

PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING

Minutes of Meeting on Friday 20 November 2015 at 8.45 am

1. **Present:** Malcolm McKibbin
Derek Baker
Richard Pengelly
Andrew Hamilton
Noel Lavery
David Sterling
Leo O'Reilly
Paul Sweeney
Nick Perry
Brenda King
Denis McMahon
Hugh Widdis

Apologies: Peter May
Andrew McCormick

In Attendance: Mark Browne
Stephen Grimason
Neill Jackson
Chris Stewart
Moirá Doherty

2. **Minutes of 13 November 2015 Meeting**
The minutes of 13 November 2015 were agreed.

3. **Matters Arising – Verbal**
There were no matters arising.

4. **Executive and Assembly Update – Verbal**
Malcolm McKibbin updated PSG on the culmination of the talks process and the publishing of “A Fresh Start: The Stormont Agreement and Implementation Plan”. He advised that the focus would now shift to implementation of the Agreement.
Neill Jackson provided an update to PSG on this week’s Executive meeting confirming that the November monitoring round was agreed. He advised PSG that there may be another Executive meeting next week and that his team will advise colleagues if a meeting is confirmed.

5. **Presentation by the Irish Institute**
David Sterling introduced David Grant and Michael Rafferty from the Irish Institute who presented to PSG. The key areas of discussion focussed on the Institute’s:
- background;
 - mission;
 - offering;

- activities in NI;
- network;
- study visit locations;
- facilities;
- support for NI's public sector; and
- support the Institute would like from PSG.

A general discussion followed. Derek Baker agreed to provide Michael Rafferty with the contact details of the curriculum managers of the Further Education colleges.

Action: Derek Baker

6. **Tour de Table**

DSD

Andrew Hamilton informed PSG that the resource requirement to implement welfare reform would be dealt with bilaterally by DSD and DFP. He would not be bringing a paper to PSG as previously indicated.

OLC

Brenda King discussed the Department's Bill with PSG and asked those departments with information outstanding to submit it to OLC as soon as possible. Brenda King will liaise with Derek Baker today about outstanding returns.

Action: OLC

DFP

David Sterling advised that in light of the spending review announcement on the 25th November, DFP will brief the NICS Board next week.

David said that DFP hope to get a draft 2016-17 budget to the Executive by 17th December.

David also advised PSG that Deirdre Hargey had been appointed to carry out a review of the handling of complaints against senior managers in the NICS. David reminded PSG about the upcoming deadline for transformation fund bids. In light of other work pressures David suggested that this deadline could be moved to give departments more time. David will inform departments of the new deadline.

Action: David Sterling

HOCS

Malcolm advised PSG of two presentations that will be made during the meeting with the Irish Director Generals next week. He agreed to circulate the information he had received on the potential BREXIT to PSG for information.

Action: Malcolm McKibbin

Malcolm asked PSG about agenda items for the CEF meeting on the 30th November. Leo O'Reilly advised that he would circulate briefing in advance of this meeting.

Action: Leo O'Reilly