

**MINUTES OF PERMANENT SECRETARY GROUP MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY
6 FEBRUARY 2004 IN ROOM GD14, STORMONT CASTLE AT 08.45 am – 10.30 am**

Present:

- Nigel Hamilton
- Clive Gowdy
- Will Haire
- John Hunter
- Andrew McCormick
- Aideen McGinley
- Gerry McGinn
- Stephen Peover
- Stephen Quinn
- Bruce Robinson
- Alan Shannon
- Pat Toal
- David Watkins

In Attendance:

- Linda Brown
- Rosalie Flanagan
- Denis McCartney
- Michael Henderson
- Debbie Sweeney (Secretary)

1. Minutes and Summary

The minutes were agreed, with one minor amendment.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Public Expenditure

Dr McCormick reported that the Secretary of State had approved the December monitoring round. There would be a meeting of PEFOs next Thursday.

SCS Management Issues

Recorded separately.

7. **SCS Generic Competition**

Mrs Brown updated PSG on the SCS Generic Competition.

8. **Sub-Group F Report**

Item to be discussed on 13 February 2004.

9. **Political Update**

Mrs Flanagan updated PSG on the first week of the Review of the Agreement.

10. **Tour de Table**

CSMB

Mr Hamilton will report on the first CSMB meeting at the Away Day on 13 February.

Business in the Community

Mr Hamilton reported that he had met with BITC and had issued a note to Permanent Secretaries.

Adam Higgitt

Mr Hamilton met Mr Higgitt, Special Adviser to the Secretary of State. Mr Higgitt will meet with Permanent Secretaries.

Dr Mitchell Reiss

Mr Hamilton met with Dr Reiss, the new US envoy for Northern Ireland.

Away Day

Mr Hamilton briefly outlined the running order of the Away Day which will focus on key issues. An agenda will be circulated.

[Action: Mr Hamilton]

GPs' Local Group

Mr Gowdy reported that there had been a breakthrough on GPs' local groups.

POBAL

Letters offering courses to staff have been sent to some Permanent Secretaries. DCAL and OFMDFM to co-ordinate response.

[Action: Dr McGinley/Mrs Flanagan]

Victoria Square

Mr Shannon updated PSG on the Victoria Square appeals.

CAP Review

Mr Toal informed PSG that the announcement on the main CAP implementation options to be deployed in Northern Ireland would be announced by the Minister on Monday 9 February.

Getting the Balance Right

Mr Peover and PSG members had received copies of 'Getting the Balance Right' booklet from the Committee on Standards in Public Life. Mr Hamilton said that Central Management Branch would co-ordinate any responses.

[Action: Geoffrey Simpson to note]

DEBBIE SWEENEY