levels examination results due during the month of August:

DfE

David Malcom reported that the INI review is anticipated by the end of October.

DfC

Beverly Wall confirmed first tranche of cost-of-living payments had issued this week.

DoH

Jim Wilkinson referred to the recent publication of the NHS Pay Review Bodies report and key issues for consideration.

DoF

Neil Gibson advised he will be submitting a paper on NICS Renewal for consideration at the next NICS Board meeting – 26 July.

DAERA

Katrina Godfrey advised of a cross-departmental climate action plan workshop scheduled on following Friday, appreciated if colleagues could ensure their departmental representation, given the legal obligations.

TEO

Denis advised that guidance is being drafted regarding parliamentary privilege which will be shared with colleagues. He gave an update in relation to Ukraine Refugees, planned to commence a review of the Programme late August.

Jayne Brady gave an overview on recent BIC meeting and engagement with Party representatives.

It was agreed that Louise Crilly would provide a note in relation to the NI (Ministers , Elections and Petition of Concerns) Act 2022 and scenario planning

[Action: Louise Crilly]

5. AOB

There was no other business.

Meeting ended at 10.30am